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JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS AND A FEW GOOD FRIENDS

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Tall, lanky, gentle and scientifically minded, John Treadwell Nichols was one of the greatest all around naturalists that America ever had, and he worked during the heyday of modern scientific field naturalists. Born in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts in 1883, his family moved to New York City by the time he was two. He grew up exploring Central Park and the Rockaways, where the family went to escape the summertime city heat. Always loving the out of doors, he became particularly interested in birds at an early age and always loved sailing the seas and exploring its environs. He took a trip around Cape Horn to Hawaii with his older brother in an old sailing bark, the *Nuanu* in 1900-01, when he was just 17 years old. He had taken a year off before college to make this memorable trip, then attended Harvard earning a degree in Vertebrate Zoology in 1906. In many of his later publications Nichols would refer to that memorable but long, hard voyage, discussing the seabirds he encountered as well as the difficulties in navigating a sailing ship around Cape Horn. By 1907 John T. Nichols had joined the staff of the New York City's American Museum of Natural History, working first in the Mammalogy department. He had asked his friend, the well known ornithologist Frank Chapman, if there was a job opening in the Ornithology department, as birds and everything associated with them was his keenest interest. There was no opening at that time; however, there was an opening in the Mammalogy department, which he gladly took. When an opening in the Ichthyology-Herpetology department came about for an assistant curator, he switched into that field in 1910, and stayed there until "retirement" in 1952. He worked his way up quickly to become the Curator of Recent Fishes and was considered a world expert on fish. As Curator Emeritus, after 1952, he still assisted at the Museum until just before his death in 1958.

He married Cornelia D. Floyd of Old Mastic, Suffolk County, Long Island, at her family's ancient manse by the sea in 1910 and they lovingly raised four children there as well as at their other house in Garden City, in Nassau County. Cornelia's great-great-grandfather was none other than William Floyd, one of four New Yorkers who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Garden City home was purchased because it was closer to John's work at the Museum since the Mastic commute was too long for everyday travel. Mastic, however, remained the family's treasured home, and, amid the "pathless woods," old fields, the vast fresh and salt marshes along Moriches Bay, plus the barrier beach beyond, the great JTN observed and annotated natural history and penned many of his publications. To this day his original nature journals survive in the archives of the old home, known now as the National Park Service's William Floyd Estate, as do many other of his writings, including his beautifully

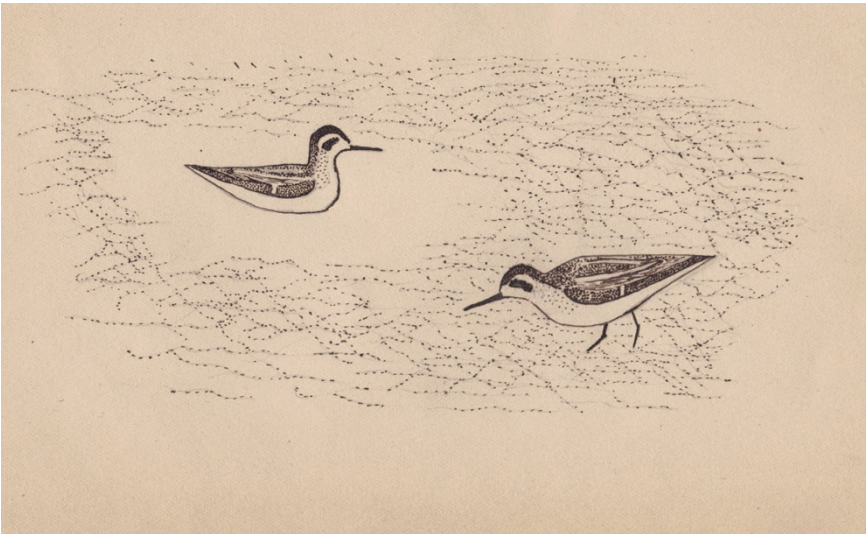
written but little known poetry books. His poetry dealt with tides, the sea and shores, winds and sailing ships. He authored about 1000 publications in his lifetime and while totally engaged scientifically in numerous disciplines (herpetology, ichthyology, ornithology, mammalogy) he found the time to write poetry and natural history articles, band birds, study eastern box turtles and edit dozens of publications, as well as establish long-running scientific organizations! He was widely considered an excellent ornithologist, not just the Museum's well respected ichthyologist. He published hundreds of articles on birds throughout his time. Several examples from his journals are presented here, unmodified so punctuation and spellings are as they originally appeared.

At the Museum early on in his career he met and became friends with many other field naturalists this country was producing. Naturalists and birders today on Long Island and elsewhere will recognize the names of these pioneering field people. Ludlow Griscom, Robert Cushman Murphy, Francis Harper, Charles H. Rogers, and Lynn Bogue Hunt all tramped the marshes, fields and woods with Nichols. They were men who were to make big names for themselves in various fields, just as the young Nichols was doing. When they came to visit JTN and Cornelia at their beloved Old Mastic home, it was tradition, and required by the homeowners, to sign names into the Floyd/Nichols guest books. It is awe inspiring for today's birders and naturalists to find Murphy's name or Harper's name on the same guest book page with Griscom's and Rogers'. Who among us today wouldn't "give our eye teeth" to go birding with these greats? Occasionally these natural history excursions produced excellent scientific publications. Whole articles, or books, can be or have been written about these men but a few facts will be mentioned here regarding these "field and marsh tramping" friends of John T. Nichols.

Ludlow Griscom worked first in the American Museum's Ichthyology department, leaving that by switching to ornithology and working for Frank Chapman. He eventually left there to work in ornithology at Harvard, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He advocated for the identification of birds by using field marks, instead of shooting them to identify them, as was the practice at that time. Nichols and Griscom published papers together, for example: "Freshwater Fishes of the Congo Basin" in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* (1917); and "Notes on Long Island Birds" in *The Auk* (1917, with Murphy also as a co-author). In 1915 Griscom and Nichols, while out canoeing in Home Creek in Mastic, found two Northern Phalaropes (now known as Red-necked Phalarope). Excerpts from Nichols' personal journal about the encounter are included (Figures 1 and 2). By 1923, Griscom authored the classic book, *Birds of the New York City Region*, and his friend JTN reviewed and edited the entire manuscript. Griscom pioneered the way for a new generation of influential birders, including Roger Tory Peterson, who stated that Griscom influenced his now-famous field guides.

Mastic, Saturday August 28, 1915.

In the afternoon with an easterly coming on we found two Northern Phalarope on the weed in Beach Point Cove. In the early morning of the 30 after the storm presumably the same two birds were still there. They were very tame and when flushed flew only a short distance before alighting again. L.G. tried unsuccessfully to "harpoon" one with a paddle of the canoe.



Figures 1 & 2. Excerpts from J. T. Nichol's journal, concerning the discovery of two Northern (now Red-necked) Phalaropes on 28 Aug 1915.

Robert Cushman Murphy worked as an ornithologist at the Brooklyn Museum before joining the staff of the American Museum, where he eventually became the Curator of Oceanic Birds. Murphy and his family became lifelong friends with the Nichols family. Every July 4th was spent together celebrating at the Old Mastic House. Murphy and Nichols published articles together, and then, like Nichols, Murphy published his own classics, such as *Fish Shape Paumanok* in 1962, and *Logbook for Grace: Whaling Brig Daisy 1912- 1913* (1947), dedicated to his wife and about his trip on the last American whale ship, *Daisy*, in 1912. Murphy was also one of the leading environmental advocates of his day. As time went on he called for the creation of a park to protect the rare Sunken Forest on Fire Island, and Fire Island National Seashore was established by 1965. He also called for the preservation of his friend's old home and lands in Mastic when it was offered to the National Park Service in 1965 by Cornelia Floyd Nichols and her children.

Lynn Bogue Hunt, the famous American wildlife artist, came to Old Mastic multiple times to hunt and sketch shorebirds and ducks. He worked as an illustrator for the magazine *Field and Stream*, as well as many other publications. His game-bird artwork is considered among the best ever produced in America. He illustrated hundreds of articles, posters, calendars and books as well. In 1944 Hunt wrote and illustrated *Game Birds of America*. Fortunately, when he penned his name into the Mastic guestbook, he left wonderful sketches of shorebirds or ducks he saw in the marshes with Nichols (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Greater Yellowlegs, by Lynn Bogue Hunt in the Nichols/Floyd guestbook.

In 1929, when Nichols published “At the Edge of the Antarctic Ice” in *Natural History Magazine* (Vol. XXIX, No. 2), Lynn B. Hunt painted the scene of killer whales, and R. C. Murphy’s photographs of seabirds and penguins were published within the story. In Nichols’ journals are recorded sightings of birds that Hunt passed on to Nichols that the latter deemed noteworthy. For example, on 11 June 1922, “Mr. L. B. Hunt reports 1 adult Laughing Gull and also an immature bird off Dosoris Landing, north of Glen Cove.”

Francis Harper, another life-long friend of the Nichols family, knew the woods and marshes of Mastic even before JTN married Cornelia, as he was hiking, hunting and exploring there. He was a naturalist whose degree from Cornell was in the same subject as Nichols’ was—vertebrate zoology. Like Nichols, he dabbled in everything natural but also was a skilled photographer. His early 20th century photos of the Unkechaug-Poospatuck Native Americans on the Forge River, Mastic, today are in the Smithsonian archives in Washington, D.C. Harper also captured photos of a Bald Eagle in flight (they used to nest on the Forge) which were used as a model in making the Standing Liberty quarter of 1919 by the US Mint. This little known piece of history fortunately was written down by Cornelia. Had she not done this no one would know of this Long Island origin. Locals all called it the “Mastic Eagle” quarter.

Harper is most well known for his publications on the 18th century American naturalists, the Bartrams. Harper also co-authored early papers with Nichols on fish and birds. “Some Notes on Long Island Shorebirds” came out in *The Auk* in 1916, complete with their own photographs from Mastic marshes and other south shore locations. Like Griscom, Harper is referred to by his initials in numerous of Nichols’ recorded journal notes: “June 13, 1915 Mastic— with F.H. marked 4 young flickers with bands; Sept. 11, 1915 Mastic—out with F.H. and L.G., Harper shot a Silvery Hair Bat on New Made Island. Later a Ring billed gull was observed carrying something in its bill, a larger Herring Gull pursuing. As they swooped and turned the Ring-bill seemed to be trying without success to swallow its booty. Presently it dropped it into the water and I at once put out into the water in the canoe and found a dead bedraggled Prairie Warbler! Later we saw a Red headed Woodpecker flying over the Beach Point Meadow.” On 12 September at Mastic, Nichols recorded “out in the afternoon with F.H and L.G. a flock of 3 American Widgeon and 1 European* Widgeon on the water between Beach Pt. and New Made Island. The European Widgeon had a chestnut head and cinnamon side of breast.” The asterisk indicated a life bird for Nichols, and perhaps for the other men as well.

Charles H. Rogers became the Curator of the ornithological collection at Princeton by 1920, after starting at the American Museum in 1913. His first bird walk, when he was 11 years old in 1900, was in Central Park, with none other than Frank Chapman when he conducted the very first Christmas Bird Count! He, like the others, roamed the marshes and beaches with Nichols, and his name is recorded several times in the old guest books, typically with a short statement of the wonderful time he had at Mastic. He is also credited with contributing

birding data in the Nichols and Harper publication on shorebirds, noted above. Nichols has Rogers recorded in his nature journals as C.H.R. “August 14, 1920 Mastic— With C.H.R. had snipe stool set in a pool on the meadow nw of the bay. It was sunny and hot with fresh southwest breeze. At about 10:15 am a Marbled Godwit was seen coming in from the north with steady curlew-like flight. It dropped in nicely and remained for about 10 minutes, chiefly standing and preening itself. Finally, when a single greenleg (*Micropalama*) [now Stilt Sandpiper] swung low over it, it took wing and continued into the south.” In New Jersey today there is a wildlife refuge named in honor of the ornithologist Rogers.

These early scientific naturalist/birders all had a few things in common—their love of the natural environment and John Treadwell Nichols as a friend. And they all came to Mastic which was at that time quite the undeveloped natural paradise, still teeming with birds, wildlife and baylife. It was a great place to observe, learn, share stories, write, collect, and forget the cares of the new “stressful” modern age.

Nichols and Griscom did the Mastic Christmas Bird Count together in 1916 and published results in *Bird Lore*. Nichols and Murphy did the Orient Christmas Count in 1917 with none other than the famous self-taught naturalist Roy Latham of Orient! Roy was finding and documenting so many good birds at Orient (he established the Orient Christmas Bird Count in 1904) and elsewhere that the icons from the museums decided to go with Latham to see for themselves all the good birds he had found on eastern Long Island. Nichols, Murphy, George P. Englehardt and Latham published in *Copeia* in 1915 the article “Snakes of Long Island.”

In 1939, The Bird Club of Long Island started to publish a series of large booklets dealing with bird life entitled *Birds of Long Island*. It was done to foster the science of bird study on this island of ours, and Nichols was the editor of the publications from the beginning until 1954. LeRoy Wilcox, Allan Cruickshank and Nichols published four separate articles on Piping Plovers and all were contained within the Volume 1 edition. “A Picture of Bird Migration, With Particular Reference to Long Island” came out in 1948. Nichols’ “Shorebird Memories,” authored in 1953, was wonderfully written. The 1954 (Vol. 8) issue contained the article entitled “The Hurricane of 38, In Retrospect,” by the eminent Dr. William Helmuth of East Hampton, N.Y., another of Nichols’ acquaintances. Nichols wrote about Helmuth at the end of that article that they met in 1915 in New Jersey and had remained friends through the years. This is what JTN had to say about the doctor: “He was an outstanding field naturalist.... it is safe to say none who knew the bird-life of the island more intimately than did Dr. Helmuth.” This could be said about all of Nichols’ friends as well as himself! Nichols recalled, as Helmuth had, a local doctor who had influenced them both as young birders. Nichols said “Thus it appears first that the medical profession is a fertile soil for the ornithological

spark and secondly, who knows how far the spark may travel from person to person before flowering into something for the many to steer by?"

Famous Teddy Roosevelt told Nichols in 1918 "I always greatly enjoy seeing you! I am yours to command at any time!" referring to the next time Nichols was about in Central Park looking for birds. Imagine this former titanic president of international fame telling the humble, quiet, scientific Nichols "I am yours to command!" How wild! Roosevelt kept sightings of birds through the years which eventually Nichols used in publications. In 1922 Nichols and Griscom with two other acquaintances visited Aldo Leopold in Chicago where he took them birding to look at gulls and terns along the lake shoreline. Today we can only imagine what these early times with all these giants must have been like. History was being made in the natural modern age of men. And they were all bird watchers and they all loved it, just like we do today.

Nichols' writings are timeless, poignant and beautifully written. Some excerpts from his 1953 "Shorebird Memories": "Mastic, July 6, 1912.....I remember it as clearly as if it had been yesterday, I saw an unknown bird approaching from the east....Now it was passing my rig in fair range, a big brown bird with a long, decurved bill, a Jack or Hudsonian Curlew! But it did not pause or swerve, held to its course into the distant west. And I had forgotten my camera and lost this chance of having a curlew picture in the collection of Shorebird photographs I made in the years before the First War. That was a good day! In the afternoon C. [Cornelia] and I tramped the meadows bordering the mainland side of the bay, where there was as nice a view of a Henslow's Sparrow singing atop a tuft of grass as I can remember." Nichols documented Henslow's Sparrow as nesting on their land in Mastic, and noted in his journal that a sparrow hawk got into the Henslow's nest one year and took the chicks! Who of us today can even find a Henslow's Sparrow on Long Island?

In 1913 Nichols established the journal *Copeia*, and in 1915 he founded the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, which continues to publish that famous journal to this day. Not many people know this fact—Nichols was the ichthyologist who was sent to the New Jersey shore in the summer of 1916 to investigate several fatal shark attacks on swimmers. He correctly theorized it had to be a great white shark; others disagreed with him but he was eventually proved correct. This true story of the attacks by a rogue shark became the basis of the popular book and movie, *Jaws*.

In 1914 John started marking box turtles on the Mastic lands and from his studies we know today that the humble box turtle can live for over 100 years. I was honored to find a marked Nichols turtle at the Floyd estate on 21 June 1997, right outside the house door. Upon turning it over I discovered JTN marked it exactly 50 years prior—on 21 June 1947! Remarkably, he also found it right outside the same door, proving how territorial these little terrapins are through their long lives!

Some of JTN's books include *Fishes in the Vicinity of New York* (1918), *The Marine Fishes of New York and Southern New England* (1927, with Charles

M. Breder as co-author), *North American Fresh Water Fishes* (1942), *Freshwater Fishes of China* (1943), and *Fishes and Shells of the Pacific World* (1945, with co-author Paul Bartsch). Then there are his hundreds of articles and other publications. One of his last came out just a few months before his death, in 1958, in *Marine Life, Occasional Papers* (Vol. 1, No. 10), entitled “Reminiscences, Thoughts and Records From Observations At Sea.” It is mostly about seabirds, with some notes on fish. A few excerpts from this publication are: “The Kittiwake is perhaps my favorite gull. Aside from the beauty of its plumage, there is a subtle quality in its flight, which is particularly free, graceful and controlled, and often enables the practiced eye to pick it out in a mixed assemblage of other species.” Within the same article the poetic Nichols wrote, “Looking down into North Atlantic water off soundings, it is blue, a paler blue where somewhat less deep in mid-ocean. It is green over the banks which stretch far east from Newfoundland, somewhat bluer in channels which traverse them. I have no proven knowledge of why this is the case.” “The Cory’s shearwaters...occurs commonly along the American coast in summer. I have identified it as well as the Greater within binocular range off Long island’s South Shore beaches, also another large species, the all around dark Sooty Shearwater which nests in the Southern Hemisphere.”

JTN was a lifelong bird bander, and he banded birds from several localities, including Mastic and Garden City. Family members told me that their grandfather John used to band birds from the old desk (still there) in the library in the Old Mastic house. He would rig up a box contraption outside the window with strings and write profusely at the desk until a bird was trapped in the rigging. He would then wheel the strings in with pulleys, band the bird on the desk, release the bird out the big window, then send the rigging back out, record the species, dates and band numbers and continue with his writing! In the nature journals are recorded all the birds he banded there. His last few journal entries, just before his death, he recorded as “Mastic, Sept. 1, 1958—2 or more robins in the tall old barberry bush in the Garden at Mastic, eating its berries” and his very last recording before his death, “Garden City, Nov 1, 1958—2 male house sparrows trapped at front of house, banded and released.” He always sent in interesting sightings for *The Kingbird* and his article on “Sparrow Associations” appeared in *The Kingbird* in early 1958, several months before he passed on. For multiple years he was the editor of the field notes section of *Bird Lore*, the predecessor of the National Audubon magazine and *North American Birds*.

In a letter from Robert C. Murphy to JTN dated November 1948 (Nichols’ son David had found an interesting primary feather on the ocean at Jones Beach), Murphy wrote, “The wing quill from the Long Island shore is beyond any shadow of doubt that of an albatross. While it is very worn, it appears to be not long moulted... it most closely resembles *Diomedea chlororhynchos* which is the smallest species of this group of albatrosses ever to be recorded from the Atlantic Ocean..... It seems to me that the quill is worth a record in *The Auk*

because it positively indicates the presence of a mollymauk off the eastern coast of the United States.”

It is recorded in family writings that the great John T. Nichols used to delight in showing family and guests the old eagle’s nest that was on the property historically. Bald Eagles were frequently recorded in Mastic journals, until they disappeared by the 1940s. Eventually the owners of the land, John and Cornelia, passed away and were buried in the old homestead cemetery. What could be a more fitting tribute to them both than today having Bald Eagles finally return from the brink of extinction to once again nest on their ancient lands, as they do now?

The stories go on and on. How can one wrap up a story about such an outstanding personality, a giant among his peers who did so much to foster the understanding of the natural world, particularly birds? A quote from his friend Ludlow Griscom says it all in the 1923 book *Birds of the New York City Region*: “Above all I must thank Mr. J. T. Nichols who knew more about Long Island birds than anyone living.”

Editor’s Note: John Treadwell Nichols’ obituary was published in *The Kingbird*, Volume 12: pages 3-6. The present piece’s scope and perspective are engaging and distinct, warranting a reintroduction to this great New York naturalist, for readers six decades after his death.



WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2019

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[Editor's Note—Due to slight variations in the template files used in compiling this report, some of the species totals for Region 10 were incorrectly published here. These errors affected the summary as well, therefore the entire corrected report was reprinted in the following issue, Kingbird 69: 211-215.]

About 387 volunteers went into the field 12-27 January 2019 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count (JWC). The volunteers logged 1025.5 party-hours and counted 390,487 waterfowl. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The only significant snow in the state leading up to and during the waterfowl count period was in the western part of the State. Buffalo recorded a 13-inch snow cover on January 20, the count's target date, and 15-inch snow cover on January 26. The snow in Buffalo was accompanied by sub-zero weather on January 20, as well. The target date's weather did lead to some changed plans for participants, but the count's overall coverage of the State was good.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2019 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 390,486, was 6780 (2%) more than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. The difference was primarily due to an overall larger count of geese, primarily Canada Geese, which was 44,522 (26%) more than the decade average. This larger count of geese more than offset the lower count of ducks and miscellaneous other waterfowl than the decade average. The 2019 count of swans was just 110 (4%) more than the decade average, a higher count of Tundra Swans overcoming a lower count of Mute Swans.

Lingering Wood Ducks and Northern Shovelers accounted for the only counts of dabbling ducks that were higher than the 2001-2010 average. Among diving ducks, the counts of Redheads, Greater Scaup (unless all the unidentified scaup from 2001-2010 were this species and none of the unidentified scaup in this count were), Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, and Hooded Merganser were all higher than the decade average. All the non-Anseriformes waterfowl species counts were lower in the 2019 count than the average for the 2001-2010 decade.

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2019 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, Gr. White-fr.	1	0	0		0		0	0	4	2	7
Snow	0	49	12,058		0		0	1	9	602	12,719
Ross's	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	3,884	3,884
Canada	5,286	15,741	42,879	5,118	4,873	1,191	0	23,840	31,011	52,013	181,952
Cackling	0	2	2	1	0		0	0	8	491	504
Brant	0	0	0		0		0	0	550	18,068	18,618
Swan, Mute	9	176	25		18	103	0	17	317	648	1,313
Trumpeter	0	16	20		6		0	0	0	0	42
Tundra	196	0	1,060		33	28	0	0	0	0	1,317
not to species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	0	0	2	2	0		0	0	28	38	70
Gadwall	12	1	62	3	16		0	0	72	1,211	1,377
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	40	40
American	5	0	41	1	0		0	0	51	698	796
Am. Black Duck	64	168	661	277	63	78	42	96	611	6,598	8,658
Mallard	2,042	2,424	4,946	1,393	1,600	522	1,404	1,611	5,478	7,594	29,014
Mallard X Black	2	2	2		0		0	0	1	12	19
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	1		0		0	0	7	582	590
Northern Pintail	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	103	114
Green-winged Teal	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	131	144
Canvasback	4,255	14	964	3	3		0	3	90	159	5,491
Redhead	1,143	2,649	15,738	345	156	7	0	1	9	32	20,080
Ring-necked Duck	9	84	301	5	19		0	1	417	423	1,259
Tufted Duck	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	34	34
Scaup, Greater	16,817	397	403	31	132		0	0	1,128	18,918	37,826

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser	3	17	104	3	20	2	0	0	35	1,145	1,329
not to species	130	10	243		50		100	0	1	1,876	2,410
Eider, King	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	1	1
Common	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	3,331	3,331
Harlequin Duck	1	0	0		0		0	0	0	224	225
Scoter, Surf	0	0	0		1		0	0	0	625	626
White-winged	99	34	20	1	42		0	0	1	1,198	1,395
Black	0	0	0		1		0	0	0	2,230	2,231
not to species	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	4,488	4,488
Long-tailed Duck	1,182	2,565	46	13	475	539	0	0	207	3,266	8,293
Bufflehead	925	24	201	4	33	16	22	0	830	4,355	6,410
Goldeneye, Co.	2,234	1,098	1,982	139	670	1,504	359	467	538	1,046	10,037
Barrow's	1	1	0		0		0	0	0	66	68
Merganser, Hooded	57	9	98	133	47	1	5	59	253	1,142	1,804
Common	1,058	410	3,323	364	1,560	762	241	431	1,547	188	9,884
Red-breasted	702	3,523	486	2	163	65	0	0	89	1,738	6,768
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0		0		0	0	18	1,435	1,453
Loon, Red-throated	0	3	0		0		0	0	7	110	120
Common	0	3	2		0		2	0	43	207	257
Grebe, Pied-billed	3	1	6		3		0	0	5	18	36
Horned	0	3	3	1	0		2	0	16	210	235
Red-necked	0	1	0	2	0		0	0	0	2	5
Eared	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-cr.	16	17	1		26		0	0	2	99	161
Great	0	0	0		0		0	0	47	49	96
American Coot	0	29	240		2		0	0	23	156	450
Other/Unidentified	1,297	3	901		0	41	0	0	21	243	2,506
TOTALS	37,550	29,481	86,822	7,844	10,012	4,862	2,177	26,528	43,482	141,729	390,487

LONG-TERM TRENDS

We have been watching for many years the long-term trend of increasing numbers of Tundra Swans wintering in New York State, the number peaking at 4065 in 2016. That number dropped to 1443 in 2017 and to 655 in 2018. The number rebounded somewhat in the 2019 count to 1317. We have also been watching Canvasbacks. While their numbers vary widely from year to year, their two highest counts, 24,584 and 25,718, both occurred in the 2001-2010 decade. Their two lowest counts, 3,771 and 4,514, occurred in the current decade.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2019 possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Possible long-term increases can thus be seen for Snow Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases may be happening to American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, and Common Merganser.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2020 count by contacting your regional compiler. Compiler contact information and historical data are available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

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

2020 – January 18-26 (target date Sunday, January 19)

2021 – January 16-24 (target date Sunday, January 17)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2019 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. 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. The regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Jim Landau	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Thomas Bell	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Bill Ostrander
5	Bill Purcell	10	Clifford Hagen

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UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS OF NORTHERN PINTAILS (*Anas acuta*) ON THE LOWER NEW YORK BAY

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Northern Pintails (*Anas acuta*) are a widespread species of dabbling duck that has undergone precipitous declines in North America since the 1970s (Miller and Duncan 1999, Baldassarre 2014, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service 2018). Understanding their patterns of annual habitat use, including transient periods, is particularly important to their conservation (Clark et al. 2014). Northern Pintails congregate in large flocks during migratory stopovers and begin their spring migration just prior to the thawing of bodies of freshwater in late February, making them one of the earliest migrating species of waterfowl on the continent (Baldassarre 2014, Clarke et al. 2014). In New York, Northern Pintails have historically stopped over in their greatest abundances at inland freshwater marshes (e.g. Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge). Recently, however, these numbers have been greatly reduced (Levine 1998), and the species is now considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as defined under the New York State Wildlife Action Plan (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC] 2015). In the coastal plain, they are at times locally abundant, with peak counts on the order of hundreds occurring during the fall and winter. The coastal maxima, as reported by Bull (1985) are 600 from South Haven, Suffolk County on 26 December 1934, and 600 from Jamaica Bay, Queens on 28 October 1967. Since the mid-1970s, they have not attained such high numbers, and counts from southeastern New York State have seldom exceeded 100 individuals in recent decades. Here we report on two observations of Northern Pintails stopping over in very large numbers on the Lower New York Bay in southeastern New York, representing a new coastal maximum for New York State. This event occurred during a record-breaking temperature in New York City.

We conducted a waterfowl survey at Gateway National Recreation Area, Great Kills Park (40°32'54", -74°07'24") on the east shore of Staten Island, New York on 21 February 2018. From the southern edge of the remnant *Spartina alterniflora* mudflats, we observed a large raft of Northern Pintails approximately 500 meters from shore. Several dozen were also in the tidal marshes behind the mudflats, which eventually flew out into the Bay and joined the larger flock. We counted approximately 1250 on the Lower Bay. At 17:31

EST, the flock flew southwest, and after scanning the Lower Bay for several minutes, it appeared that they did not resettle in the vicinity of Staten Island.

The next morning, 22 Feb 2018, at 10:23 hrs, we returned to the Great Kills mudflats to check if any Northern Pintails had returned. At least 250 were present about 200 meters from the shoreline. At 16:50 hrs, we again returned to the mudflats, this time counting approximately 3000 on the Bay. At about 17:37 hrs, the birds flew southwest, and like the previous day did not appear to resettle on the Bay. Following these observations, we continued to return to the site daily until 1 March. We found 36 Northern Pintails on 24 February in a flock with nine Redhead (*Aythya americana*) and four American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) but did not observe any in the following days.

On 20 and 21 February 2018, the northeastern United States experienced a record-breaking heatwave. On 21 February, the temperature rose to 78°F in New York City, the warmest February day on record for New York State (Di Liberto 2018). These unseasonably warm temperatures melted the ice that had covered the marshes on the south shore of Staten Island, revealing bodies of freshwater that the migrating Northern Pintail used to feed and roost.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that Northern Pintails have been documented using the Lower New York Bay as a migratory stopover site in significant numbers. After searching the eBird citizen science database (Sullivan et al. 2009), and consulting publications of ornithological record (*North American Birds* and its predecessors; *The Kingbird*) we conclude that our observations on 20 and 21 February 2018, of approximately 1250 and 3000 birds, respectively, represent the new coastal maxima for Northern Pintails in New York State. We also checked regional works for the surrounding states (Veit and Petersen 1993, Zeranski and Baptist 1996, McWilliams and Brauning 2000, Boyle 2011, Keith and Fox 2015; Ferren, unpub. manuscript), which confirmed that our totals were the highest at a coastal locality in eastern North America north of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey.

As of April 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are investigating various storm-risk mitigation measures for the New York City Area, including a surge gate between Sandy Hook, New Jersey and Breezy Point, New York (USACE 2019). This particular alternative has the potential to interfere with waterfowl that stop over on the Lower New York Bay during migration, including species considered SGCN in New York like Northern Pintails, Black Scoters (*Melanitta americana*), and Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*). In the future, the Lower New York Bay and its tidal marshes should be monitored for Northern Pintail during the final weeks of February. This would allow for data to be collected on their habitat use during spring migration, which is lacking for this species (Clark et al. 2014).

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PATCH BIRDING—HUDSON YARDS

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Hudson Yards. Not a court, school, stock, grave, or back, but a rail yard. Six ground-level blocks of Manhattan. At the terminus, 30 train tracks abutting a heliport and the Hudson River wrapped by the High Line “Spur” flanked by two parking lots. The city covered the remaining ground-level access tunnels with streets propped two stories high, and then the developers built a vertical empire on top of that to keep everyone looking up and away from its namesake.

In early spring, I was among the first wave of employees to occupy its flagship skyscraper, the Warner Media building. One stairway, three escalators, and two elevator banks create a two-way, vertigo-inducing commute from the depths of the No. 7 subway line all the way up to my 41st-floor office, with a view of the “vessel” and “yard.”

So how is the birding? Well, among the wafer-thin, jet-engine-cooled islands of manicured gardens, tree rows, and small fountained pools scattered about the grey sea of pedestrian pavement, I find the ubiquitous immigrant House Sparrows and European Starlings, joined by Feral Pigeons, White-Throated Sparrows, and Gray Catbirds. These are the typical urban scavengers of the detritus of human lunch breaks. During spring migration, I observed a few additional species braving the nearby Bella Abzug Park. On my first foray I was thrilled to spy three skulking Swamp Sparrows. By the time migration got into full swing I occasionally sighted Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbirds, pairs of Eastern Towhees, and a secretive Hermit Thrush. But by June, when the gardens had sprouted sunflowers, lilies and busy food tents and trucks, the White-Throated Sparrows and even the Catbirds had disappeared.

From my office aerie, I can observe two high-tech green rooftops, one of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and the other, of the lesser-known U.S. Parcel Post Building. As spring turned to summer, hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls were replaced by the beefier Herring Gulls and then the addition of their toddling, fluffy grey young. (A flock of Barn Swallows briefly joined the gulls a few evenings in early May to dive-bomb Eleventh Avenue.) I’ve looked up from my lunch on the 35th floor cafeteria and seen through the big windows an Osprey, Peregrine, and Black-backed Gull fly by. Silent crows occasionally hang around the corner of 37th Street and 9th Avenue.

In spite of the human attempt to create an artificial landscape to share with nature, the migrating species predominantly seek out abandoned garbage-strewn and overgrown tangles of weeds below-street-level. That’s where the train tracks run diagonally northward, exposed intermittently until they finally disappear beneath the Midtown Tunnel ramp. The first exposure is an inaccessible “field” at the northeast corner of 35th Street and Eleventh Avenue—the largest plot of

grass outside of the green roofs—and it's home to a pair of American Robins and the only Song Sparrow I sighted.

The next exposure emerges north of the Bella Abzug Park at 36th Street—a luscious bank of wild trees and weeds sloping up steeply from the tracks to a broken concrete lot occupied by a vacated auto-body shop covered in vines. On the other side of the tracks are a couple of muddy pools. Standing in the shade of a sidewalk tree containing an abandoned bird feeder, I look in through a chain-link fence at this inaccessible mess, for this is my favorite birding patch. I have even seen a skunk twice, and one evening at dusk, a raccoon scrambled before me under broken concrete slabs.

From this patch I reported four more warblers—Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Redstart, and in late spring—a Mourning. The surviving trees have been visited by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Northern Flicker. I've also heard the beautiful songs of the Northern Cardinal and Baltimore Oriole.

Entering the hot summer doldrums last week, I took a stroll in the evening coolness to my patch and heard the faint song of a House Finch. After a little pishing, I saw a female House Finch fly out onto an open branch, followed by a male. That made it 30 species for Hudson Yards so far. I wish the possibly nesting couple well.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2018-19

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The weather this season was surprisingly consistent statewide, with everybody reporting average to warmer than average December and February temperatures, dipping below normal only in the second half of January and the very beginning of February. Precipitation overall was generally around average, with expected fluctuations within Regions.

Waterfowl numbers and diversity were generally rated as below normal in most upstate and western Regions, while downstate things seemed a little closer to average. A comment from Region 5, “numbers of wintering dabbling ducks were especially low, and no rarities were reported,” was echoed in one form or another in many Regions, with slightly more positive comments about diving ducks. Regions 2 and 3 reported decent counts of Redhead. Canvasback is still doing well in the westernmost Regions, but elsewhere it seems to be disappearing from the avifauna. Meanwhile, the wintering Greater Scaup flock in Great South Bay, Region 10, reached a peak estimate of around 25,000 birds.

Tufted Ducks were scattered across four upstate Regions, but otherwise, duck rarities went almost unreported. Barrow’s Goldeneye was reported from only four Regions, and was completely missed in Region 6 for the first time in 12 years. Common Eiders were widespread along Long Island’s south shore, with highest numbers occurring at Shinnecock, where up to 5000 birds set up mainly in the bay. For this species and Black Scoter, Shinnecock has recently become the favored wintering grounds rather than the more traditional location at Montauk Pt. An adult male King Eider at Oswego Harbor delighted birders in Region 5 from early February through the period.

White-fronted Geese seem to be solidifying their foothold in the state. High counts in several Regions were led by a maximum counts of 45 at Point Breeze in Region 1, 43 at Hammondsport in Region 3 and 31 at Green Lakes SP in Region 5. As noted in the fall reports, southbound Snow Goose numbers were far below normal in areas where they are expected, topping out at 1040 in Oswego, Region 5, on 16 December. Ross’s Geese in three Regions seemed about normal, while Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese were reported only from Region 10. Cackling Goose was reported from almost every Region—probably a result both of increased awareness and higher populations of geese in general.

Loons barely warranted a mention, except for late birds in Region 7—one each of Red-throated and Common lingering into February, and two Pacifics in Region 10, including one incredibly cooperative bird that spent three weeks in Oyster Bay, Nassau County. Observers in Region 2 are witnessing a change in the pattern of wintering Red-necked Grebe. Counts of 804 and 1123 at two Lake Ontario locations on 1 December are very impressive. On the Region 1 section of the Lake, counts peaked at 269 in mid-December. A Magnificent Frigatebird

photographed in Region 10 must have been quite a shocking sight, especially for late December. Only slightly more normal were a Brown Pelican at Moriches Inlet and a White Pelican at Mecox, also in Region 10. A count of 100 Sandhill Cranes at Montezuma in Region 3 in early December seems remarkable for a bird that so recently became a regular part of our avifauna. Thirty were still present at month's end.

Shorebirds were pretty much non-existent away from the coast. Region 2 editor Robert Spahn commented that this was the first year in memory that no shorebirds were reported in winter in his Region. Milder temperatures downstate allowed for some unusual lingering species to be found, including Spotted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit and Willet, all in Region 10. Good numbers of Wilson's Snipe and Woodcock were noted there as well, while a Woodcock in Region 8 was more unusual.

With few exceptions, gull numbers and diversity were considered to be very disappointing. A large collection of gulls on 21 January at the Moses-Saunders Dam in Region 6 included 41 Glaucous and 9 Iceland, but it is noted that no large flocks were found afterwards. Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gull numbers were all below normal in Region 10. An adult Mew Gull was photographed in Brooklyn, and Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed occurred in decent numbers elsewhere in the same Region. A Black-legged Kittiwake in the Long Island Sound was unusual for a north shore location. A late Common Tern was found at Montauk on 13 December.

Staying with Region 10 for a minute, alcids put on quite a show this winter, with record-shattering numbers of Razorbills leading the way. Single day counts in the thousands were recorded at many south shore locations, topping out at 9,000 and 10,000 at Montauk in December and late January. Stragglers made it well into Long Island Sound, with one even recorded on the Bronx-Westchester CBC. Scattered Dovekies and Black Guillemots, as well as Thick-billed and Common Murres, provided near constant entertainment for Region 10 birders through the season.

Black Vultures further strengthened their foothold in the state, with birds wintering in Region 1 for the eighth consecutive year. Wintering roosts were noted in Region 8, and a single bird was noted in Rochester in Region 2. Up to 99 Bald Eagles were counted along the shoreline of Onondaga Lake in Region 5, consistent with the expansion noted generally throughout the state. Northern Harrier numbers were considered to be good in Region 8 and at Pt. Peninsula in Region 6. Otherwise, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks received positive mentions in Regions 1 and 7, respectively. Single Gyrfalcons in Regions 6 and 7 provided the spice among the diurnal raptors.

Regions 1, 2 and 10 reported good numbers of Saw-whet Owls. With owls in general, it's difficult to interpret what that means. In Region 10, for example, a couple of enthusiastic searchers undoubtedly made a difference, although Saw-whet populations probably were better than average as well. On the flip side many observers are more reluctant to report sensitive species as more of us

witness harassment, mostly by photographers, of owls and other charismatic birds of prey. See notes regarding Long-eared Owl in Region 5 and Snowies in Region 10 for a couple of examples. I personally witnessed a photographer walk out into a private farm field and flush an adult Bald Eagle off a deer carcass.

Overall mild temperatures in December encouraged some passerines to linger. Many Regions reported half-hardy landbirds reluctant to move on. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were mentioned in Regions 2, 5 and 10, and most Regions had Eastern Phoebes lingering into December. Marsh Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were well represented and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a great find in Ithaca in Region 3. A Varied Thrush on Staten Island was a nice find, but even better were the very cooperative Townsend's Solitaire at Taconic SP in Region 8 and the Say's Phoebe at the Wallkill River NWR in Region 9. A Wood Thrush spent a week at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge in Region 10, providing one of the few well documented winter records for the state.

As Fish Crows continue to expand away from the coast and Ravens continue to march towards it, it's interesting to read the discussion in the Region 10 report about the likely role of West Nile Virus in relation to population changes among the three large corvids of our area. Matt Perry and David Wheeler in Region 5 discuss a Starling eradication program carried out by the USDA and the collateral damage such a program is likely to have on non-targeted species, including crows.

A Bohemian Waxwing in Fredonia, in Region 1, provided the first record for Chautauqua County. In areas where they are more expected, numbers were low. A Prothonotary Warbler apparently lingered into the winter season in Region 8, although the actual date of occurrence is uncertain. Other warblers away from the coast were pretty sparse, and included Nashville, Common Yellowthroat and Orange-crowned and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Region 9. In Region 10, Orange-crowned and Palm numbers were quite good, while Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarcer than normal.

Chipping, Vesper and Field Sparrows were found in several non-coastal Regions. A Harris' Sparrow lingered at a feeder in Earlville in Region 5—a great bird anywhere in the state. Something apparently went on with White-crowned Sparrows this winter. They were widely reported from many Regions, including a max single count of 62 at East Hampton in Region 10.

Every year we hear the prediction “Winter finches are coming!”, and most winters the reality doesn't live up to our expectations. This year was kind of a mixed bag, with Evening Grosbeaks providing most of the excitement, even if that meant just a few large localized flocks and modest numbers elsewhere. For most of us, it's been such a long time since we've had any at all that scattered flocks and singles still provided plenty of entertainment. Kyle Arvin in Region 8 provided a running tally of grosbeaks at his feeder, recording a max of 201 on 2 December. One “celebrity” bird lingered at a small Manhattan park from mid-December into April. Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were also wintered in the area, although in less impressive numbers. A scattering of Pine Grosbeaks

appeared in several upstate locations, along with a few Red Crossbills and even fewer White-winged.

There were some really good birds around the state this season—Magnificent Frigatebird and white-phase Gyrfalcon would certainly be hard to top on any New York birder’s year list. The same could be said for Townsend’s Solitaire or Harris’ Sparrow or Mew Gull. But considering the most impact on the most birders—and non-birders as well—I think I’d say that the Bird of the Season was Evening Grosbeak as a species. Some of us remember flocks of them irrupting into the area decades ago, and after such a long drought, it was great to have them around again, whether in a flocks of 200 at a feeder in Summit or a lone bird delighting hundreds at Riverside Park in the middle of New York City.

Thanks for reading and keep the reports coming in!

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2018 was warm with a mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station of 33.2°F, 3.1° above normal, with 3.36" of precipitation, 0.53" below normal. Only 14.1" of snowfall occurred, 13.3" below average. The mild weather continued for the first half of January before deep cold and snowy conditions arrived for the remainder of the month. The mean temperature was 22.9°, 2.0° below average. Precipitation was high with 5.71", 2.53" above average, and 63.4" of snowfall, 38.1" above normal and the fourth snowiest January on record. February brought several strong winter storms and swings in temperature. The average temperature was 27.6°, 1.3° above normal. Rainfall was 3.28", 0.79" above normal and snowfall was 16.8", 0.5" below normal. A strong cold front on the 24th included winds gusting to near 70 miles per hour causing a prolonged seiche on Lake Erie and many downed trees, believed to include some with active raptor nests as well.

The warmups in February brought geese, swans, other waterfowl, blackbirds, and a few others to the Region. For the second consecutive spring there was a strong showing of Greater White-fronted Geese. We’ve seen increasing numbers of sightings in both spring and fall migration this century, most often in single digits, and the numbers are swelling in recent years. This February, double digit flocks were counted in four locations, including a new maximum of 45 by Jim Wojewodzki at Point Breeze on 23 February. The increase was consistent with their movement elsewhere in the eastern Great

Lakes region in February. While winter weather patterns may have been a factor this year, it appears that the migration phenology is changing, and we can probably expect to see more Greater White-fronted Geese in spring migration moving forward.

While checking on the Greater White-fronted Geese and other waterfowl on Chautauqua Lake at Celoron on 15 February, David Cooney Jr. found a drake Eurasian Wigeon with a group of 15 American Wigeon. This marks the earliest occurrence for the Region. Other notable waterfowl sightings included a **Tufted Duck** continuing at Buffalo from late November until at least 10 December and a Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze that was perhaps the same bird wintering there for many years but not found in the winter of 2017-2018. Harlequin Ducks wintered again at Niagara Falls State Park off Goat Island. Willie D'Anna counted 269 Red-necked Grebes on Lake Ontario at Wilson which is an impressive count for mid-December. Joe Mitchell identified an Eared Grebe among a few Horned Grebes on Lake Erie off Evangola State Park in early January.

Gull numbers and diversity were down this winter continuing the trend from late fall. This was unsettling for gull aficionados along the Niagara River. Bonaparte's Gull counts did not reach one thousand and only a few were present beyond early January. Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls were present in lower numbers than any winter in recent memory.

Black Vultures wintered along the Niagara River in Lewiston for the eighth consecutive year with up to 10 this season. Turkey Vulture continued its increased winter presence with reports from two locations in December and three other locations in January beyond the regular wintering location in Lewiston. Of note was a new winter roost in Clarence Center with up to 30 Turkey Vultures gathering on tall conifers and rooftops throughout January per Gene Florentino. The lone Northern Goshawk report was a juvenile eating a crow in Elma that was photographed by David Hejna in January. Bald Eagles are regular along the Niagara River and seemingly increasing throughout the Region in winter. Red-shouldered Hawk reports from 12 locations made for a very good winter showing, while Rough-legged Hawk reports were average at best this winter.

Up to five Snowy Owls were around Buffalo Harbor throughout the winter, along with singles at four to five other locations per month. There were two Long-eared Owl reports and Short-eared Owls were found at four locations. Six Northern Saw-whet Owl sightings made for a good winter showing.

Eastern Phoebe lingered into early December as evidenced by two reports. Northern Shrike made an average showing this winter. Two Fish Crow reports from Buffalo and Tonawanda were consistent with increased reports in late winter and spring in recent years, likely associated with the crow roost in Buffalo. There were two Marsh Wren reports in December, while Gray Catbird reports from four locations were more than normal. Karl Schmidt was surprised to find a Brown Thrasher in Cuba on **1 February**.

Gale VerHague photographed a Bohemian Waxwing in a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Fredonia on 27 February. This marks the first documented occurrence for Chautauqua County. Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were sighted throughout the winter, but they were far from being widespread in occurrence. The number of reports and a maximum of 44 grosbeaks certainly made for a good showing compared to most winters this century. Pine Siskins were present in smaller numbers and usually mixed in with American Goldfinches.

Snow Buntings were reported in the hundreds at several locations while there were only a few Lapland Longspur reports. Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow had more winter reports than usual with six and four locations, respectively. Savannah Sparrow is being found with more regularity in winter in recent years; Joel Strong found one in Hartland in January. Of the two Fox Sparrows reported this winter, of note was one that remained throughout the season in Rushford.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** found by Joel Strong in Newfane was only the second January report for Region 1. A Common Yellowthroat lingered at Tiff Nature Preserve until at least 20 December. Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported from four locations.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; **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; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tiff NP** – Tiff Nature Preserve, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL-GREBES

Snow Goose: DH 3 Dec; Lockport NIAG 9 Jan; arr 2 Batavia GENE 5 Feb; max 35 Celoron ChauL 7 Feb; 5 Niagara NIAG 10 Feb.

Greater White-fronted Goose: WTSP 1-8 Dec; Wilson NIAG 7 Dec; Grand I NR 27 Jan (MM, CA); max 33, 45 PB 10, 23 Feb (WD, JWo), record Reg count; 14, 17 Celoron ChauL 11, 17 Feb (WS); 4 Tonawanda ERIE 17 Feb; 4, 14 BeSP 19, 22 Feb; 21 Waterport ORLE 26 Feb; unprecedented Feb abundance.

Cackling Goose: Amherst ERIE 2 Dec; BufH 4, 8 Dec; 2, 4 WTSP 10, 11 Dec; Lyndonville ORLE 7 Jan; max 6 Yates ORLE 15 Jan.

Mute Swan: DH 1-25 Dec; Cassadaga CHAU 15 Dec; 7 WTSP 3 Jan; 5 Carlton ORLE 6 Jan; Fredonia 12-22 Jan; max 10 PB 2 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 69 Chautauqua ChauL 15 Dec; max 245 NF 20 Dec; 225, 225 BeSP 16 Jan, 19 Feb; 168 BuSP, 192 Wilson NIAG 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: Buffalo NR 13-27 Dec, 17 Jan, 26 Feb; AmSP 20 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 29 Dec – 11 Jan; WoBSP 12 Jan; only reports.

Northern Shoveler: max 38, 20, 18 BWWTP 1, 26 Dec, 9 Jan; N Collins ERIE 26 Dec; Fredonia CHAU 12 Jan; only reports.

Gadwall: 22 BufH 3 Dec; max 23 Tiftt NP 29 Dec; 11 NF 5 Jan; 5 Ellery ChauL 8 Jan; arr 2 Celoron ChauL 10 Feb; 12 BuSP 15 Feb.

Eurasian Wigeon: Celoron CHAU 15 Feb (DC); record early.

American Wigeon: max 18 Tiftt NP 2 Dec; 5 NF 23 Dec; 1, arr 2, 15 Ellery ChauL 20 Jan, 12, 15 Feb; Waterport ORLE 14 Feb.

American Black Duck: 14 N Tonawanda NIAG 16 Dec; 16 Grand I NR 13 Jan; arr 10 Franklinville CATT 7 Feb; max 18 Elba GENE, 15 Fredonia CHAU 11 Feb.

Northern Pintail: WTSP 19 Dec; arr 4 DH, 2 BeSP 9 Feb; max 12 Celoron ChauL 15 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 2 FNSP 1 Dec; 2 Cuba L ALLE 3 Dec; 4 Lyndon CATT 4 Dec; BWWTP 6, 9 Jan; Buffalo ERIE 10 Jan; 2 NF 19, 20 Jan; arr Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

Canvasback: 1000 BufH 19 Dec; max 5000 NFSP 29 Dec; 1452 BeSP 27 Jan; 2850

BuSP 4 Feb; 2 Cuba L ALLE 7 Feb; Machias CATT, BWWTP 9 Feb.

Redhead: max 500, 700 BufH 23 Dec, 13 Jan; 150 Celoron ChauL 6 Jan; 73 DH 5 Feb; 270 BeSP 20 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 15 BuSP 11 Dec; 15 Buffalo NR 2 Jan; N Collins ERIE 5 Jan; 3 BWWTP 6, 9 Jan; Cuba L ALLE 5 Feb; arr 15 Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

TUFTED DUCK (R1): Buffalo NR 1-10 Dec (SB, KB), continuing from late Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 8000 BufH 26 Jan (JM).

Lesser Scaup: max 100 BufH 19 Dec; 4, 2 BWWTP 23 Dec, 9 Jan; arr 40 Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

King Eider: no reports.

Harlequin Duck: 2-3 NFSP thru, regular location in recent years.

Surf Scoter: 1, 1, 1, 1 BufH 2, 21 Dec, 26 Jan, 12 Feb; max 5 DH 20 Dec; PB 2, 10 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 90 FNSP 17 Jan.

Black Scoter: max 2, 5 DH 20 Dec, 4 Feb; Youngstown NIAG 27 Dec; EvSP 5 Jan; BufH 24 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 200 FNSP 1 Dec; max 200 PB 10 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 345 Buffalo NR16 Dec.

Common Goldeneye: 700 NFSP 1 Dec; 900 Buffalo NR 2 Jan; max 100 Grand I NR 4 Feb; 100 Olean CATT 13 Feb.

Barrow's Goldeneye: PB 13 Jan – 20 Feb (RB, mob), rare.

Hooded Merganser: max 68 N Tonawanda NR 16 Dec; 50 NF 28 Dec.

Common Merganser: 193 BWWTP 9 Jan; max 200 Tonawanda NR 22 Jan; max 200 Wellsville ALLE 5 Feb (KR).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 555 FNSP 1 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: 6, 4 DH 3, 6 Dec; 2, 1 Cuba L ALLE 4, 18 Dec; BufH 5, 8 Dec; arr Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: reported from five locs Jan, Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 28 DH 5 Dec; 5 EvSP 5 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 16 Feb; Salamanca CATT 21 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: DH 6 Dec; max 269 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (WD), impressive

count; BufH 20 Dec; Youngstown NIAG 5, 6 Jan; Jamestown CHAU 17 Feb.

Eared Grebe: EvSP 5 Jan (JM), rare.

RAILS-LARIDS

American Coot: 2 DH 1-7 Jan; max 10 Clarence ERIE 5 Jan; BufH 24-28 Jan.

Killdeer: arr Tonawanda ERIE 10 Feb (JM), early; only report.

Dunlin: 3 NFSP 2 Dec, only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 974 BeSP 16 Dec; 950 Buffalo NR 3 Jan; fewer than usual.

Little Gull: 2, 1 Lewiston NR 1 Dec, 5 Jan; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 10 Dec, 28 Jan; only reports.

Iceland Gull: max 5 NFSP 18 Jan; fewer than usual.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 7 NFSP 1 Jan; fewer than usual.

Glaucous Gull: max 2 BufH 4 Feb; only nine other reports.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 25 NFSP 1 Dec; Olcott NIAG 2 Jan, 4 Feb; BufH 5 Feb; PB 10, 21 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

Common Loon: DH 2, 18 Jan; Grand I NR 9 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: 19 BufH 9 Jan, highest count beyond Dec.

Black Vulture: max 10 Lewiston NIAG 2 Dec; year-round location.

Turkey Vulture: 9 Fredonia CHAU 11 Dec; Arcade WYOM 22 Dec; 12-30 Clarence Center ERIE 1 – 31 Jan (GF), new winter roost location; 6 Lewiston NIAG 1-31 Jan; Collins ERIE 14 Jan; Hartland NIAG 22 Jan; 5, 14 Lancaster ERIE 5, 14 Feb; arr Tonawanda ERIE 9 Feb; increasing in winter.

Northern Goshawk: Elma ERIE 12 Jan (DH); only report.

Bald Eagle: max 11 Tonawanda ERIE 20 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from 12 locations; max 4 Forestville CHAU 5 Jan (GV); good winter showing.

Rough-legged Hawk: average numbers.

Snowy Owl: max 4, 5 BufH 22 Dec, 22 Feb; reported from 4-5 other locations per month.

Long-eared Owl: OOWMA 1 Jan; Oakfield GENE 3 Jan; only reports.

Short-eared Owl: 2-3 Shelby ORLE thru; Amherst ERIE 1 Jan (JWa); max 5

Newstead ERIE 14 Jan (JM); Porter NIAG 1 Feb.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Newfane NIAG 15 Dec (JS); Porter NIAG 27 Dec (WD); INWR 1 Jan (NK, RB); Stiglmeier P ERIE 3-8 Feb (JK, mob); BuSP 7-15 Feb (AH); WTSP 10 Feb (BP); good showing.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 FNSP 2 Dec, 5 Jan; Cheektowaga ERIE 5 Jan; EvSP 8 Jan, 5 Feb; PG 18 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Buffalo ERIE 20 Dec; Gasport NIAG, Middleport NIAG 20 Jan; Porter NIAG 29 Jan; Holland ERIE 30 Jan; Corfu GENE 17 Feb; Portland CHAU 26 Feb; good winter showing.

Merlin: now regular.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Tiff NP 4 Dec (CM); last Olean CATT 9 Dec (JR).

Northern Shrike: average showing.

Fish Crow: Buffalo ERIE 4 Feb (JF); 2 Tonawanda NR 7 Feb (TK); consistent with increased reports in late winter and spring in recent years.

Common Raven: continued increase in northern portion of Reg.

Horned Lark: max 125 Bethany GENE 22 Jan.

Winter Wren: Orchard Park ERIE 15 Dec, 17 Jan; Arkwright CHAU 16 Dec; Wilson NIAG 17 Dec; HBWMA 27 Dec; only reports.

Marsh Wren: BeSP 16 Dec (JM); INWR 27 Dec (RD); rare in winter.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: NFSP 3, 12 Dec; only report.

Hermit Thrush: Wilson NIAG 14 Dec; Olcott NIAG 15 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 16 Dec; WTSP 17 Dec; INWR 26 Feb; only reports.

Gray Catbird: RWSP 7 Dec thru; BeSP 21 Dec, 14 Jan; 2 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; NFSP 3 Feb; decent winter showing.

Brown Thrasher: Cuba ALLE 1 Feb (KS), surprise winter find.

Bohemian Waxwing: Fredonia CHAU 27 Feb (GV), first County record; only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 152 HBWMA 6 Feb.

American Pipit: last BufH 4 Dec.

Evening Grosbeak: 14 LBSP 5 Dec; 20 Ashford CATT 8 Dec; 11, 20 Wethersfield WYOM 15, 20 Dec; 40 Arkwright CHAU 25 Dec; max 26, 44 Machias CATT 26 Dec, 17 Feb; 10 Alfred ALLE 6 Jan; 12 Ischua

CATT 28 Jan; 12 Great Valley CATT 23 Feb; strong showing.

Common Redpoll: 50 WTSP 5 Dec; 37 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; max 70 Attica WYOM 25 Dec; 40 Shelby ORLE 27 Dec; 60, 66 Newfane NIAG 7, 26 Jan; 18 Hartland NIAG 29 Jan; max 100 Yates ORLE 14, 23 Feb (WD); 20 BMAC 16 Feb. **Pine Siskin:** 15 Hamburg ERIE 15 Dec; 30 Orangeville WYOM 23 Dec; 32 Wilson NIAG 1-18 Jan; 18 Alfred ALLE 8 Jan; 20 Orchard Park ERIE 6 Feb; max 46, 56 E Aurora ERIE 15, 24 Feb; 30 Wales ERIE 18 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: 1, 2, 1 Bethany GENE 6 Dec, 26 Jan, 28 Feb; max 30 Sheridan CHAU 6 Dec (SG, CV); 2 Yates ORLE 14 Feb; Sheldon WYOM 16 Feb; 3 Newstead ERIE 19 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 175 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 8 Dec; max 145, 550 Corfu GENE 12 Dec, 14 Feb (DB); 500, 150 Attica WYOM 28, 31 Dec; 110 Middlebury WYOM 11 Jan; 110, 170 Bethany GENE 26 Jan, 28 Feb; 125, 300 Yates ORLE 31 Jan, 14 Feb; 186 Somerset NIAG 14 Feb; 500 Sheldon WYOM 16 Feb; 200 E Aurora ERIE 16 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- WARBLERS

Chipping Sparrow: Orchard Park ERIE 3-22 Dec (SB); FLC 16 Dec (PC); Newfane NIAG 26, 27 Jan (JS); Rushford ALLE 27-

31 Jan, 14 Feb (KS); Wilson NIAG 13, 18 Feb (WD, BP); Portland CHAU 16-18 Feb (CH); more reports than usual.

Field Sparrow: TBNP 12, 20 Dec; Orangeville WYOM 26 Dec; Wellsville ALLE 30 Dec; RWNP 22 Jan; more reports than usual.

Savannah Sparrow: Hartland NIAG 22 Jan (JS), becoming less rare in winter.

Fox Sparrow: Tifft NP 14 Dec; Rushford ALLE 9 Jan thru (KS); only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 Tifft NP 1 Jan; EvSP 8 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 Bethany GENE 13 Jan; reported from seven other locations.

Red-winged Blackbird: arr in Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 45 Grand I ERIE 19 Jan, maximum prior to mid-Feb arrivals.

Rusty Blackbird: BuSP 12 Dec thru (AH), regular winter location in recent years.

Common Grackle: Tonawanda ERIE 16 Dec; 5 Celoron CHAU 6 Jan; Pendleton NIAG 26 Jan; only reports before Feb arrival.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Newfane NIAG 5 Jan (JS), 2nd January record.

Common Yellowthroat: TBNP 12, 20 Dec (SB), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: NF 21 Dec; max 8, 7, 12 BuSP 26 Dec, 12 Jan, 23 Feb (AH, TK); Shelby ORLE 27 Dec; Whitesville ALLE 27 Jan.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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An up-and-down winter 2018-19, generally on the warmer side, with snowfall in bursts and a bit below average total and some significant wind events late in the season. December was warm with snowfall about half normal, a stark contrast with November's cold. It was one of the warmest and least snowy Decembers on record. Still, each local Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was affected by some combination of cold and rain or snow on the count day plus the lingering effects of the very cold and snowy November, which pushed out many typical lingering

birds, especially waterfowl. Most lakes, ponds, and bays were largely ice-free for most of the month, but they had been frozen in November and again during cold snaps in December. Temperatures averaged 33.8°F, 3.8° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.60", 0.03" below normal. Snowfall was 11.5", 10.3" below normal.

January continued the green grass look and mild feel through the 9th, with temperatures averaging 9° above normal. For the rest of the month, only five days reached normal highs, and four days dropped below 0°. Temperatures averaged 23.9°, 0.8° below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.56", 0.15" above normal, with snowfall at 32.8", 4.6" above normal. Snow fell on 24 of the 31 days of the month, with a record for the date of 7.8" on the 19th and more the next day. There were rain events on the 8th and the 23rd-24th. The snowfall in addition to the cold fluctuations led to bays and ponds freezing and thawing and to an increase in shore ice on Lake Ontario.

February brought a generally warm and windy ride. After a low of 0° on the 1st, temperatures spiked to 63° on the 4th. Days were about evenly split between above and below average, with a temperature average of 28.7°, 2.3° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.91", 0.96" above normal, with half falling as rain and the larger events, wintry mixes of rain and sleet. Snowfall ended at 19.2", 2.3" below normal, but with a record for the date of 6.5" on the 27th. There were four wind events on the 8th, 12th-13th, 18th, and finally most serious on the 24th-26th, when gusts reached to 66 mph.

In general, this was a lackluster winter for birding. As noted in the weather summary, there were ups and downs, but overall it was just average. A major impact was the November deep freeze that seemed to push many potential lingerers out of the Region before the season began. Records posted to eBird were close to the same as for last winter at approximately 17,111 for December, 22,801 for January, and 19,348 for February. There were the usual additions of geneseebirds posts, the CBC data, and the annual January NY State Waterfowl Count. Each CBC was at least somewhat impacted by conditions on the count days, but ended up with high average species totals and with numbers of individuals increased from last year, though in the Rochester CBC case that mostly meant the American Crow roost was again found back inside the circle this year; that one species typically accounts for about 1/3 of the total count of individuals. New species for the local counts were: Greater White-fronted Goose and Orange-crowned Warbler for Letchworth-Silver Lake, Green Heron for Rochester, and Tufted Duck for Conesus-Hemlock. Record high counts for the CBCs were: Rochester – Pied-billed Grebe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Hermit Thrush, and Gray Catbird; Letchworth-Silver Lake – Redhead, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Bald Eagle; and Conesus-Hemlock – Sandhill Crane and Common Raven. Most water was open, yet waterfowl numbers were really high only in the Letchworth-Silver Lake area. There were similar comments through the season of birds being hard to find. Even toward

season's end, there was essentially no sign of movement of early spring migrants.

Moving right into the family groups, we start with all really expected waterfowl reported each month. Counts were generally low except for Redhead on Conesus Lake and Red-breasted Merganser off Hamlin Beach in December. Rarer reports included: Greater White-fronted Goose in December and February, Cackling Goose all season, Tufted Duck in December and January, and Barrow's Goldeneye in January and February at two typical locations. February arrivals were only Gadwall and Northern Pintail. The Waterfowl Count again hit the arrival of real winter, which resulted in various parts being done over most of a week in the various sectors. The total for species and individuals was very close to the average for the most recent 20 years. The only ducks above average were Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser. Canada Goose numbers approached double their average and really were what drove the overall total to near normal. Shore ice had increased to well offshore after any time the wind blew from the north for an extended period. This hampered counts in some sectors.

There were no shorebird reports for the season. I do not recall the last occurrence of a total shutout. In December and January, there were some good concentrations of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls on the ponds and bays and modest numbers of the usual white-winged gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gull typical of winter here. By February, numbers of even these had dropped to lower than typical. We often look to Bonaparte's Gull for the possibility of accompanying rarer species, but Bonaparte's numbers were low, a 10 January departure date was normal, and there were only a couple of reports in February, and no reports of rarer species. A passing Parasitic Jaeger off Webster Park on 6 January was a nice surprise. In this general area of the new checklist order, up to 11 Sandhill Cranes were seen in the Ashley Road area of the Town of Livonia through 18 January, a record high count for the area and that late date. Loons and grebes continued the storyline of low numbers. An exception was several high counts of Red-necked Grebe along the south shore of Lake Ontario in the Towns of Parma and Hamlin, with the peak 804 and 1033 at two locations on 1 December and 123 on 30 December, high for that late. These high late-fall counts are a relatively recent trend. Double-crested Cormorant again lingered on Irondequoit Bay in numbers from 25 in mid-December to 17 through the Waterfowl Count.

Next, we can work through the rest of the non-passerine species. As a group, the diurnal raptors provided few special notes. Starting with the vultures, we have the usual winter roosts for Turkey Vulture and then a surprise Black Vulture spotted over Rochester by Andy Garland on 21 February. Bald Eagle numbers were good, though down a bit from last winter, with Irondequoit Bay again a good place to be sure to see birds. Another surprise was four reports of immature Northern Goshawks in December, but then no more for the rest of the season. It was also a low number season for Rough-legged Hawk. The official Braddock Bay hawk watch did not start until after season's end.

Among the owls, we had the usual good numbers of Eastern Screech-Owl on the CBCs. It was an off year for Snowy Owl; still there were birds each month, with over 20 individuals reported in January. The Short-eared Owl surveys out of the DEC office in Avon started great, reaching a new record high tally of 33 on the 29 January count. Weather was a problem on several of the count days, with both counts in February cancelled, though birders out on other days reported up to a maximum of 16 individuals in the Nations Road IBA. There were more Northern Saw-whet Owl reports than usual in December from several locations. Then February brought the best start in recent years to the annual monitoring of roosting, migrating owls in the Owl Woods area, with 11 reports for Northern Saw-whet Owl and one Long-eared Owl.

Among the woodpeckers, 3-4 Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in Durand-Eastman Park in Rochester on 14 December and continued to be seen in the same area through the season. Lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were present in good numbers, with about 12 in December and five still being found through most of February. Our regular three falcon species were all reported in good numbers each month of the season.

Moving on to the passerines, it was interesting to look at the birds lingering into a warm December and beyond, especially after the really cold November. The general feeling was that passerines were hard to find. Yet the list of half hardies reported was long and the numbers reported were good. For December, we had: four Eastern Phoebes, about 15 Winter Wrens, a Marsh Wren, three Ruby-crowned Kinglets, many Eastern Bluebirds, 16 Hermit Thrushes, five Gray Catbirds, four Eastern Towhees, two Chipping Sparrows, four Field Sparrows, many Fox, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows, a few blackbirds, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-rumped Warblers—certainly a good list. In January, wintering passerines seemed even harder to find, yet again the list of half hardies was little changed and numbers of individuals still good. Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat were missed, while Vesper and Savannah Sparrows and Pine Warbler were added. February's deep cold snaps and periods of heavy snows had some effects, but our wintering half hardies mainly persisted, with only Eastern Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler dropped and Gray Catbird and Eastern Meadowlark added. Regular irruptive species saw Northern Shrike numbers fair, no sign of a Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion, and only a lone Bohemian Waxwing reported in early February. Lapland Longspur was scarce through the season, while Snow Bunting was occasionally seen in high numbers.

Through the fall there were tantalizing, scattered reports of winter finches, giving rise to hopes for later numbers. But December brought only a dozen reports of Evening Grosbeak, a lone Pine Grosbeak, some flocks of Common Redpoll, a lone Red Crossbill, and modest numbers of Pine Siskin. January and February saw the same story continuing, with a lone Hoary Redpoll with the Commons in the Town of Hamlin in January and with another lone Pine Grosbeak found in February.

Species totals for the months and their 10-year averages were: December – 132 (131.3), January – 127 (126.7), and February – 125 (117.7).

For other notes of interest, we start with the continued field summaries from Jim Adams' regular surveys in Oatka Creek Park. Diversity remained close to or a bit below average. The creek remained high, impacting waterbird records, and dying ash trees plus construction and logging along the creek are having negative impacts. Generally, his notes mirror the inputs from others for the season. Next, the Great Backyard Bird Count in mid-February again added 100 or so to the usual observer list. Finally some thoughts relating to using care with the raw eBird data in trying to assess numbers of observations or sites. Virginia Rail in January presents a good example. An individual was noted in Sherry Pond marsh in Durand-Eastman Park on 1 January and another two in the Deep Pond area of Mendon Ponds Park on 2 January. Then from 22-29 January, there were about 23 reports from the Quaker Pond part of Mendon Ponds Park, with various descriptions of the sites and with five pins on the eBird map. In fact this was generally one bird (other than a single report suggesting two) all from the south end of the pond, NOT the traditional wintering location noted most years. Only one report plotted the pin at that spot; the rest were at spots as far as 0.8 miles north! It can take some effort to derive details from the content of databases.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 29 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **G** – T Greece; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **LSLCBC** – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 15 Dec; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Pd P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor; **RCBC** – Rochester Christmas Bird Count on 16 Dec; **SBotP** – Sandy Bottom P, T Honeoye, ONTA; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL - GREBES

Snow Goose: max 8500 T Galen WAYN 3 Dec (DO); 2100 N. Avon LIVI 3 Dec (MW); 3000 Honeoye Falls 9 Jan (BCar); last 60 Geneseo 20 Jan (JK); 125 NMWMA (AR) 8 Feb (LC-B, SBe).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 HB

2Dec (JiM, LMa, RRe); Mt Morris area 15, 17, 20 Dec (JK, DBe, MW); variable to 45 PtB 10-23 Feb (8 mob), on border between Regions 1 & 2.

Cackling Goose: 42 rep, ~ 68 ind 18 loc Dec (28+ obs); max 11 Kings Bend P,

Pittsford 31 Dec (BCar); 2 BB-HW 14 Feb (KGr); Kings Bend P, Pittsford 14 Feb (RW); Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 20 Feb (MG).

Canada Goose: max 8000 Mt Morris Dam 18 Jan (JK).

Mute Swan: max 242 IBO area 2 Feb (GF); 75 SPt 7 Feb (MG).

Trumpeter Swan: 20 NMWMA (AR) 8-9 Dec; 14 NMWMA (CR) 3 Jan; 4 IB 4-22 Feb (mob).

Tundra Swan: max 1015 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Jan (NK).

Wood Duck: 5 T Galen WAYN 1 Dec; Caledonia 2 Feb (DT); Bear Creek WAYN 8 Feb (LKah); scarce in winter.

N. Shoveler: 2 HANA 8 Jan (RRe); 8 IBO 2 Feb (JGe, SJ, RRe); scarce in winter.

Gadwall: max 62 Northrup Crk, G 5 Jan (AGu); arr 14 BB14 Feb (GL, RC).

Am. Wigeon: last IB – S 11 Jan (RB).

Mallard: max 630 HB-YC 8 Dec.

Am. Black Duck: max 107 CL 21 Jan (MW), low max.

N. Pintail: last CL 21 Jan (MW); arr 11 IBO & 31 NMWMA (SCU) 10 Feb (JM); LKah).

Green-winged Teal: max 8 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2, 23 Feb (DT, RSt).

Canvasback: max 500 CL 2 Feb (DSh); 150 SPT. 23 Feb (JMcGo, LS).

Redhead: max 4500 2 Jan (MW).

Ring-necked Duck: 580 Hemlock L P 14 Dec (BH).

TUFTED DUCK: 1 m CL 29 Dec-CHCBC 2 Jan (JK, RSt, 28+ oth obs, ph), 6th Reg record.

Greater Scaup: max 1500 SPt 23 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 250 CL 29 Dec & Hemlock 1 P 1 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: max 250 SPt 23 Feb, low; generally scarce.

Long-tailed Duck: 1000 SPt 23 Feb; max 1800 mouth of Genesee R 24 Jan (RSp).

Bufflehead: max 60 CL 8 Dec, low max.

Com. Goldeneye: max 250 IBO-Newport marina 20 Jan.

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 m PtB 13-31 Jan, 1-20 Feb (RB, LBer, mob, ph); 1 f

SPT 26-29 Jan, 8-28 Feb (DC, JWi, mob, ph).

Com. Merganser: max 2000 IB-N 17 Feb (PMar).

Red-breasted Merganser: 1000 HB 1 Dec (BCar); max 2063 SB-Fairhaven, Waterfowl Count 17 Jan (M&JT, JCh).

Ruddy Duck: max 15 SBotP ONT 5 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: 804 HB-YC boat ramp 1 Dec (R&SSp); max 1033 North Ave Overlook, T Parma 1 Dec (R&SSp); 123 HB-YC boat ramp 30 Dec (AGu), late for number.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: DEP 1 Jan (5 obs); 2 MP-Deep Pd 2 Jan (NK); MP-Quaker Pd S 22-29 Jan (MG), 20+ oth obs, ph), *intro*.

Am. Coot: max 29 IB 23 Dec, low.

Sandhill Crane: max 11 Ashley Rd, T Livonia LIVI 29 Dec (LBer, RB, CGi), 5, 9 Jan (BHo, TB).

Parasitic Jaeger: off WP 6 Jan (RSp), unusual date.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 94 IB-S 15 Dec, low max; last IBO 10 Jan, typical; 3, 23 Feb, unusual at dates.

Ring-billed Gull: max 6500 BB-ES 16 DEC-RCBC (R&SSp); 1400 Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 10 Jan (W&MR).

Herring Gull: max 5259 Edgemere Dr, G 26 Dec (RB); 3500 Long Pd, G 1 Jan (AGu); 1900 Buck Pd, G 5 Jan (AGu); 1700 BB 17 Feb (BriM); good numbers.

Iceland Gull: ~ 28 ind 12 loc 8-31 Dec; max 6 Cranberry Pd, G 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 9 ind 8 loc 1-27 Jan; ~ 25 ind 7 loc Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ~ 12 ind 10 loc 10-31 Dec; 7 ind 6 loc 1-29 Jan; ~ 8 ind 3 loc 4-24 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: ~ 9 ind 6 loc 8-31 Dec; ~ 8 ind 7 loc 1-23 Jan; ~ 6 ind 4 loc 2-23 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 63 IB 7 Feb (GL).

LOONS - FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 39 HB 1 Dec; highest in Jan & Feb 4 & 6, respectively.

Com. Loon: max 15 Spt 30 Dec, low.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 25 IB-W 15 Dec; 24 IB 9 Jan, good number for date; IB 5 Feb, few reports in Feb.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): over Rochester 21 Feb (AGa), few Feb reports.

Turkey Vulture: max 35 Hickory P, T Bergen GENE 27 Dec, typical near winter gatherings.

N. Goshawk: single imms – DEP 1 Dec (KRy); West Walworth WAYN 1 Dec (MG); DEP 16 Dec (MT); Johnson Rd, Churchville 31 Dec (BriM); good showing for recent years; no more rep for season.

Bald Eagle: approx 80 ind Dec; 232 lines eBird Jan; 227 lines eBird Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Stoner Hill Rd, T West Sparta LIVI 31 Dec (JGo); WP 7 Feb (DTe), unusual site for winter

Rough-legged Hawk: ~ 7 ind 7 loc 9-25 Dec; ~ 7 ind 6 loc 1, 22-31Jan; ~ 20 ind 14 loc Feb.

E. Screech-Owl: 75 RCBC 16 Dec; 35 CHCBC 29 Dec; typical totals.

Snowy Owl: ~ 11 ind 11+ loc Dec; ~ 48 rep, 20+ ind 13+ loc 1-26 Jan; 7 ind 6 loc 5-20Feb.

Long-eared Owl: M (OW) 16 Feb, first of the year by owl counters in usual roost area, early.

Short-eared Owl: 32 DEC survey out of Avon 4 Dec; record max 33 DEC survey out of Avon 29 Jan; month max 16 Nations Rd IBA 1 Feb (GL, LH); weather cancelled DEC surveys in Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: M (OW) 8, 11 Dec (TLe, JF, TS, LBer), Torpey Hill, Bergen Swamp 20 Dec (NK); Quayle Rd ONTA 29 Dec (NK); more than usual for Dec; 11 rep M (OW) Feb (mob), early for so many in this roost and count area, notes from Jim Adams.

Belted Kingfisher: total 23 ind 23 loc 1-26 Jan, many for mid-winter.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3-4 DEP 14 Dec (BMai, JSI) thru, mob, many ph; no reports from other areas.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~ 12 ind 10 loc 6-26 Dec; 14 ind 12 loc Jan; 5 ind 5 loc 3-20 Feb; good numbers for winter.

Am. Kestrel: totals – 28 in Dec, 23 in Jan, and 10 in Feb; slow decrease thru.

Merlin: totals – 25 in Dec, 21 in Jan, and 17 in Feb; good for winter.

Peregrine Falcon: totals – 11 in Dec, 10 in Jan, and 20 in Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

E. Phoebe: Ellison P, Penfield 9 Dec (JiM, LM); Oatka Crk P 9 Dec (JAd); Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 13 Dec (JWi); DEP 15 Dec (RRy); SBotP 1, 4 Jan (KGa, BH, ph); usually rare in winter.

N. Shrike: ~ 17 ind 14 loc 4-28 Dec; ~ 12 ind 11 loc Jan; ~ 20 ind 16 loc Feb.

Am. Crow: max 24200 RCBC 16 Dec Feb, early winter roost back in count circle.

FISH CROW (R2): 1-7 Northgate Plaza area, G off and on thru.

Horned Lark: max 90 Stewart Rd LIVI 28 Feb, low.

Winter Wren: ~35 ind 22 loc Dec; max 6 DEP 16 Dec (AGa, DSh); 18 ind 12 loc Jan; 9 ind 8 loc 2-24 Feb.

Marsh Wren: Beatty Pt, G 16 Dec (GL).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: total 26 ind 12 loc Jan, half of last Jan number.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BB-ES 14-16 Dec (GL, 5 oth obs); Jenks Rd, T Lima LIVI 29 Dec (RB); Hemlock L area 29 Dec (KW); IBO 19 Jan (CV); HB 4 Feb (DT); scarce in winter.

E. Bluebird: 24 HincerRd, G 16 Dec (R&SSp), many for loc & date; 16 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2 Feb (DT).

Hermit Thrush: total 16 ind 7 loc Dec; max 6 DEP 16 Dec (DSh); 6 ind 5 loc 1-22 Jan; Beatty Pt, G 2 Feb; M (OW) 3 Feb; max 5 WP 7 Feb (DT); WP 20 Feb; good numbers thru.

Am. Robin: max 800 Jefferson Rd, Rochester 13 Dec (PW); widespread thru, many counts in 100s.

Gray Catbird: 5 ind 5 loc 3-23 Dec; near Fairport 20 Feb (MG); scarce in winter.

European Starling: max 25000 North Rush 15 Dec (NK).

Bohemian Waxwing: HB 4 Feb (DT), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 128 Honeoye L area 29 Dec; generally in low numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: ~ 47 ind 9 loc 1-20 Dec; max 16 T Ontario WAYN 1 Dec (NC); 4-6 Penfield 13, 26-31 Jan, 1-2 Feb (DR, sev oth obs); 2 Rochester 27 Jan (APe); Marion WAYN 4 Feb (DMcK); best showing in many years.

Pine Grosbeak: DEP 1 Dec (KR); 4 HB 4 Feb (DT).

Com. Redpoll: max 225 H 14 Dec (AGu); flock persisted in area thru.

HOARY REDPOLL (R2): H 23-28 Jan (AGu, CGi, MG, LBer).

Red Crossbill: DEP 16 Dec (JPow, RSt).

Pine Siskin: max 54 DEP-W 15 Dec (AGa).

Lapland Longspur: max 35 Nations Rd IBA 27 Jan; relative scarce this season.

Snow Bunting: max 1000 Jenks Rd, T Lima LIVI 30 Dec (BCar); 560 Lakeshore Rd ORLE 18 Feb (KGr).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: 4 ind 4 loc 2-20 Dec; 1 f Springwater LIVI 19 Jan (BH, ph); Cook & Redman Rds, H 2 Feb (AGu); ShakerHeights WAYN 18 Feb (NS); Palmyra WAYN 22 Jan, 20 Feb (TC); usually scarce in winter.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 63 Nations Rd IBA 29 Jan, low max.

Chipping Sparrow: Irondequoit 16 Dec (SG, ph); Fowlerville LIVI 17 Dec (SBu, KMcC); Woodbrooke Rd, T Victor ONTA 27, 30 Jan, 13 Feb (BBer); rare in winter.

Field Sparrow: 4 ind 4 loc 2-23 Dec; 3 ind 3 loc 10, 18, 20, 28 Jan; T Livonia LIVI 10-11 Feb (TB); 18-19 Feb (SGo); rare in winter.

Vesper Sparrow: Nations Rd IBA 12-13 Jan (DT, BCar, ph); Jacobs Rd, H 28-29 Jan, 1 Feb (AGu, ph, 6 oth obs, DT), rare in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: 4, 2 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, T Leicester LIVI 24, 28 Jan; Jacobs Rd area, H 28-29 Jan; max 5 T West Sparta LIVI 19 Feb (DT); scarce & local in winter.

Fox Sparrow: DEP-Zoo Rd 5 Dec (CGi, SG); DEP-W 16 Dec (AGa, DSh); DEP 7 Jan (CGi, RRe, ET); Purcell Rd, T Canadice ONTA 21, 29 Jan, 15, 27 Feb (BH); North Rose WAYN 27-28 Jan (MG, KGa); Mil-Benski Farm WAYN 17-27 Feb (LC-B, SBe); rare in winter.

White-throated Sparrow: 438 lines in eBird Jan, illustration of good numbers wintering.

White-crowned Sparrow: 112 lines in eBird Jan, illustration of good numbers wintering.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 85 T Riga MONR 2 Feb (DT).

E. Meadowlark: Nations Rd IBA 3 Feb (JGo), only rep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Jeffords RD, T Rush MONR 13 Feb (BCar).

Rusty Blackbird: Fowlerville Rd, T Avon MONR 3 Dec, only rep.

blackbird species: max 2000 T Victor ONTA 1 Dec; blackbirds generally scarce this winter.

Orange-crowned Warbler: LSLCBC 15 Dec (DBa), 1st for CBC.

Com. Yellowthroat: T Victor ONTA 21 Dec (JPow). Conesus In 6 Dec (MW).

Pine Warbler: HB 14 Jan, 4 Feb (DT), rare in winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 5 old railroad bed, G 16 Dec (PD, DBem); max 5 Owen Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 17 Jan (MT).

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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At Ithaca, December 2018 was warmer and drier than normal. Daily low temperatures averaged 24.4°F, 2.9° above normal. Daily high temperatures averaged 36.6°, 0.8° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.19", 0.11" less than normal. Total snowfall was 6.4", 6.1" less than normal. Snow depth never exceeded 2". January was colder and wetter than normal. Daily lows averaged 12.1°, 3.3° below normal. Daily highs averaged 29.9°, 1.4° below normal. Total precipitation was 3.22", 1.14" more than normal. Snowfall was 18.0", 0.4" more than normal. Maximum snow depth was 12" on 21 January. February was slightly warmer and was drier than normal. Daily lows averaged 17.4°, 0.9° above normal and daily highs averaged 34.4°, 0.4° above normal. Total precipitation was 1.28", 0.7" less than normal. Total snowfall was 7.3", 6.9" less than normal. Maximum snow depth was 5" on 1 February. By 5 February, the snow was gone and did not exceed 2" until 28 February when it reached 4".

Greater White-fronted Geese were the big news makers with flocks appearing on Seneca, Canandaigua, Keuka, and Cayuga Lakes. Reuben Stoltzfus found the largest flock of 43 birds on Keuka Lake at Champlin Park in Hammondsport. Also notable were the two Ross's Geese at Seneca Lake State Park that Kyle Gage found. A **Tufted Duck** was on Cayuga Lake at Ithaca in mid-January. An Eared Grebe was reported just once at its usual location in Cayuga Lake's Aurora Bay. Several waterfowl hybrids were reported: Snow X Canada Goose, Canvasback X Redhead, Redhead X Ring-necked Duck, and Redhead X scaup sp. High counts were reported for Trumpeter Swan, Redhead, and Common Merganser.

There was little exciting to report in the Rails to Tropicbirds portion of this report. Observers found high counts of Sandhill Cranes and Glaucous Gulls. Hybrid gulls included Herring X Lesser Black-backed, Herring X Glaucous, and Herring X Great Black-backed.

In the Loons to Parrots section of the report, there were no unusual species for the Region. Fifty Turkey Vultures over Trumansburg was a winter high count for the Region.

In the Flycatchers to Snow Buntings section, a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** on 8 December at East Shore Park in Ithaca was the bird of the season for the Region. Chris Wood found the only Bohemian Waxwing reported from the Region. This one was in Groton. It was a decent season for winter finches with many reports of Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll (with a couple Hoary Redpolls mixed in), and Pine Siskin. There was just one report each of Red and White-winged Crossbill. In addition to the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, half-hardy species included Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, and Gray Catbird. High counts

were reported for Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, European Starling, House Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

In the New World Sparrows to Cardinalids section of the report, a **Vesper Sparrow** lingering into early December was the most unusual report. Ken Rosenberg found the bird at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area near Ithaca. Other half-hardies were Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. High counts were reported for Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

It seemed like there was an unusually high number of low counts, which is to say that the maximum count reported for many species was unusually low. These species may deserve special attention to see if their low numbers continue in future years. The species were Ruffed Grouse, American Coot, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, and House Finch.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CanL** – Canandaigua L, ONTA; **Cygl** – Cayuga L; **ESP** – East Shore P, TOMP; **HH** – Hog Hole, TOMP; **Ith** –

Ithaca; **LfP** – Lakefront P, ONTA; **MSPd** – Mill St Pd, CHEM; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MtP** – Mt Pleasant, TOMP; **NE Itha** – Northeast Ithaca; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **TCov** – T Covert, SENE; **TDry** – T Dryden; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TL** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE.

WATERFOWL--PIGEON

Snow x Canada Goose: CygL, T Varick SENE 16 Dec (TL); CygL, T Varick SENE 9 Feb (JMc, LSA).
Ross's Goose: 2 SLSP 22-23 Feb (KG, ph).
Greater White-Fronted Goose: 1-35 SLSP 24 Jan-11 Feb (mob, ph); 10 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 8 Feb (Donna Carter, ph); 1-32 City Pier ONTA 11-23 Feb (mob, ph); max 43 Champlin Beach P STEU 13 Feb (Reuben Stoltzfus, ph), high; 6 Mud Lock CAYU 16 Feb (SBI, JMc, ph); CygL SENE 25 Feb (TL, ph).
Trumpeter Swan: max 20 MNWR 8 Dec (WBI), high.
Wood Duck: last HH 8 Dec; MSPd 4 Jan-9 Feb; arr 2 Ith Reservoir TOMP 15 Feb (JGK), early.
Northern Shoveler: CygL, TSF 9-12 Dec; Mark Twain SP 27 Dec; Myers Pt TOMP 12-16 Jan; 2 CygL, TL 14 Jan; MSPd 27 Jan-3 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: Champlin Beach P STEU 6-15 Dec; max 3-5 N Mill Pd CAYU 8 Dec-13 Jan; MSPd 19-21 Jan; Dresden Overlook YATE 6 Feb; Deep Run P ONTA 16-17 Feb; Ith 25 Feb; Frontenac P CAYU 16 Feb.
Redhead: max 100,000 SLSP 7 Feb (DK), high.
Canvasback x Redhead: HH 27 Jan (JMc!, LSA); Geneva 16 Feb (TH, LK!, ph, TL); SLSP 20 Feb (DDo, DWh!).
Redhead x Ring-Necked Duck: Geneva 16 Feb (TH, LK!, ph, TL).
TUFTED DUCK: CygL, Ith 13-22 Jan (mob).
Redhead x scaup (sp.): LfP 9 Feb (JMc, LSA).
Black Scoter: 2 CanL 14 Dec (BH!), late.
Long-tailed Duck: max 25 Warren W Clute Memorial P SCHU 2 Dec; 25 LfP 14 Dec.
Common Merganser: max 2000 Seneca L SENE 24-25 Jan (KG, TL), high.
Ruffed Grouse: max 2 Boggy Bottom TOMP 14 Dec; 2 Monkey Run TOMP 28 Feb, low.
Red-necked Grebe: Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 10 Dec; 2 CygL SP 23 Dec; Varick Winery SENE 12 Jan; 2 Skaneateles L CAYU 26 Jan.

Eared Grebe: Aurora Bay, CygL CAYU 26 Jan (ADO, KR!, TSc).

Rock Pigeon: max 500 T Ith TOMP 3 Jan (AM), high.

RAILS--LARIDS

American Coot: max 200 CanL 30 Jan-16 Feb, low.
Sandhill Crane: max 100 MNWR 1 Dec (SBI, JMc, BW), high; last MNWR 30 Dec; arr 2 T Chemung CHEM 6 Feb (BH!), early.
Killdeer: arr Watkins Glen High School SCHU 16 Feb; Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 16 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 1 Dec; max 17 CygL SP 2 Dec; Wayne's Pt CAYU 3 Dec; Allen H Treman Marina SP 16 Dec; SLSP 10-11 Feb.
Iceland Gull: max 9 ESP 19 Feb.
Herring x Lesser Black-Backed Gull: StP 20 Feb (TL, ph); ESP 21 Feb (TL, JMc, ph).
Glaucous Gull: max 6 StP 26 Feb (TL), high.
Herring x Glaucous Gull: 2 SLSP 2 Feb (JMc, LSA).
Herring x Great Black-Backed Gull: StP 11 Dec (JMc, LSA); ESP 10-27 Feb (mob, TL, ph).

LOONS--WOODPECKERS

Red-throated Loon: CygL, Ith TOMP 2-8 Dec; Owasco L Inlet 14 Dec; 2 Seneca L SCHU 2 Feb; City Pier, CanL 22 Feb.
Black Vulture: 3 Taughannock Falls SP 4-31 Jan; Stevenson Rd Compost Piles 4-7 Jan; NE Ith 9 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: 50 Trumansburg 27 Dec (SKr), high.
Golden Eagle: MtP TOMP 23 Feb.
Northern Harrier: max 3 T Lodi SENE 20 Dec; 3 TFay 3 Feb; 3 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 9 Feb, low.
Northern Goshawk: Ith Farmers Market TOMP 1 Jan.
Red-shouldered Hawk: NE Ith 2 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 2 MtP TOMP 7 Dec; 2 MNWWR 17 Dec; 2 Boyer Creek Farm 22 Dec & 23 Feb; 2 T Fremont STEU 23 Dec; 2 T Howard STEU 23 Dec; 2 TL 8 Feb, low.
Long-eared Owl: TFay 24 Dec.

Northern Flicker: max 5 LfP 27 Jan; 5 TCov 14 Dec, low.

FLYCATCHERS—FINCHES

Eastern Phoebe: Ith 2 Dec-19 Jan; MNWR 5 Jan.

Blue Jay: max 27 Hammond Hill TOMP 14 Feb, low.

Horned Lark: max 90 TFay 10 Jan, low.

Tufted Titmouse: max 22 NE Ith 1 Jan (JI), high.

Brown Creeper: max 4 HH 21 Dec, low.

Carolina Wren: max 6 Ith 8 Jan (DN), high.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (R3): ESP 8 Dec (mob!).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 Cornell University 4 Dec; 5 Wyers Pt SENE 16 Dec, low.

Hermit Thrush: TL 1 Dec; TDry 1 Dec; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 2 Dec; TDry 5 Dec; Ontario Pathways ONTA 21 Feb.

American Robin: max 885 T Manchester ONTA 4 Jan (Dave Spier), high.

Gray Catbird: Ith 2 Dec; TSF 9 Dec; TCov 9 Dec; Palmer Woods TOMP 1 Jan; MNWR 12 Jan; TDry 12 Jan; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 13 Jan.

European Starling: max 5000 Ith 12 Jan (LMcGo), high.

Bohemian Waxwing: Groton 24 Jan (CWo!).

Cedar Waxwing: max 75 T Enfield 24 Feb, low.

House Sparrow: max 200 TDry 27 Dec (LMcGo), high.

Evening Grosbeak: max 79 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 15 Dec.

House Finch: max 60 T Waterloo SENE 9 Dec, low.

Common Redpoll: max 300 MtP TOMP 12 Dec-7 Jan.

Hoary Redpoll: MtP TOMP 7 Dec-13 Jan (mob); T Sempronius CAYU 15 Dec (mob).

Red Crossbill: TDry 23 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: TDry 30 Jan.

Pine Siskin: max 115 TDry 4 Jan (JMc), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Ith 11 Dec; T Erwin STEU 5 Jan; South Bristol ONTA 2 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: 1-2 NE Ith 31 Dec-27 Jan (JI, KR), high; T Manchester ONTA 10-22 Jan; TCov 12 Jan; TFay 14 Jan.

Field Sparrow: Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve SENE 9 Dec; TFay 15-23 Dec; TSF 22 Dec; max 2 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 30 Dec (MF); 1-2 TFay 9-28 Feb (JMc, LSa); 2 T Ovid SENE 20 Feb (JA, KG, LM), high.

VESPER SPARROW (R3): BLNA 1-2 Dec (KR!).

Savannah Sparrow: max 6 Seneca Iron Works SENE 15 Jan (DK), high.

Fox Sparrow: TDry 2 Dec; BLNA 4 Dec; Sapsucker Woods TOMP 4 Dec; TDry 4 Dec-21 Jan; Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 5 Dec.

Swamp Sparrow: max 7 BLNA 15 Dec (KR), high.

White-throated Sparrow: max 32 T Starkey YATE 20 Feb (TSh), high.

Eastern Meadowlark: T Ulysses TOMP 21 Feb; T Middlesex YATE 22 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: BLNA 1-2 Dec; MNWR 21 Dec.

Common Grackle: T Aurelius CAYU 1 Dec; TDry 4 Dec; T Ith TOMP 9 Dec; Horseheads 24 Jan; 2-4 Corning 16-18 Feb; 2 T Corning STEU 18 Feb.

Common Yellowthroat: T Ith 1 Jan; 2 MNWR 5 Jan.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 2 Ith 27 Jan.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

A report was not received this season.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Weather-wise the winter of 2018–19 was quite average. Each month tracked close to its historic average temperature, diverging by only a degree or less. In Syracuse, December stood out mainly because the amount of snowfall was well below average (18" less than normal). Throughout most of the Region snow depth rarely surpassed one foot. Unsurprisingly, the exception was the Adirondacks where Gary Lee reported as much as 4' on the ground in Old Forge by late February. Although the small inland lakes were iced-over for much of the period, ice cover on larger lakes waxed and waned. Some nearshore areas on Lake Ontario partially froze at the end of January, thawed and then re-froze towards the end of February. According to Bill Purcell, the eastern end of Oneida Lake didn't freeze over until the second week of January.

To some degree the lack of ice on larger water bodies allowed waterfowl to forage further from shore and away from places where they could be easily tallied and contributed to relatively low waterfowl counts in some traditional hotspots. The exceptions were Oswego Harbor and the east end of Onondaga Lake. In fact, the former area became particularly productive after the third week of January. Lack of snow on the ground during the time window when CBCs take place led to some unimpressive bird tallies, at least in Count circles that possess no large open lakes. Many participants complained that songbirds weren't concentrating at feeders, there were no birds in the woods, and the manure-spread fields lacked Snow Buntings and Horned Larks. Unsurprisingly, the lack of wild food in the Region's forests depressed the number of wintering songbirds. Expected half-hardies were thin on the ground and winter specialties were hard to come by. Quite probably the lack of forest mast led to a smaller prey base for raptors and shrikes.

Many birders waited for the Snow Goose migration to get underway and were largely disappointed, as the species mostly bypassed our Region this period. Best showing was 1040 that flew over Oswego on 16 December. A flock of 31 Greater White-fronted Geese was a great find by Gerry Case at Green Lakes State Park on 16 February. The flock remained through the 23rd of the month and many birders got to see them. Also, at Green Lakes State Park, Robert Reynolds photographed an oddly-plumaged goose presumed to be a Snow X Canada Goose hybrid. Most Tundra Swan sightings came from Oneida Lake, with a high count of 67 at Brewerton on 1 January. The numbers of

wintering dabbling ducks were especially low, and no rarities were reported. Predictably, diving duck numbers and diversity were better. A maximum number of 49 Canvasbacks at Onondaga Lake on 2 January is the best showing in a few years for that species. Tallies of *Aythya* ducks were not as notable with maximum numbers of Greater Scaup topping out at 800. A gorgeous adult male **King Eider** was found by Gregg Dashnau and Kevin McGann on 2 February at Oswego Harbor. It remained through the period and attracted scores of birders. By contrast, an immature male Harlequin Duck discovered by Mickey Scilingo on 24 February at the same location was not relocated. A decent maximum number of 2000 Long-tailed Ducks was tallied at Oswego Harbor on 3 February. All three scoter species were represented this period and it was excellent year at the harbor for White-winged. On 3 February Matthew Brown found and photographed a likely Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser hybrid at Port Ontario. Unfortunately, the unusual duck was not relocated after the day of discovery. A respectable maximum count of 2000 Red-breasted Mergansers came from Fair Haven on 19 December, but indiscriminate duck hunting from behind the east/west breakwall continues.

There were three reports of Killdeer this period. The last one on February 24 in Durhamville was undoubtedly a returning migrant, but one at DeRuyter on 28 December and another in Syracuse on 5 February, likely represented wintering birds. Birders found the diversity and overall number of gulls this winter very disappointing. Gregg Dashnau found a Little Gull and an immature Black-legged Kittiwake at Oswego Harbor on 31 January. Neither lingered beyond that very windy last day of 2018. Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seldom encountered during the period. At the Phoenix dam on 10 February Bill Purcell found an Iceland Gull he considered a candidate for the *glaucoides* subspecies that inhabits northern Europe and lacks gray markings in the wingtips. It is difficult to clinch the ID under field conditions.

A single Black-crowned Night-Heron was encountered several times on the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk between 3-13 January by Deborah Dohne. In recent years we've had a more consistent presence of the species at that location. Though continuing to be scarce away from the traditional Jamesville-Fayetteville area, Turkey Vultures were present in southern Oneida County in the Town of Kirkland where they were seen almost daily. There were only two reports of Golden Eagles this period—both from December. At least through the first week of February, a pair of Northern Goshawks were reliable visitors to Linda Salter's property near the Hamlet of Sheds in Madison County. The Goshawks are thought to breed in an adjacent state forest and hunt the songbirds that visit her well-stocked bird feeders. The number of wintering Bald Eagles on Onondaga Lake was impressive this season. This period a maximum number of 99 were counted at one time around the southeast end of the lake, perched in shoreline trees, attending the ice edge, and roosting in trees above "Murphy's Island." Would this number be surpassed March? Only the Spring Kingbird report will tell. Good numbers were also reported from Oneida Lake (21) on 1

January and on Cross Lake (15) on 9 February. There were relatively few reports of Rough-legged Hawks this period. Birders had trouble coming up with them away from the most reliable traditional locations.

On Christmas night, Tim Johnston videotaped a pair of Great Horned Owls as they called back and forth from the tops of adjacent hemlock trees in a New Hartford swamp. Light was ebbing, but he managed to see the pair copulate. At the time Johnston said that the female gave what sounded to him like an immature's begging call. In mid-February another pair of Great Horned Owls was found by Gregg Dashnau nesting at the Lakeview amphitheater at Onondaga Lake. This is a problematic nesting site with concerts and large crowds expected much earlier than in prior years, starting May 16. Refer to the next issue of this report to see how the situation was resolved. Snowy Owls were seen at the usual places early in the season, but it was not a great year for them in the Region. A Long-eared Owl was found by Gregg Dashnau at Breitbeck Park near Oswego Harbor on 19 December. He graciously gave credit for the find to a flock of Black-capped Chickadees who were actively mobbing the owl on its perch deep in the branches of a spruce tree. Several birders got to glimpse the bird before it was ultimately flushed by a photographer intent on getting an unobstructed shot. Short-eared Owls were decidedly uncommon this winter. One expired after colliding with a vehicle in the Town of Clay on 30 December. A maximum of two were reported in Oneida from 2-4 February. There were two reports of single Northern Saw-whet Owls, with Karl Curtis finding one near Onondaga Lake.

The only reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the Lake Ontario shoreline, typical for recent times. There were over 25 reports of wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a good number given it was hardly a banner year for half-hardy types. This period the resident pairs of Peregrine Falcons in the cities of Syracuse and Utica were reported on territory. The latter pair were observed escorting intruding falcons out of their territory on several occasions. Single Peregrines were reported from seven other locations including one adult female in Bridgewater in southern Oneida County. In February, that banded individual was frequently observed hunting Rock Pigeons on a large dairy farm. The leg bands revealed that the falcon was first banded as a nestling in Springfield Massachusetts in May 2016. The same individual was photographed in Rome in September 2017 and in Utica in February 2018.

Five Eastern Phoebes may have tried to winter in the Region. One at Three Rivers WMA was reported from 12 December through 15 February. The phoebes were invariably found close to open water where, presumably, there were some invertebrates to hunt. A maximum count of three Northern Shrikes was tallied at Three Rivers on 11 February. Otherwise the species was not commonly encountered. In the eastern half of the Region Northern Shrikes were especially rare. Although high counts of Red-breasted Nuthatches were not particularly impressive, reports of the species were notably widespread and came from many atypical locations. Lack of mast in the north is likely the cause

PHOTO GALLERY
WINTER 2018-19



Common Murre, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 11 Feb 2019, © Claire Formanski.



Evening Grosbeaks, Freeville, *Tompkins*, 13 Dec 2018, © Eric Zawatski.



Pine Grosbeak, Ticonderoga, *Essex*, 19 Dec 2018, © Gary Chapin.



Golden-crowned Sparrow, Downsview, Delaware; top: 30 Dec 2018, © Lance Verderame; bottom: 2 Jan 2019, © John Haas.



Pacific Loon, Oyster Bay Marine Center, *Nassau*, 3 Feb 2019, © Michael Zito.



Hermit Thrush, Jones Beach West End, *Nassau*, 28 Dec 2018, © Marc Brody.

for their irruption. While participating in the Syracuse CBC on 15 December, David Nash located four Marsh Wrens in Clay Marsh. It's not known how long they lingered beyond that date. There were three reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, but none after mid-December. Four Hermit Thrushes were found across the Region and their presence spanned the period. Gray Catbirds were found in two locations and a Brown Thrasher in one. The latter species showed up on 30 January at a Kirkland feeding station, but as far as we know the bird was not seen again.

In late February and through March, the USDA carried out European Starling eradication programs at several large dairy farms in Oneida County. The pesticide (DRC-1339) was applied to bait and left out for the birds to consume. The same pesticide, described as a slow-acting avicide, is used to control birds considered pests of agriculture. Across the country target species include pigeons, House Sparrows, blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, and others. Although few in the birding community are troubled by the loss of starlings, the real threat posed to non-target species by the program is inaccurately minimized by USDA. At the very least the program was ill-timed as it coincided with the mass return of blackbird flocks to the region. Also, the baiting took place around the time the Region's starlings begin to disperse to breeding grounds primarily in swamps, towns, and cities. Given the winter-like conditions that met our earliest returning blackbirds, it's hard to believe that some weren't drawn in by the tainted bait left for starlings. One of the farms treated was known to have at least one winter resident Cooper's Hawk and an adult Peregrine Falcon (the same banded Peregrine mentioned above). Those raptors were documented as regularly feeding on pigeons and possibly starlings. Fears of detrimental effects on these NYS listed species did not halt the poisoning program. In contradiction to the USDA's press release announcing the eradication program (sent to media and the NYSDEC only one day before the program was set to begin), non-target species can be poisoned and may expire away from the project site. That was the case in January of 2015, when bodies of poisoned American Crows (subsequently tested by the DEC and determined to have ingested the same toxic bait) were found over a mile away. Instances like that do much to erode confidence in the Agency's diligence in conducting eradication programs in ways that minimize impact on non-target species.

Cedar Waxwings were surprisingly elusive this winter. They were rarely encountered in the same place for consecutive days. Their unpredictability (along with that of American Robins) was indicative of the scant amount of available forage. Of the winter finches, Evening Grosbeaks were the only species that mounted a significant irruption, albeit one almost exclusively limited to the Region's higher elevations. The southern highlands of Onondaga and Madison Counties consistently played host to respectable flocks throughout the season. The same was true in the Adirondack Foothills in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. With few exceptions, many in the Region's lower elevations missed out on the grosbeaks. Flocks of Common Redpolls, some sizable,

showed up in parts of the Region, but like the grosbeaks, most of us missed seeing them in our own yards. One report of a **Hoary Redpoll** came from Deborah Dohne at Green Lakes State Park on 19 February. There was only one report of Red Crossbill and two of White-winged Crossbill. None took place after mid-December. Pine Siskins were observed throughout the period but didn't linger in most places. There were only six reports of single Lapland Longspurs around the Region. Snow Bunting numbers were generally low. However, on 6 February a maximum of 4000 (thought a conservative estimate) were seen by Matt Brown in a field in Richland, Oswego County. In Tully, Gene Huggins kept track of a Vesper Sparrow that frequented his feeding stations from 10 January through 22 February. The Vesper Sparrow is a very uncommon winterer in the Region. An adult **Harris's Sparrow** showed up at a feeding station in Earlville on 18 January and remained until 3 February. The property owner, Harmon Hoff, deftly identified the rarity and informed the Region's birding community. Many made the pilgrimage out to see and photograph the wayward sparrow. This was the fourth winter record of the species and the eighth overall in Region 5. Deborah Dohne found both Savannah and Chipping Sparrow on the Syracuse CBC. Surprisingly, both were new species for the 100-year-old count. Along with her usual excellent collection of feeder birds, an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** remained at Linda Salter's through 31 December. It was provided grape jelly and orange halves and appeared healthy up until its unexpected disappearance. Salter speculates one of the area's accipiters may have caught the rather conspicuous oriole. Few birders have seen the species in winter and may not realize it looks much the same as in summer. No Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen this winter, but a male Common Yellowthroat was found by Deborah Dohne along Onondaga Lake's west shore on 12 December. The bird was found and photographed skulking in a cattail bed. It was relocated three days later but not again after that. Extensive birding by both Dohne and Dashnau showed how many birds had lingered along the west shore trail.

This season a total of 144 species was reported, which is two less than the recent 10-year average for the Region. There were also two hybrids reported. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Wilson's Snipe, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Golden Eagle, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, **Hoary Redpoll**, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, **HARRIS'S SPARROW**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and Common Yellowthroat.

Winter 2018-'19 produced 40,187 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v 5.0. Reports were contributed by 341 people. Faithful readers of this publication may have noticed a sudden reduction in the number of Contributors called out by name in that section. eBird recently eliminated observer names from publicly available output to conform with

European privacy laws. It is now much harder for the authors to attach observers to sightings except for widely known and well-documented reports.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **LOS** – Lake Ontario Shoreline, **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **Skani** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL-DOVES

Snow Goose: 330 OnonL 4 Dec; max 1030 Oswego 16 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr & max 31 GLSP 16-23 Feb (GC, mob), great number.

Cackling Goose: GLSP 17-22 Feb (mob); OneiL 24 Feb (KM, MV), only reps.

Canada Goose: 1800 Utica Reservoir 16 Dec; max 2000 GLSP 12 Jan & 2000 17 Feb, same loc.

Snow Goose X Canada Goose (hybrid): GLSP 16 Jan-24 Feb (RR, mob, ph).

Mute Swan: max 76 FH 7 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: 6 FH 22 Dec; max 8 OswH 26 Jan; 5 Brew 27 Jan-17 Feb.

Tundra Swan: max 67 Brew 1 Jan; 13 OnonL 1 Jan; best counts from OneiL.

Wood Duck: no reps.

Northern Shoveler: WP 2 Dec; max 3 OnonL 6 Feb.

Gadwall: 10 WP 1 Dec; 4 Cazenovia 2 Dec; max 16 OLC 26 Jan.

American Wigeon: max 20 WP 1 Dec; DeWitt 23 Dec; 2 more locs.

Mallard: max 580 WP 15 Dec.

American Black Duck: 70 WP 1 Dec; max 103 Herkimer 15 Jan.
Northern Pintail: 2 WP 15 Dec; DB 12 Jan; only reps.
Green-winged Teal: max 2 WP 20-21 Dec (GM); Eaton 15 (JC) Dec, 29 Jan (KP); only reps.
Canvasback: max 49 OnonL 2 Jan; 31 Brew 6 Jan; 10 OswH 3-10 Feb; 10 FH 22 Feb; better than average numbers.
Redhead: max 1381 OnonL 16 Dec; 500 OswH 2 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 38 WP 3 Dec; 25 Bville 28 Jan; relatively low numbers.
Greater Scaup: 500 FH 10 Feb; max 800 17 Feb; best numbers at OswH.
Lesser Scaup: max 100 OnonL 1 Jan; 50 Oswego 2 Feb; low counts.
Greater Scaup/Lesser Scaup: max 800 OswH 3 Feb; 400 FH 22 Feb.
Aythya sp: max 800 OnonL 12 Jan; 150 OswH 2 Feb.
King Eider: ad m OswH 2 Feb thru (KM, GD, mob, ph).
Harlequin Duck: imm m OswH 24 Feb (MS, ph) only rep.
Surf Scoter: max 6 OswH 7-22 Feb; all reps from LOS.
White-winged Scoter: max 380 OswH 7 Feb; best numbers in Feb.
Black Scoter: 2 OnonL 10 Dec; max 6 OswH 3 Feb (DW).
Scoter sp: max 39 OswH 17 Feb.
Long-tailed Duck: max 2000 OswH 3 Feb; 380 FH 10 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 31 FH 1 Dec; 26 DeRuyter 1 Dec; 30 OnonL 18 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: max 350 Oneil 12 Dec; 200 FH 22 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 36 DeRuyter Reservoir 1 Dec; 34 OnonL 13 Jan.
Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser (hybrid): OswH 3 Feb (MB, ph).
Common Merganser: 580 Brew 6 Jan; 2210 OLC 7 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2000 FH 19 Dec; 150 DH 22 Feb;
Ruddy Duck: 2 WP 1 Dec; OnonL 3 Jan; max 3 Herkimer 12 Feb; low numbers.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 TR 5 Dec; max 5 Bville 12 Dec; 3 SP 23 Jan; 5 reps of singles.
Ruffed Grouse: 2 Elbridge 6 Dec; 2 SH 28 Dec; 2 Limekiln Lake 4 Jan; relatively few reps.
Wild Turkey: max 68 Fulton 24 Feb; 65 Volney 27 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 Hatch Lake 1 Dec & 4 OnonL 9 Feb.
Horned Grebe: 2 FH 1 Dec; max 8 OnonL 2 Dec; 2 OswH 2 Feb; only one rep in Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: 4 WP 1 Dec; max 9 OnonL 11 Dec.
Rock Pigeon: max 404 Tully 8 Dec; 300 Syr 15 Dec.
Mourning Dove: max 130 Clay 15 Dec & 130 DB 2 Jan; 87 Dolge 12 Jan.

RAILS-LARIDS

American Coot: max 32 Skan 30 Dec; 4 OnonL 2 Jan.
Killdeer: DeRuyter 28 Dec; Syr 5 Feb; arr Durhamville 24 Feb.
Wilson's Snipe: Liverpool 21 Dec (JB, RK); Manheim 18-19 Jan (BLH); Syr 24 Feb (JB); only reps.
Black-legged Kittiwake: imm OswH 31 Jan (GD), only rep.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 Oneil 1 Dec; 8 SP 2 Dec; last OswH 1 Feb.
Little Gull: OswH 31 Jan (GD), only rep.
Ring-billed Gull: 560 FH 10 Feb; max 1050 OswH 22 Feb.
Herring Gull: 1000 MCL 13 -19 Dec; 1200 OswH 31 Jan.
Iceland Gull: 4 OswH 26 Jan; max 5 Canastota 24 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Fabius 17 Feb; 2 DB 24 Feb; singles 4 other locs.
Glaucous Gull: 2 OnonL 19 Jan; 2 DB 24 Feb; 2 Fabius 24 Feb; singles 3 other locs.
Great Black-backed Gull: 53 OswH 18 Jan; max 131 OnonL 25 Jan.
Larus species: max 400 OswH 17 Feb.
Gull species: max 600 OnonL 12 Jan.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: 2 OswH 13 Dec-16 Feb; max 5 FH 19 Dec.
Common Loon: max 3 OnonL 2 Dec-1 Jan & 3 Otisco Lake 2 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 98 OnonL 14 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: 5 Belgium 1-24 Dec; max 10 Delta Lake 1 Dec; 5 OnonL 15 Dec.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OLC 3-13 Jan (DD, ph).
Turkey Vulture: 3 SFNS 22 Jan; max 17 Fayetteville 4 Feb.
Golden Eagle: Waterville 4 Dec (RW); Fairfield 11 Dec (BLH); only reps.

Northern Harrier: max 2 OnonL 15 Dec; less common after Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: widespread reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BRH 10 Dec; 2 Syr 5 Jan; 2 OswH 29 Jan; 2 OnonL 23 Feb.

Northern Goshawk: 2 Sheds 4 Jan-7 Feb (LS), resident pair, only rep.

Bald Eagle: 21 OneiL 1 Jan; 15 Cross Lake 9 Feb; max 99 OnonL 15 Feb; large numbers congregate at OnonL in Jan & Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Bouckville, MADI 2 Dec; FH 9 Feb; only reps.

Red-tailed Hawk: 5 OnonL 23 Feb; max 6 Brew 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Richfield Springs 22 Dec-27 Dec; max 3 Fairfield 18 Jan & 3 Durhamville 26 Feb; relatively few reps.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Waterville 8 Dec; 2 manlius 19 Dec; 2 Skan 1 Jan; 2 Marcellus 17 Feb; widespread reps of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Fayetteville 2 Dec; 2 Utica 25 Dec; 2 SNC 12 Jan-17 Feb; 2 DL 26 Jan; 2 Lake Moraine, MADI 9 Feb; 7 additional reps of pairs.

Snowy Owl: max 3 Syr Airport 19 Dec; with one exception, reps of singles limited to greater Syr; last Syr Airport 19 Feb.

Barred Owl: 2 Elbridge 13 Dec; 2 Hamilton 19 Dec-5 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: OswH 19 Dec (GD), only rep.

Short-eared Owl: Clay 30 Dec, expired after vehicle impact; max 2 Oneida 2-4 Jan; Richland 17 Jan; only reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: OnonL 3 Dec (KC); Waterville 18 Dec; BLNC 28 Jan-4 Feb; only reps.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 Belgium 1 Dec; 2 DB 13 Dec-13 Jan; 2 DeWitt 15 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FH 12 Jan; Scriba 13 Jan, 3-4 Feb, only reps.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 HI 17 Dec; 7 Syr 26 Jan.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numerous reps of singles.

Downy Woodpecker: 11 HI 17 Dec; 10 Bre 17 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: 6 Dolge 12 Feb; 4 Hast 12 Feb.

Northern Flicker: max 10 HI 17 Dec-5 Jan; 7 Belgium 24 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 HI 17 Dec & 3 Bville 8 Jan & 3 Belgium 19 Jan.

American Kestrel: 3 Utica 13 Jan; widespread reps of singles.

Merlin: reps of singles from 20 locs, most in Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Utica 13 Feb & 3 Utica 24 Feb; pair Utica thru; 2 Syr 15 Dec; singles at 7 other locs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: TR 12 Dec (GD), 2 Jan (JB, RK), 11 Feb (GD), 15 Feb (JB); DB 13 Dec (DW, DD); OnonL 12 Dec (BP), 12 Jan (MS); FH 11 Jan (mob); Oswego 5 Jan (WMR); unusual to have so many.

Northern Shrike: max 3 TR 11 Feb; few east of OneiL.

Blue Jay: 15 DeRuyter 1 Dec; max 16 Williamstown 8 Dec.

American Crow: max 7085 Syr 29 Jan.

Fish Crow: 3 OnonL 15 Dec; max 5 Bville 1 Feb & 5 Syr 11 Feb.

Common Raven: max 12 Amboy 7 Dec & 12 Gray 24 Dec; 9 BRH 10 Dec.

Horned Lark: 60 Warren, HERK 13 Jan; max 65 Fabius 22 Feb; relatively small counts.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 98 HI 17 Dec; 46 Hatch Lake 28 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 18 Sherrill 16 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 Syr 15 Dec; 5 FH 10 Feb; above average reps.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 22 HI 17 Dec.

Brown Creeper: 3 Bville 28 Jan; max 4 GLSP 3 Feb.

Winter Wren: CM 15 Dec (DN); Marcellus 23 Jan (KF); Elbridge 10 Feb (KB); only reps.

Marsh Wren: 4 CM 15 Dec (DN), only rep.

Carolina Wren: 2 OnonL 1 Dec-12 Jan; 2 Elbridge; 2 Bridgeport 15 Dec; 2 Port Byron 17 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 4 BLNC 10 Dec & 4 Georgetown 28 Dec; rel. few reps.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Syr 7 (DD), 15 Dec (JL); OLC 12 Dec (BP); Jamesville 12 Dec (JL).

Eastern Bluebird: max 11 Belgium 4 Dec & 11 Hast 14 Jan; 11 TR 11 Feb.

Hermit Thrush: BLNC 18 Dec (DA), 3 Feb (mob); Kirkville 13 Jan (BW); FH 10 Feb (LK); GLSP 17 Feb (KF).

American Robin: max 552 Hannibal 16 Dec; 201 17 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Bville 2 Dec (GD); OLC 18 Jan (BLH), 2 Feb (KC); only reps.

Brown Thrasher: Kirkland 30 Jan (FP, ph), only rep.

Northern Mockingbird: 2 Syr 15 Dec; 2 OnonL 3 Feb; one rep east of OneiL.

European Starling: max 1000 Madison County Landfill 19 Dec.
Cedar Waxwing: max 80 WP 3 Jan; 45 Barneveld 18 Jan; relatively few reps.
House Sparrow: 75 Utica 25 Dec; max 120 SVB 1 Jan.
American Pipit: 6 OswH 24 Feb, only rep.
Evening Grosbeak: max 84 Sheds 8 Dec (LS); 71 Dolge 27 Feb (BLH); reps largely limited to high elevations.
House Finch: max 25 DeRuyter 1 Dec & 25 DeWitt 17 Jan.
Purple Finch: max 7 Sterling 12 Jan, 18 Feb & 7 Sherrill 18 Feb.
Common Redpoll: 80 Fabius 2-13 Jan; max 100 Bville 27 Feb; 60 SH 6 Feb; 60 Memphis 16 Feb.
Hoary Redpoll: GLSP 19 Feb (DD).
Red Crossbill: Syr 5 Dec (EM), only rep.
White-winged Crossbill: WP 1 Dec (DWe, MY); 3 Oswego 16 Dec; only reps.
Pine Siskin: max 50 Manlius 29 Dec; 27 Syr 4 Jan.
American Goldfinch: 50 Cedarvile 21 Jan – 16 Feb; max 80 Dolge 7-9 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: first Manlius 24 Dec; 5 other reps of singles.
Snow Bunting: 200 Poland 11 Dec; max 4000 Richland 6 Feb (MB), amazing number; 200 Fairfield 8 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Manlius 4 Dec-23 Feb (KC); Marcellus 30 Dec; only reps.
American Tree Sparrow: 25 GLSP 25 Dec; max 30 Verona 1 Jan & 30 Canastota 8 Jan.
Chipping Sparrow: Utica 8-9 Dec (KT); Syr 11 Dec thru (DD, ph), 1st for SYR CBC; WP 21 Dec (GM); unusual in winter.

Field Sparrow: several linger thru Dec OnonL (GD, DD); max 6 OnonL 13 Jan (GD); unusual in winter.
Vesper Sparrow: Tully 10 Jan-22 Feb (GH), unusual in winter.
Savannah Sparrow: OnonL 12, 15 Dec (DD, ph), 1st for SYR CBC; Bville 3 Feb (JB, RK), unusual in winter.
Fox Sparrow: Sheds 1 Dec thru Jan (LS); Waterville 4 Dec (RW); OnonL 20 Feb (KF); only reps.
Song Sparrow: max 17 OnonL 15 Dec; better than average numbers this period.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 OnonL 12-15 Dec (DD); singles from 4 other locs.
White-throated Sparrow: max 83 OnonL 23 Dec; 17 Elbridge 10 Feb.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: Earlville 18 Jan-3 Feb (HH!, mob, ph), 4th winter rec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 OnonL 11-15 Dec; 2 DB 12 Jan; 4 more reps of singles.
Dark-eyed Junco: 41 OnonL 12 Dec; max 60 Verona 1 Jan.
Eastern Meadowlark: no reps.
Baltimore Oriole: ad m Sheds 1-31 Dec (LS, mob, ph).
Red-winged Blackbird: 5 Fayetteville 29 Jan; 7 DB 13 Dec; max 70 Clay 15 Dec; reps from 7 other locs.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 Cassville 6 Dec; max 15 Clay 15 Dec; several more reps.
Rusty Blackbird: max 2 DB 13 Jan (GC); only rep.
Common Grackle: Hast 26-27 Dec; Waterville 17 Jan; Little Falls 18 Jan.
Common Yellowthroat: OnonL 12-15 Dec (DD, ph).
Northern Cardinal: 17 Camillus 16 Jan; max 18 West Winfield 26 Feb.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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December was mild, with an average temperature in Watertown of 27.7°F, which was 1.3° above normal. The 3.3" of precipitation that fell in December was within 0.2" of average and mostly fell as rain. Mild temperatures continued

into the first few days of January but very cold weather took hold by the second week of the year, and the mean temperature for the month was 16.5°, or 2.9° below normal. January also saw 2.0" more precipitation than average, mostly falling as snow but also as freezing rain during several ice storms. Generally mild weather returned in February, as the month averaged 1.5° above normal. The 2.2" of precipitation that fell in February was almost exactly the month's average. Wild temperature swings defined the winter, with numerous cold spells interrupted by brief periods with temperatures reaching into the 40s, 50s, or as high as 61° on 21 December.

Somewhat surprising given the mild start to the winter, waterfowl numbers and diversity were low throughout. For the second year in a row no large southbound Snow Goose flight was observed in Region 6, with even fewer sightings reported this fall and early winter than during 2018. Presumably the same Cackling Goose seen on consecutive days in early December in Cape Vincent was the only rare goose of the season. Four Canvasback reports, a Northern Pintail, and two Green-winged Teal were the most unusual ducks of the season, which is to say that no duck rarities were found. For the first winter season since 2006 no Barrow's Goldeneye were reported.

Following the early January freeze-up gulls almost entirely vacated the St. Lawrence River and were present in small numbers near Lake Ontario. The season's only Glaucous Gull report was of 41 individuals below the Moses-Saunders Dam on 21 January among hordes of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. This was the last large group of gulls seen all winter. Nine Iceland Gulls were also present in this aggregation, and another five single Iceland Gulls from Jefferson County were the only other reports of gulls aside from Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous on Point Peninsula and a few nearby locations in western Jefferson County than during any winter since 2011-12, but were generally scarce elsewhere. The Point Peninsula area was also the best place in the Region to witness the winter's modest Snowy Owl irruption, and was the site of one of the two known Short-eared Owl roosts in Jefferson County, the other roost occurring in nearby Cape Vincent. For a few lucky birders the season's clear highlight was a **Gyrfalcon** Gerry Smith found on Point Peninsula on 27 December that remained on the perch where it was first seen for several hours. Unfortunately, a couple of hours of cooperation was all this Gyr was willing to give and it was not seen again.

The combination of a relatively mild start to the winter and frequent visits by several birders from other Regions led to an unusually lengthy list of half-hardies and seasonally rare passerines. Among these visiting birders were Steve Kelling, Chris Wood, and Brian Sullivan, who on 5 January found a Boreal Chickadee on Point Peninsula, a very rare bird in Jefferson County. This group also found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet nearby for another great seasonal rarity. A Gray Catbird and a Vesper Sparrow on Fort Drum 14 December may have been part of a very late migratory movement as neither was found the following day.

The following day one each Eastern Phoebe and Marsh Wren was observed on the Watertown Christmas Bird Count. In addition to the Vesper Sparrow, seasonally rare Emberizids included Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows and Eastern Towhee.

For many birders the defining avian event of the season was a finch irruption that for most species was rather modest, but that included the largest Evening Grosbeak flight seen in decades. Evening Grosbeaks occurred throughout the Region, with some feeders attracting dozens and at least one feeder in Pierrepoint exceeding 100. Long-time birders tell me that this was the best year for Evening Grosbeaks they've seen in at least 25 years, and I received several ecstatic reports from non-birders who were thrilled to have this flashy finch at their feeders. Pine Grosbeaks also came south this winter, although few were seen outside of St. Lawrence County. Redpoll numbers were generally modest although a flock estimated to include over 1200 individuals in Cape Vincent impressed participants on NYSOA's winter birding weekend 2 February. Given the size of this flock it was a little surprising that no obvious candidates for Hoary Redpoll were seen, although at least three Hoary Redpolls were documented elsewhere during the winter. Pine Siskin and Purple Finch were present in low numbers, and there were only eight reports of Bohemian Waxwing for the season.

The winter's tally of 119 species is six species above the mean for the previous 10 years, but about average for the eBird era. Those who saw it likely consider the Gyrfalcon the season's best bird, but most observers will remember this as the winter of the Evening Grosbeak. The assemblage of hawks, owls, and half-hardies on Point Peninsula drew birders from throughout New York, more than a few coming from the Ithaca area repeatedly though the winter. Such visits certainly bulked up the season's species total significantly, and a record species total may have been within reach had waterfowl and gull diversity not been so poor.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena, STLA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El

Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SHB** – Sackett’s Harbor Battlefield; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WI** – Wellesley Is.

WATERFOWL - GREBES

Snow Goose: single CV thru 18 Dec only report before Feb; spring arr & max 8 T Rossie 16 Feb.

Cackling Goose: T Lyme 5-6 Jan (SK, CW, BS) only report.

Mute Swan: max 155 WI 17 Feb (LK, ST).

Trumpeter Swan: 3 ULLWMA 5 & 23 Feb only reports.

Tundra Swan: max 340 BRB 15 Dec (JB).

Gadwall: max 8 T Lyme 4 Jan.

Mallard: max 300 SLR T Massena 13 Jan.

American Black Duck: max 55 PtPen 27 Dec.

Northern Pintail: SLR T Ogdensburg 5 Jan & FD 22 Jan only reports.

Green-winged Teal: 2 FD 15-22 Jan, only report.

Canvasback: 4 reports max 6 PtPen 5 Jan.

Redhead: max 158 SLR CV 14 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: 2 PtPen 12 Jan only report.

Greater Scaup: max 1000 BRB 5 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: 6 reports 1-2 each; last T Watertown 2 Feb.

White-winged Scoter: max 62 StPt 6 Jan (SK, CW, BS).

Long-tailed Duck: max 670 BPWMA 5 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 38 StPt 5 Dec.

Common Goldeneye: max 525 WI 17 Feb.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: no reports.

Hooded Merganser: max 18 RMSP 16 Dec.

Common Merganser: max 255 SLR T Hammond 23 Feb low.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 175 CV 5 Jan.

Wild Turkey: max 93 T Hounsfield 23 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 T Rodman 11 Feb only report (GS).

Horned Grebe: 5 StPt 1 Dec & 2 StPt 5 Dec only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: Dexter boat launch 23 Feb only report (BM).

RAILS-LARIDS

Ring-billed Gull: max 24 T Lyme 4 Jan; T Henderson 3 Feb & 3 T Ogdensburg 21 Feb only reports after 12 Jan.

Herring Gull: max 140 HP 12 Jan.

Iceland Gull: max 9 HP 12 Jan (JB); 5 singles JEFF only other reports.

Glaucous Gull: 41 HP 12 Jan (JB) only report.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 345 HP 12 Jan.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: BRB 5 & 15 Dec, only reports.

Common Loon: last ED 31 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: last StPt 5 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: T Lyme 1 Jan & ULLWMA 3 Feb only reports after mid-Dec.

Turkey Vulture: last fall migrant T Potsdam 7 Dec; spring arr T Croghan 21 Feb.

Golden Eagle: juv T Canton 22 Dec (EW & TW), 11 Jan (JB) & 15 Feb (JK).

Northern Harrier: many reports of up to 9 W JEFF thru especially PtPen; T Potsdam 15 Feb only report elsewhere.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 reports to eBird.

Cooper’s Hawk: 31 reports to eBird.

Northern Goshawk: ad T Canton 9 Dec (JB); Pt Salubrious 4 Jan (RB); only reports.

Bald Eagle: 100+ reports; continuing to increase.

Red-tailed Hawk: numerous reports 1-6 W JEFF; smaller numbers elsewhere.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 24 PtPen 18 Jan (DW, DD); generally good numbers NW JEFF; low numbers elsewhere.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 10 reports more than usual nearly all found by visiting birders using playback.

Snowy Owl: many reports NW JEFF especially PtPen; smaller numbers BRV, T Leray & Philadelphia, T Canton; T Oswegatchie.

Short-eared Owl: 6 PtPen thru (mob); 3 CV thru (mob).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 CV 5 Jan; PtPen 13 Jan.

Belted Kingfisher: last CV 28 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: T Alexandria 19 Feb (RB!) only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 14 reports STLA where still sparse but increasing.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StPt 3 Feb (LK, ST, AK) only report.
Northern Flicker: about 30 reports mostly NW JEFF.
American Kestrel: 1-3/day PtPen thru; 5 additional locations each CV & St. Lawrence Valley Gouverneur & Lisbon; T Brownville 12 Jan; StPt 23 Feb; more than usual.
Merlin: 9 reports.
GYRFALCON: PtPen 27 Dec (GS, JB, IM, ET) reports to NYSARC.
Peregrine Falcon: multiple sightings from traditional locations at BI & T Watertown; single reports SHB 30 Dec; T Ellisburg 31 Dec; different locations CV 5 Jan & 28 Feb; Thousand I Bridge 2 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Muskellunge Bay 15 Dec (JB) rare in winter.
Northern Shrike: reports of at least 38 individuals more than previous four winters.
Horned Lark: max 45 T Ellisburg 14 Feb.
Boreal Chickadee: PtPen 5 Jan (SK, CW, BS) rare outside Adirondacks.
Tufted Titmouse: 4 reports STLA where remains very thinly distributed.
Winter Wren: KC thru 20 Feb (RB) only report.
Marsh Wren: Muskellunge Creek T Hounsfield 15 Dec (JB) only report.
Carolina Wren: 4 reports more than most recent winters.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: PtPen 5 Jan (SK, CW, BS, photos!) rare winter.
Eastern Bluebird: 11 reports max 8 StPt 14 Feb.
Hermit Thrush: PtPen 5 Jan (SK, CW, BS) & 18 Jan (JB) scarce in winter.
American Robin: max 193 StPt 6 Jan.
Gray Catbird: FD 14 Dec (JB) rare in winter.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 41 T Potsdam 24 Dec; only 7 other reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 75 StPt 1 Dec.
Evening Grosbeak: widespread; max 104 T Pierrepont 18 Feb; best winter in many years.
Pine Grosbeak: 50+ reports mostly STLA; max 61 St. Lawrence University 21 Jan.
Purple Finch: only 15 reports but most of multiple individuals; max 15 T Potsdam 30 Dec.
Common Redpoll: max 1250 in one flock CV 2 Feb (JB, mob).
Hoary Redpoll: T Pierrepont 9 Dec (JB); T Croghan 8 Feb (MR); T Madrid 9 Feb (EW & TW).
White-winged Crossbill: RRt 9 Dec (JB) only report.
Pine Siskin: max 12 T Potsdam 20 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 5 CV 22 Jan & T Ellisburg 14 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 430 T Ellisburg 14 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: CV feeder thru 22 Jan (DM, photos!); scarce in winter.
American Tree Sparrow: just 15 on Canton-Potsdam CBC compared to 373 previous year; unusually scarce.
Vesper Sparrow: FD 14 Dec (JB) rare in winter.
Savannah Sparrow: PtPen 18 Jan (DW, DD, photos!); scarce in winter.
Song Sparrow: 18 reports; about average.
Swamp Sparrow: 4 at 3 locations; last FD 15 Jan.
White-throated Sparrow: reports from 30 locations; max 7 KC 18 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: juv T Croghan 2-3 Dec (MR, photos!); rare in winter.
Red-winged Blackbird: 7 reports; max 6 Clarkson University 5 Dec.
Brown-headed Cowbird: T Brasher 28 Dec & 3 PtPen 5 Jan only reports.
Common Grackle: 3 reports PtPen where last 17 Jan; T Norfolk 15 Feb only other report.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3 StPt 1 Dec (DA); last 2 StPt 26 Dec; no reports away from this reliable winter location.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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December's average temperatures reversed November's cold temperatures by registering near normal for the entire Region except for the northwest corner of Franklin County which was, on average, a degree or two above normal. Winter storm Diego in the middle of the month and Eboni just after Christmas tracked mostly south of the area and had minimal impact. Precipitation (melted equivalent) totals for the month increased from 2-3" in the north of Region 7 to 4-5" in the southern portions of Essex and Hamilton Counties.

January, unlike December, was colder than average by as much as five degrees throughout the Region. This was due in large part to an extended polar vortex near the end of the month during which the daytime high temperature often did not get above zero. Precipitation totals again increased from 3-4" in the north of the Region to 6-7" in the south. Winter storm Harper in the middle of the month dropped 12" on Plattsburgh and upwards of 20" in the mountains. However, tracking a little more to the south, winter storm Jayden just dusted the upper Champlain Valley with 1-3" and left a modest 5-8" in the south of Region 7.

Overall February's temperatures were close to normal with only a small area around Lake Placid/Saranac Lake averaging several degrees above normal. This area is usually colder than its surroundings. For most of The Region precipitation averaged between 3" and 4". The greatest deviations from this occurred in the south of Hamilton County which averaged 5" and a small strip which included the border between Clinton and Essex Counties, which received only 1-2". The winter clipper system became established in this month with winter storms Kai, Lucian, Maya, Nadia, Oren, Petra, Quiana, and Ryan forming and tracking east in rapid succession. Maya left 10" of snow in the Champlain Valley and more than double that in the mountains. A little more than a week later Oren deposited roughly half those amounts throughout the area. Quiana left only a few inches in the Champlain Valley. The others had no significant impact.

Largely due to January's polar vortex and the accompanying subzero temperatures, the lake froze solid for the first time since 2015. As previously mentioned, this, which used to be the rule, has become the exception. However, ferries at Cumberland Head and Essex kept channels open and ice free for overwintering waterfowl and gulls. The flow of the Saranac River, augmented by the warm water from the sewage treatment plant, also kept an area open at the river's mouth. Often a Peregrine Falcon could be seen perched on a nearby cell tower, and occasionally observed diving to prey on the birds concentrated there.

The various forecasts for winter finch appearances proved accurate. Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, expected to be widely distributed, were present in moderate numbers. Red Crossbill was reported only five times. Scattered reports of Purple Finch and a single record for White-winged Crossbill along with ten widely distributed reports of Pine Siskin were also in line with last fall's predictions. The prediction of a flight year for Common Redpoll was also born out, though the numbers were not as great as in other flight years. There were just two reports of Hoary Redpoll.

All or part of five CBC circles are within Region 7. Red-tailed Hawks made a particularly good showing with 35 individuals counted. The vast majority, 31, were found on the three counts that are held in The Champlain Valley. The same disparity was observed for Bald Eagles with only two of thirteen counted in the circles in the Adirondacks. The Saranac Lake count reported the only Northern Goshawk of the season. Notable birds on the Plattsburgh count included Snowy Owl and both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

The appearance of a white phase **Gyrfalcon** the day before and the day after Christmas in nearly the same place and at nearly the same time as last year was documented with a photograph by Tara Fuller, the same woman who found the 2017 bird. Everything was the same, but there is no way to know whether it was the same bird both years. Now an almost annual occurrence, a **Tufted Duck** was present in the Crown Point area for most of the season, spending time in both Vermont and New York waters. An exceptionally late Red-throated Loon was recorded on Lake Abanakee **14 & 15 February**. A Common Loon at Noblewood Park on **7 February** was a late date for Essex County, as was the Double-crested Cormorant at Port Henry on **12 January**. Vesper and Chipping Sparrows also remained **into January**, well beyond their normal departure times.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; **Bk** – Beekmantown; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BR** – Brushton; **BWB** – Bulwaga Bay; **CR** – Chazy

Riverlands; **CV** – Clintonville; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **Es** – Essex; **EF** – Essex ferry; **FtC** – Fort Covington Marsh; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **IL** – Indian L; **KV** – Keene Valley; **LAb** – Lake Abanakee; **LL** – Long L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OH** – Owls Head; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PBC** – Plattsburgh CBC; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **PH** – Port Henry; **RR** – Reynolds Road; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SI** – Saranac Inn; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **VTV** – Vermontville; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **SCBC** – Saranac Lake CBC; **WC** – West Chazy; **WI** – Willsboro; **WP** – Westport.

WATERFOWL-GREBES

Snow Goose: 30 CH 12 Jan, last.
Cackling Goose: PBC 16 Dec.
Am. Black Duck: 25 BWB 11 Dec (JR), max.
Green-winged Teal: PtR 16 Dec (AB), last.
Canvasback: CP 8 Jan (SR), last.
Redhead: 4 AP 6 Jan (P&RW), only report.
Ring-necked Duck: 4 WP 14 Jan (SR), late.
TUFTED DUCK: CP 27 Dec (SR), EF 26 & 27 Feb (EG).
Greater Scaup: 325 AP17 Dec (SR), max.
Lesser Scaup: 570 CP 5 Jan (TK), max.
Surf Scoter: PH 10 Dec (SR), last.
White-winged Scoter: WB 10 Dec (RB), only report.
Long-tailed Duck: 2 BWB 30 Dec (JMc), only report.
Bufflehead: 25 WP 67 Jan (SR), last.
Com. Goldeneye: 750 BWB 11 Dec (JR), max.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 4 CP 8 Jan (SR), max.
Hooded Merganser: 26 TI 14 Dec (SR), max.
Com. Merganser: 300 MB 10 Jan (SR), max.
Red-breasted Merganser: MB 10 Jan (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 WB 28 Dec (PC), max.
Ruffed Grouse: 3 VTV 12 Feb (AB), max.
Wild Turkey: 20 IL 16 Jan (MM), max.
Horned Grebe: 3 BB 12 Jan (AB), late.

RAILS-LARIDS

Iceland Gull: 3 SRM 19 Jan (AB), max.
Glaucous Gull: PBC 16 Dec.
Great Black-backed Gull: 15 SRM 13 Dec, max.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: LAb 14 & 15 Feb (M&WM), late.
Com. Loon: 2 NP 7 Feb (SR), last.
Double-crested Cormorant: 2 PH 12 Jan, late.
Great Blue Heron: Peru 9 Dec (GC), last.
Black Vulture: 8 TI 26 Dec (SP), rare.
N. Harrier: AP 6 Jan P&RW), last.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: CH 14 Feb (SJ).
Cooper’s Hawk: WP 5 Jan (ED).
N. Goshawk: SCBC 15 Dec, only report.
Bald Eagle: 10 EF 27 Feb (EG).
Red-tailed Hawk: 15 PBC 16 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 PBC 16 Dec.
E. Screech Owl: PtR 16 Dec (AB).
Great Horned Owl: CH 11 Feb.
Snowy Owl: WD 16 Dec, CP 30 Dec (SR).
Barred Owl: Sbb 18 Feb.
Short-eared Owl: Peru 25 Dec (EP); Es 22 Feb (SR).
Belted Kingfisher: PBC 16 Dec.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 WI 16 Feb (ET).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Es 29 Jan - 12 Feb (G&MC).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 SI 12 Jan (RG).
N. Flicker: SRM 26 Jan (SR).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 WI 16 Feb (ET).
Am. Kestrel: WC 16 Dec (JS).
Merlin: BR 16 Dec (JF), only report.
GYRFALCON: GBM 24 Dec (DR); MB 26 Dec (TF), white phase.
Peregrine Falcon: PBC 16 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

N. Shrike: PBC 16 Dec.
Canada Jay: 3 BB 18 Feb (ThM).
Common Raven: 4 BB 13 Jan (BB).
Horned Lark: 40 RR 10 Jan (SR), max.
Boreal Chickadee: 3 CV 27 Dec.
Tufted Titmouse: 4 PBC 16 Dec.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 OH 7 Feb (JT).
Brown Creeper: 9 OH 21 Feb (JT).
Winter Wren: PH 3 Dec (SR), only report.
Carolina Wren: PB 17 Feb (RB).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 BB 20 Jan (EM).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 BB 20 Jan (EM).
E. Bluebird: 4 CR 1 Dec-28 Feb, overwintered.
N. Mockingbird: SRM 13 Dec.
Bohemian Waxwing: 190 AP 15 Dec (JS), max.
Cedar Waxwing: 150 PH 5 Dec (RB), max.

Evening Grosbeak: 70 TL 27 Jan (MC), max.
Pine Grosbeak: 19 KV 12 Jan (SR), max.
Purple Finch: 4 Es 16 Feb (VP), only scattered reports.
Com. Redpoll: 100 Es 12 Jan (SR), max.
Hoary Redpoll: TL 2 Feb (TH); 2 OH 22 Feb (JT), only reports.
Pine Siskin: 2 BC 1 Dec (NR); SL 28 Feb (ED).
Lapland Longspur: 6 RR 10 Jan (SR), max.
Snow Bunting: 150 MB 6 Jan (KA), max.

Savannah Sparrow: WP 6 Dec (ED); TI 13 Jan (SR), v. late.
Song Sparrow: Jay 12 Jan (PO), late.
White-throated Sparrow: 2 Es 15 Feb (CS).
Dark-eyed Junco: 30 TB 17 Feb (AF).
Red-winged Blackbird: IL 14 Dec (MMo), late.
Brown-headed Cowbird: Bk 7 Dec (TF); 7 FtC 16 Feb (DW), max.
Common Grackle: LL 5 Dec (SR), only report.
N. Cardinal: 14 CH 18 Feb (NO); 16 Es 18 Feb (CS), max.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 21 AP 11 Dec (ED).
Chipping Sparrow: PL 12 Jan (KF), late.
Vesper Sparrow (R-7): 2 MB 6 Jan (KA), rare.

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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December 2018 was warm with very little snowfall. At Albany the temperature was 3.9°F above normal, and virtually all of the 3.04" of precipitation was in the form of rain. Only 3.3" of snow was recorded. Many water bodies remained open into the first ten days of the new year. January 2019 saw near normal temperatures and wetter than usual conditions. 4.29" of liquid equivalent fell, which was 1.70" more than average. 18.8" of snow fell during the second half of the month. February 2019 offered a brief warm spell to open the month, but winter returned to even things out. The temperature averaged 1.7° above normal, with a precipitation surplus of 0.48", including 14.1" of snow.

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	32.4°	28.5°	+3.9°	28.7°	25.0°	+3.7°
Jan	23.3°	22.6°	+0.7°	19.7°	18.0°	+1.7°
Feb	27.6°	25.9°	+1.7°	22.3°	21.3°	+1.0°

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	3.04"	2.93"	+0.11"	4.25"	3.05"	+1.20"
Jan	4.29"	2.59"	+1.70"	4.43"	2.86"	+1.57"
Feb	2.68"	2.20"	+0.48"	2.15"	2.08"	+0.07"

Greater White-fronted Goose was observed in three locations this winter. Single individuals were noted at Hedges Lake in Washington County in December, Blockhouse Park in Stillwater, Saratoga County in January and Fultonville, Montgomery County in late February. Snow Geese had largely moved through the area around Thanksgiving, with small numbers of stragglers occasionally seen during the winter season.

Winter waterfowl diversity and numbers seemed about normal. Long-tailed Duck sightings were more frequent this season, but still in low numbers. As usual, Canvasback and Redhead were scarce. Ring-necked Duck and Greater/Lesser Scaup found the limited open water from late January onwards, joining the predominant Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead and Hooded Mergansers.

Wild turkey numbers appeared to be healthy, with many reports of winter flocks of 20-150 birds.

A Virginia Rail was a surprising find near the Alcove Reservoir during the Albany County CBC on 16 December. Another Virginia Rail was also detected at a marsh in Stuyvesant, Columbia County, on 15 December during the Chatham CBC. There was one report each of Killdeer and American Woodcock at the end of the period, but those species primarily remained at bay to the south of the area with cold, snowy conditions at the end of February.

The three expected species of winter-visitant gulls were present this season, but in very low numbers compared to recent years. Single Iceland Gulls were noted in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, with both adult and juvenile birds seen in the Crescent-Albany corridor along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. One or two Glaucous Gulls were detected in those same areas. Lesser Black-backed Gull wasn't observed until February in the Crescent-Albany section, after a single end-of-December report from Montgomery County.

A Red-throated Loon appeared on the Hudson River near downtown Albany in mid-February and stayed around for a week. It was joined by a Red-necked Grebe for a day on 24 February.

Black Vultures continue to expand their winter range in the Region, with reports as far north as Washington County. Some of their larger roosts are located at Hudson Valley Community College in Rensselaer County; Northumberland in Saratoga County; the NYS DOT yard in Voorheesville, Albany County; and a large roost noted this winter at Mawignack Preserve near Catskill in Greene County.

Northern Harrier numbers seemed solid in the larger winter grassland habitats. Golden Eagle sightings came from Washington and southern Columbia Counties. A Snowy Owl continued its long stay near Malta, Saratoga County right through the end of the period. Other Snowy Owls were seen in Montgomery, Washington, and Rensselaer Counties. Long-eared Owl was reported from the Ft. Edward Grasslands, and near Ancram in Columbia County. Short-eared Owl numbers seemed near normal in traditional overwintering areas

of Washington and Montgomery Counties, and an apparent new winter location was discovered near Livingston in Columbia County.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was discovered by Mike Nicosia, Kathy Schneider and Marian Sole on a Thursday morning birding outing in Taconic State Park in Copake Falls on 14 February. According to Bill Cook of the Alan Devoe Bird Club "...there were six New York State records between 1905 and 1995, three from Dutchess County. eBird lists about 15 individuals between 1990 and 2019 for New York with only one, the 1990 Dover, Dutchess County bird included in both references. These records suggest that our Columbia County bird is about number 20 for the state." It was still being found at month's-end feeding on bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) fruits and allowing photographic opportunities.

Evening Grosbeaks irrupted southward in large numbers this winter as had been predicted. They were documented throughout the Region, but none as thoroughly as the birds that frequented the backyard feeders belonging to Kyle Arvin of Summit, Schoharie County. He kept meticulous records of the time of day and number present, maxing out at 201 birds on 2 December. Pine Grosbeak also moved south during the winter, but not as widespread into Region 8. Fulton County had reports in December and Washington County had several locations with the species by February.

John Askildsen found a very drab Pine Warbler in extreme southeastern Columbia County on 30 December, an unusual find this far inland for the date. An observer in Ballston Lake, Saratoga County sent a note and a photograph to NYSDEC's *The Conservationist* contact page dated 12/21/2018, requesting identification help with a bird that was frequenting their mealworm feeder for a day. The image shows a **Prothonotary Warbler** perched on the feeder. It is unclear what the actual date of the sighting was, but the note referenced cooler weather, so it appears to have been much later in the fall season. Quite a bird to add to one's yard list, especially in Region 8.

129 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL-GREBES

Snow Goose: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Jackson WASH 15 Dec; Stillwater SARA 15 Jan; Fultonville MONT 24 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 7000 Saratoga L SARA 2 Jan.

Mute Swan: max 10 Catskill GREE 19 Jan.

Wood Duck: max 5 Stockport Flats COLU 15 Dec.

Gadwall: max 15 Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Jan.

Mallard: max 570 The Crossings ALBA 7 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 75 Hudson COLU 23 Dec.

Canvasback: max 9 Saratoga L SARA 10 Jan.

Greater Scaup: max 100 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: max 230 Saratoga L SARA 15 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 2 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: max 2 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 3 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: max 300 Hudson Falls WASH 2 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: max 100 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 3500 Saratoga L SARA 2 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: five reports of singletons.

Ruddy Duck: max 3 Copake L COLU 7 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Petersburg RENS 4 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 112 Putnam WASH 10 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec, only report.

Horned Grebe: max 2 Saratoga L SARA 13 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: Corning Riverfront P ALBA 24 Feb, only report.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: AR 16 Dec; Stuyvesant COLU 15 Dec.

Killdeer: Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 24 Feb; Glen MONT 24 Feb.

American Woodcock: Ancram COLU 22 Feb.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1200 CF 23 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 690 Cohoes ALBA 18 Feb.

Iceland Gull: Corning Riverfront P ALBA 24 Feb; Fultonville MONT 26 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 6 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CF 23 Feb; Corning Riverfront Pk ALBA 19 Feb; Hudson COLU 2 Jan; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 31 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 8 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: max 2 Crescent P SARA 9 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 125 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 18 Feb.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: Corning Riverfront Pk ALBA 17 Feb.

Com. Loon: max 4 AR 17 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: Hudson COLU 2 Jan; Hudson Crossing Pk SARA 6 Dec; TR 29 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: max 3 Lions P SCHE 29 Dec.
Black Vulture: max 35 Mawignack P GREE 27 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: arr Hudson COLU 5 Feb.
Golden Eagle: max 2 Hillsdale COLU 15 Feb.
No. Harrier: max 8 River Rd grasslands GREE 19 Dec.
Bald Eagle: max 60 Ernest R Lasher Mem P COLU 26 Feb.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Livingston COLU 23 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 11 FtEG 23 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 12 FtEG 9 Feb.
Snowy Owl: Malta SARA 17 Dec; Fultonville MONT 5 Dec; Hudson Falls WASH 25 Feb; Poestenkill RENS 14 Feb.
Long-eared Owl: FtEG 7 Feb; Ancram COLU 20 Dec.
Short-eared Owl: max 7 FtEG 10 Feb.
No. Saw-whet Owl: no reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 Greenport COLU 18 Dec; Livingston COLU 23 Dec; Clermont COLU 13 Jan.
Merlin: max 2 Schaghticoke RENS 15 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: five reports of pairs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

No. Shrike: reports from six counties.
Am. Crow: max 8000 Glens Falls WARR 10 Feb.
Com. Raven: max 6 Edinburg SARA 14 Jan; Medusa ALBA 31 Dec.
Horned Lark: max 210 Canajoharie MONT 16 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 APBP 12 Dec.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Ft Ann WASH 15 Feb.
Marsh Wren: Whitehall WASH 16 Dec, *late*.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Berlin RENS 22 Dec.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 18 Dec; New Baltimore GREE 15 Dec.
Ea. Bluebird: max 21 Malta SARA 31 Dec.
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Taconic SP, Copake Falls COLU 14 Feb, *intro*, *NYSARC*.

Gray Catbird: Saratoga Springs SARA 9 Dec; Brunswick RENS 22 Dec; New Scotland ALBA 7 Jan.
Cedar Waxwing: max 65 Hoosick RENS 25 Feb.
Evening Grosbeak: max 201 Summit SCHO 2 Dec.
Pine Grosbeak: max 40 Salem WASH 26 Feb.
Purple Finch: max 10 Moreau SARA 26 Jan.
Com. Redpoll: max 285 Easton WASH 14 Feb.
Hoary Redpoll: CCGP 5 Feb.
Pine Siskin: max 20 Hillsdale COLU 19 Jan.
Lapland Longspur: max 6 Fultonville MONT 1 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 330 FtEG 26 Jan.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-WARBLERS

Ea. Towhee: Pittstown RENS 12 Jan, only report.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 45 Livingston COLU 4 Dec.
Chipping Sparrow: three reports of feeder birds that lingered into Jan.
Field Sparrow: Greenport COLU 18 Dec; Guilderland ALBA 15 Dec.
Savannah Sparrow: max 15 Livingston COLU 25 Jan.
Song Sparrow: max 16 Livingston COLU 16 Jan.
Swamp Sparrow: max 2 Greenport Cons Area COLU 2 Jan.
White-throated Sparrow: max 62 Greenport COLU 18 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 6 Ancram COLU 13 Jan.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 107 Schaghticoke RENS 26 Jan.
Ea. Meadowlark: max 3 River Rd grasslands GREE 19 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 600 Livingston COLU 1 Jan.
Rusty Blackbird: max 10 Coveville SARA 10 Dec.
Com. Grackle: max 5000 Schodack RENS 23 Feb.
Com. Yellowthroat: Nutten Hooke COLU 1 Dec, *late*.
Pine Warbler: Ancram COLU 30 Dec, *late*.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Livingston COLU 20 Dec.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December 2018 was warmer than normal, with a high of 62°F on 21 December, 27° higher than normal. The low was 13° on 11 December, 5° below normal. Precipitation was slightly higher than normal at 3.04". Snowfall was 10.4" lower than normal at 3.3". January 2019 started out warm with a high of 53° on 1 January, 23° higher than normal. The low temp occurred on 21 January with a temperature of minus 7°, 18° below normal. Precipitation was 4.29", 1.7" above normal. Snowfall was 18.9", 1" higher than normal. February started out colder than normal with a temp of minus 8° on 1 February, 22° below normal. It quickly warmed, and a high of 57° on 5 February was 24° higher than normal. Precipitation was 2.68", .48" higher than normal. Snowfall was 14.1", 1.9" higher than normal. Temperatures fluctuated greatly throughout the entire period with most of the precipitation falling in the form of rain during the warmer periods.

On 9 February, Gail Benson and Tom Burke found a Ross's Goose at Croton Point Park. It remained only through the morning of the 10th before flying off. Almost certainly the same bird turned up in two more locations, on 11 February in Plattekill and 14 February at Glenmere Lake.

On 22 February, the author found a **Trumpeter Swan** on the Rondout Reservoir. Initially thought to be a Tundra Swan, with assistance from Tom Burke and Kevin McGowan it was confirmed to be a Trumpeter. The bird remained through the end of the period and beyond and was seen by many.

On 21 February Peter Schoenberger and Mark DeDea found an adult Tundra Swan on Esopus Creek in Stone Ridge. The bird remained in the general area for a week, seen by many birders.

On 21 January, Ken McDermott found a first winter Glaucous Gull on the Newburgh Water Front. When several birders came to see the bird, a first winter Iceland Gull was found as well.

One of the highlights of the season was the much-anticipated winter finch irruption. Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were reported widely throughout the Region. Evening Grosbeak was recorded in each county during December, with fewer reports of Common Redpolls. By the end of December, both species had retreated to the high elevation conifer forests of Sullivan County where they were seen in good numbers at local feeders throughout the remainder of the period. Pine Siskins were much more widespread and continued throughout the period.

On 2 February, Bruce Nott found an overwintering Lincoln's Sparrow on Onion Avenue in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird remained for a couple of weeks and was seen by many.

On 19 December, Gail Benson found a Yellow-breasted Chat at Marshlands Conservancy. The bird remained through 31 December and was seen by many.

The highlight of the period was a **Say's Phoebe** found on 3 January by Tom Sudol on the Winding Waters Trail at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge in Orange County. The bird remained for two days and was seen by many observers.

With sadness we note the passing of Herb Thompson on January 1, 2019. Herb was Carena Pooth's partner in both birding and life for 25 years. He enthusiastically shared his sightings and his knowledge with other birders, who remember him as a kind and joyful friend. Herb is missed by many in our birding community.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza; **BWMA** – Bashakill WMA; **CPP** – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **GV** – Great Vly WMA; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail; **KP** – Kingston Pt; **LM** – Liberty Marsh; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **MP** – Morningside P; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region; **PP** – Piermont Pier; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR.

WATERFOWL – GREBES

Snow Goose: max 19 OCBDR 19 Dec (DWare); 7 Denniston Road 5 Jan (GB, PD).
Ross's Goose: CPP 9 Feb (GB, TBu, LTr, ASw); Plattekill 11 Feb (KMa); Glenmere L 14 Feb (KA).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Camel Farm 1 Dec (LSch, MZe); EGR 7 Dec. lower Westchester County thru (GB, TBu); Wallkill 8 Jan (BNo, JHaa).
Cackling Goose: OCBDR 29 Dec (MZe); 2 Blue Chip Farm 5 Jan (CM, GB, TBu, PR) Bowman Pd 9 Jan (GB); 2 Wallkill R 15 Jan (BNo); OCBDR 15 Jan (JHaa); Mill Dam Pd 19 Jan (PSch, MD) EGR 2 Feb (JHaa); Liberty Loop 22 Feb (JC).
TRUMPETER SWAN (R9): Rondout Res 22-28 Feb (JHaa, TBu, GB), *intro*.
Tundra Swan: Willow Brook Farm 19 Feb (DK); Esopus Creek 21 Feb (PSch, MD).
Wood Duck: max 30 BWMA 21 Feb (JHaa).
Northern Shoveler: 12 Twin Lakes P 3 Dec (SOR); 12 Rockland L 6 Dec (AW);

4 Browns Pd 18 Dec (BNo); 5 Rt. 207 Marsh 23 Dec (BNo); 3 Crestwood L 19 Jan (MBo); 2 EGR 6 Feb (GB).
Eurasian Wigeon: Rye Town P 6 Feb (GB, BSt).
Canvasback: 2 Crestview L 22 Dec (BNo); Sylvan L 12 Jan (CP, AMa, JA); 151 Norrie SP 12 Jan (KSch, MK, BM); max 23 KP 28 Jan (NM); max 77 Piermont Pier 29 Jan (KR); Rondout Res 6 Feb (JHaa).
Redhead: 5 Lake Tappan 30 Dec (NB); 2 NW 22 Jan (BNo); Glenmere L 12 Feb (KA); 2 Harcourt Sanctuary 20 Feb (TO).
COMMON EIDER (R9): Five Islands P 13 Dec (VH).
White-winged Scoter: Neversink Res 1 Dec (PD, JHaa, SB); EGR 1 Dec. (KD, MK, GB); 2 Wickham L 2 Dec (MZe, JHaa, KMi); KP 13 Dec (DT); 2 MC 23 Dec (PR); Norrie Pt SP 26 Dec (BB, CV, SJ).
Long-tailed Duck: Neversink Res 7 Dec (KMi, JHaa); Minnewaska SP 29 Dec (NM); 2 Norrie Pt SP 30 Dec (MR); River Rd. 12 Jan (FM, DF); Esopus Light House 12 Jan (RM, PSch, JP); KP 9 Feb (JY).

Red-breasted Merganser: Plum Pt 30 Dec (KM); max 64 EGR 4 Jan (JR); 6 Rockland L SP 12 Jan (MPap); Croton Landing 19 Jan (KBa); 2 George Island P 5 Feb (FGr); 2 PP 6 Feb (VH); CPP 25 Feb (ASw).

Horned Grebe: Kiamasha L 1 Dec (SBa); 3 Orange L 3 Dec (BNo); Madam Brett P 27 Dec (SI); Dennings Pt 31 Dec (PM); New Croton Res 18 Feb (CR); max 44 EGR 18 Feb (GB, TBu); Kensico Res 21 Feb (NG).

Red-necked Grebe: Chadwick L 3 Dec (BNo); Davenport P 23 Dec (LTr, KBa); Norrie SP 6 Jan (SRo); EGR 14 Jan (FGu, TBr); Kensico Res 27 Feb (NG).

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 2 CPP 15 Dec (MBo); CPP 23 Jan (ASw).

Sandhill Crane: Black Creek Preserve 10 Dec (NM).

Killdeer: CPP 12 Dec (SWr); Davenport P 23 Dec (KBa, LTr); 2 OCBDR 15 Feb (LScr, KA); MC 25 Feb (VH).

Dunlin: EGR 25 Jan (ASw, CR, KBa).

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Larchmont Manor P 24 Dec (TGu); 4 Milton Pt 12 Dec (GB, TBu); Larchmont Manor P 22 Jan (GB).

RAZORBILL (R9): Bronx/Westchester CBC EGR 23 Dec (BWA); EGR 24-25 Dec (GB, TBu).

Laughing Gull: CPP 25 Jan (CR, KBa, K. McGrath).

Iceland Gull: KP 1 Dec (SJ, BM); NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott), BNo, JHaa, GB, AMa); 23 Feb KP (DF, MD, PSch).

Glaucous Gull: NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott), BNo, JHaa, GB, TBu).

LOONS - PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 14 EGR 25 Dec (GB, TBu); 2 MC 31 Dec (ASw, TA, TR); Croton Dam Road 15 Feb (JG).

Common Loon: CPP 15 Dec (MBo); 2 Haverstraw Bay CP 23 Dec (MOI); Rockland L SP 11 Jan (AW); CPP 19 Jan (CR, LG); max. 10 EGR 22 Jan (GB); MC 7 Feb (DJ).

Double-crested Cormorant: Sylvan L 4 Dec (AMa); Dennings Pt 4 Dec. (AL); PP 5 Dec (SBa); Haverstraw Bay CP 9 Dec (AW); CPP 9 Dec. (SWr); Wappingers Creek 10 Dec (J&AD); Esopus Meadows 12 Dec (JY); Stony Pt 16 Dec (AW); NW 1 Jan (KM, DB, CShe); 3 EGR 4 Jan (JR); 2 Charles Pt 27 Jan (TBre); 2 George's Island P 5 Feb (FGr); 6 Steamboat River P 17 Feb (LTo, NT).

Great Cormorant: Rye Town P 1 Dec (GB); max 6 EGR 27 Dec (GB, BSt, TG) max 10 EGR 13 Jan (GB); Mount Taurus 27 Jan (BH); max 7 Rye Town P 28 Jan (GB, MBo); 8 MC 1 Feb (GB) max 20 Charles Pt 3 Feb (JCI); CPP 10 Feb (K. McGrath.); Haverstraw Bay CP 11 Feb (AW); 27 Stony Pt 19 Feb (DH); max 12 Steamboat Riverfront P 23 Feb (SWa); NW 24 Feb (BNo).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 4 EGR 7 Dec (GB); EGR 13 Dec (GCha); 2 EGR 23 Dec (JA, TBu, GB).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Wright I 13 Jan (TK).

Golden Eagle: Rockland L SP 4 Dec (AW); Harriman SP 7 Dec (AW); Rondout Res 9 Dec (JHaa); Dover Plains 11 Dec (DK); Dover Plains 22 Dec (JA); Storm King Mountain 30 Dec (KM, CShe, MZe); Beechwoods 27 Jan (JHaa); Pine Plains 14 Feb (DK); Perretti Road 22 Feb (DK); Cooper Road Amenia 23 Feb (SJ).

Northern Harrier: 15 SGNWR 20 Dec (BSw); 38 Minnewaska-Shawangunk CBC (CM, GB, TBu, PR); 9 SGNWR 9 Feb (TG); 4 OCBDR 11 Feb (BNo); 13 SGNWR 18 Feb (MSc, KBu); 11 SGNWR 26 Feb (SBu).

Bald Eagle: 7 Stony Pt 14 Dec (AW); 78 Rio Res Monticello CBC 27 Dec (JHaa, KM); 28 Iona I 26 Jan (BNo, KA); 30 Charles Point Peekskill 26 Jan (BNo, KA); 30 Steamboat Riverfront P 3 Feb (DK).

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 CPP 22 Jan (CR); 4 SGNWR 1 Feb (TA); 6 OCBDR 26 Jan (KBa, CR).

Eastern Screech-Owl: EGR 9 Dec (MF) Peabody Preserve 16 Dec (EG); OCBDR 19 Dec (SA); Stamfordville 21 Dec (DK); Stewart Forest SP 25 Dec (PD); 2 Rhinebeck Waste Water Treatment Plant 29 Dec (DH); Harriman SP 30 Dec (LD); 3 Tivoli Bays WMA 1 Jan (SRo); Ulster P 9 Jan (DT); Bellvale 12 Jan (DWA); MC 14 Jan (GB, TBu); Minnewaska Trail 20 Jan (CK); Ulster Fair Grounds 22 Jan (GF); Wurtsboro 22 Jan (JHaa); CPP 10 Feb (PC); Strevor Farm 12 Feb (CP).

Great Horned Owl: 2 Mohonk L-Ashokan Res CBC 15 Dec (PSch); BWMA 4 Jan (SBa) 2 Seamon P 5 Jan (RM); Rondout River Walk 29 Jan (WT); Rondout Res 26 Feb (K. McDermott).

Long-eared Owl: Kripplebush CBC 30 Dec (PSch); CPP 9 Jan (JHal); Tymor Forest P 2 Feb (DS, ES).

Short-eared Owl: max. 5 SGNWR 24 Dec (FP); max. 3 OCBDR 25 Jan (IG); max 12 SGNWR 2 Feb (KK, DK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Mianus River Gorge Preserve 13 Dec (MF); Harriman SP 12 Jan. (JV); East Pound Ridge 13 Jan (JV); CPP 23 Feb (NZ).

Merlin: Stringham P 4 Dec (AMa); Forsythe Nature Center 10 Jan (MD); OCBDR 2 Feb (KA); Blue Chip Farm 12 Feb (SWa).

Peregrine Falcon: EGR 1 Dec (VH) Benedict P 7 Dec (SWa.); CPP 15 Dec (MBo); 2 OCBDR 15 Jan (JHaa); Blue Chip Farm 19 Jan (MD, PSch); NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott); EGR 25 Jan (ASw, GB); OCBDR 10 Feb (KMi, BNo); Harcourt Sanctuary 24 Feb (JB, GB).

Monk Parakeet: max 10 Five Islands P 13 Dec. (VH); 2 Red Bridge Area 15 Jan (FGu, TBr); max 11 Red Bridge Area 15 Feb (FGu, TBr).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Siemens 4 Dec (PSh); Zinsser P 24 Dec (MBo); Kensico Res 29 Dec (NG); Rockefeller SP 7 Jan (LM); Kensico Res 11 Jan (NG); Rockefeller SP 23 Jan (KW); Sleepy Hollow Cemetery 11 Feb (VH).

SAY'S PHOEBE: Winding Waters Trail 3-4 Jan (TS, LScr, BNo, TBU, GB, JHaa), *intro*.

Northern Shrike: SGNWR 15 Dec (SWa); Kenridge Farm 15 Dec (JB, KMi, CShe, DB); Indian Brook Road 2 Feb (RB); Kukuk Lane 3 Feb (MD); Harcourt Sanctuary 24 Feb (PSch, mob).

Horned Lark: max 250 OCBDR 14 Feb (SA, M. Normandia); max. 40 Blue Chip Farm 20 Dec (J&KD), 30 O'Leary Farm 20 Dec (BM); 38 Stone Ridge 25 Jan (PSch); 36 SGNWR 22 Feb (AH); 14 Neversink Res 26 Feb (SG).

Gray Catbird BWMA 5 Dec (JHaa); Rockefeller SP 10 Dec (ASw, mob); CPP 11 Dec. (BSt); EGR 11 Dec (GB, TBU); West Point Pounding Preserve 29 Dec (RB); Harriman SP 7 Jan (AW); Kenridge Farm 14 Jan (BNo).

Evening Grosbeak: 45 Catskill P 1 Dec (ML); 4 Stone Ridge 2 Dec (MZi); 10 Cortlandt Manor 8 Dec (EB); BWMA 9 Dec (SBa); max 150 Neversink Township 1 Dec–28 Feb (SBa, TBU, GB, SSu, JB), *intro*.

Common Redpoll: Hopewell Junction 3 Dec (EM); 2 Gibson Hill Road 8 Dec (JS); max 46 Neversink Township 19 Dec (JHaa, mob); Peach Hill P 12 Jan (JA); 2 Ulster P 13 Jan

(DT); OCBDR 3 Feb (JHaa, BNo) 1 Indian Brook Road 3 Feb (GB), *intro*.

Pine Siskin: Warwick Grove 2 Dec (GF); 2 Manitou Point Preserve 3 Dec (RB); 4 MC 3 Dec (DJ); max 42 BWMA 7 Jan (SBa); 8 SGNWR 16 Jan (BK); 15 CPP 10 Feb (SK); 3 D & H Canal Linear P 28 Feb (JHaa).

Lapland Longspur: Huson Road 1 Dec (JHaa); 2 OCBDR 3 Feb (JHaa, BNo); OCBDR 9 Feb (AG); 5 OCBDR 14 Feb (GB, SA, M. Normandia); 3 OCBCR 16 Feb (AW); 2 OCBCR 19 Feb (MZe).

Snow Bunting: 35 Huson Road 1 Dec (JHaa); EGR 1 Dec (GB, MBK, KD); 11 Tymor Forest P 1 Dec (AMa); PP 8 Dec (JC); 5 Sullivan County Community College 8 Dec (PD, KMi); 2 Bowline Pt 9 Dec (AW); 30 OCBDR 15 Dec (JHaa); CPP 20 Dec (SRo); 4 Beechwoods 30 Jan (JHaa); 100 OCBDR 2 Feb (KA); SGNWR 8 Feb (PSch).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Wickham L 2 Dec (MZe); Plank Road 23 Dec (JHaa); EGR 17 Jan. (GB); Clove Road 20 Jan (JA); Harriman SP 24 Feb (LD).

Vesper Sparrow: OCBDR 1 Feb (FP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: OCBDR 2-17 Feb (BNo, LScr, KA, mob).

Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 19-31 Dec (BSH, GB, TG, ASw).

Eastern Meadowlark: max. 11 SGNWR 13 Jan (MZe); LM 17 Feb (AK).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 OCBDR 19 Dec (SA); 9 Weston Road 26 Dec (AW); 5 Verbank Club Road 2 Feb (CP); 30 Ulster P 5 Feb (DT); 3 D & H Canal Linear P 11 Feb (JHaa); 10 Prunyn Sanctuary 15 Feb (ASw).

Common Yellowthroat: Gibson Hill Road 23 Dec (JS).

Palm Warbler: 2 Five Islands P 1 Dec (ASw, DvZ, SRo, mob).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: CPP 1 Dec (SRap); George Young Boulevard 23 Dec (JU, TF, ADa); MC 11 Jan (VH); Ludlow Woods 19 Jan (DK); OCBDR 2 Feb (KA).

ADDENDA

The following reports were inadvertently left out of the Region 9 Fall 2018 report (KB Vol 69, No. 1):

COMMON EIDER (R9): max 7 Playland P 24 Nov (TBU, GB); Playland P 25 Nov (TBU, GB).

Black Scoter: 4 Lake Carmel 9 Oct (A. Macchiarola); PP 14 Oct (C. Weiss); 7 Kiamasha L 14 Oct (JHaa, P. Dechon); Ashokan Reservoir 31 Oct (PSch); Playland P 6 Nov (TBU, GB); Sylvan L 12-23 Nov (C. Pooth, mob).

Red Phalarope: 2 Hillview Res 25 Sep (S. Camillieri, N. Giordano, GB, TBU).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Mamaroneck Harbor 27 Oct (TBU, GB), only report.

Northern Gannet: Playland P 15 Nov (TBU, GB); 4 Playland P 16 Nov (TBU, GB); 6 Playland P 25 Nov (GB, TBU).

Long-eared Owl: SGNWR 30 Nov (GB, TBU).

Acadian Flycatcher: MC 3 Oct (TBU, GB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Playland P 17-18 Nov (GB, TBU).

Nelson's Sparrow: 4 MC 10-19 Oct (TBU, GB).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	40.1°	37.5°	+2.6°	38.1°	35.6°	+2.5°
Jan	32.5°	32.6°	-0.1°	31.1°	30.6°	+0.5°
Feb	36.2°	35.3°	+0.9°	34.4°	32.8°	+1.6°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	6.51"	4.0"	+2.51"	6.50"	4.06"	+2.44"
Jan	3.58"	3.65"	+0.07"	3.85"	3.64"	+0.21"
Feb	3.14"	3.09"	+0.05"	3.70"	3.24"	+0.46"

The winter of 2018-2019 was exceptionally mild in Region 10, with average temperatures slightly (in February) to considerably (in December) above average. Although precipitation was above average, it consisted mostly of rain. Snowfall in December was zero at Islip and only a trace in Central Park (cf. average 4.8"), and Central Park recorded a total of only 1.1" in January (average 7.0") and 2.6" in February (average 9.2"). Nevertheless, there were short periods of intense cold. Temperatures as low as 18° on 8 December created ice cover that surely affected freshwater waterfowl counts on some CBCs. It soon became milder, but the temperature in Central Park plunged from a high of 42° on 20

January to a low of 4° on 21 January and again to 10° on 1 February, after which temperatures fluctuated upward to a mild latter half of the month. Efforts to mount pelagic trips from Brooklyn were stymied by weather, affecting records of certain species.

For many Region 10 observers, especially on Long Island, one of the most interesting events of the season was the astonishing influx of Razorbills. The first intimations were about 11 December, with 200 counted by Keith Cashman at the Fire Island Wilderness area, and 13 December, when Ken and Suzie Feustel counted 540 at Montauk Point; the number grew to 1,898 on the Montauk CBC on 15 December, and was succeeded by Montauk area counts of 2,510 on 23 December (A. C. Wilson), **9,015** on 27 December (K. and S. Feustel), 2,500 on 6 January (R. Shriber), **4,400** on 12 January (M. McBrien) and **10,000** on 23 January, passing Montauk Village Beach from west to east at an estimated rate of 200 to 400 per minute (K. Gasser). Large numbers were seen along the south shore: up to **5,668** at Shinnecock Inlet on 13 January (R. Aracil), 2,400 at Fire Island-Old Inlet on 25 December (K. Cashman), 3,534 at Smith Point County Park on 27 December (M. McBrien), and 1,083 at Robert Moses State Park on 16 December (P. Morris). The 1,287 Razorbills seen on the Southern Nassau CBC on 29 December were a new maximum for that count, as were the 1,145 recorded on the Captree CBC on 16 December. (The previous high for this count was 12.) Further west, as many as 215 were seen at Breezy Point in Queens (13 January, D. Gochfeld). From the shores of Long Island Sound, 51 were recorded on the Orient CBC (29 December), single-digit records extended west to Crab Meadow Beach in Northport, and a single bird provided the fifth record of this species for the Bronx-Westchester CBC. Similarly high numbers were recorded along the New Jersey coast, reaching a maximum of 10,283 at the Avalon Seawatch on 9 January (eBird). This invasion exceeded the previous record-setting incursion in winter 2002-2003, in which a count of 1,200 at Montauk Point on 16 January was a record number for New York, and was bettered by the 4,000 tallied eight days later (*Kingbird*, June 2003). In a published analysis of Razorbill winter records, Dick Veit found that this species has increased fairly steadily for several decades, with short-term increases that are correlated with colder water temperature (the North Atlantic Oscillation, or NAO) that may affect the distribution of the sand lance, a major food. (R. R. Veit and L. L. Manne 2015, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, doi: 10.3389/evo.2015.00038). He suggested to me that this season's influx may be associated with strong fluctuations in the NAO index in December.

Four other alcid species were sighted from shore this winter, including single Black Guillemots at Montauk Point and Shinnecock Inlet and at least four sighting of Dovekies, from Montauk Point to Breezy Point, Queens. At least two **Thick-billed Murres** were spotted in Jones Inlet, one was monitored as it swam from Gravesend Bay to Veterans Memorial Pier in Brooklyn, and an extraordinarily cooperative, usually close bird resided in Shinnecock Inlet throughout January. Even better were several **Common Murres**, a species

seldom seen from shore. These included one photographed at Jones Beach West End on 2 February, one at Camp Hero State Park on 23 December, a moribund bird photographed at Robert Moses State Park 11 February, and three individuals, which Derek Rogers and others distinguished by photographs, recorded at Shinnecock Inlet in January.

Among other saltwater species were two **Pacific Loons**, one at Jones Beach on 16 February, and one close to the docks at the Sagamore Yacht Club in Oyster Bay, 3-28 February. No vagrant grebes were reported, but Red-necked Grebes were plentiful, mostly along the south shore from Montauk to Brooklyn, and singletons were spotted in the Bronx at Pelham Bay Park, and even in Manhattan at Randall's Island. There were quite a few sightings of Black-legged Kittiwakes, with as many as 91 seen from Montauk Point. A carefully described Kittiwake in Long Island Sound, seen during a nor'easter from the ferry just out of Port Jefferson harbor, was at an unusual location. At least four Black-headed Gulls were recorded, from Lake Montauk west to the Brooklyn shore, and a single Little Gull was seen at Montauk Point 10-16 February. However, a maximal count of 500 Bonaparte's Gulls (at Smith Point County Park on 3 January) was low by historical measures, and the species was missed altogether on the Montauk, Captree, Smithtown, and Southern Nassau CBCs, the latter for the first time in 67 years. Glaucous Gulls were recorded at two sites in Staten Island and at Jamaica Bay, the Bellport Bay Yacht Club, and west of Shinnecock Inlet on Dune Road, where an immature bird was fairly reliable from at least 4 December through 6 January. Multiple Iceland Gulls were seen in every county except Bronx, and Lesser Black-backed Gull showed a similar pattern, with as many as 11 tallied on the Captree CBC. Although it didn't linger for a broader audience, the star of the gull show this winter was surely the adult **Mew Gull** photographed by Andrew Baksh at Bush Terminal Piers on 3 January.

Noteworthy sea ducks included a long-staying male Barrow's Goldeneye at Crab Meadow in Northport, Suffolk County and one of each sex in the Pelham Bay area in the Bronx. Harlequin Ducks were seen at seven locations in Suffolk County, including four on the Montauk CBC, and three wandered about Jones Inlet from late December through February. As many as three King Eiders, distinguished by sex and age, were reported from Shinnecock Inlet and environs, as well as one or more from the Orient Point ferry. Common Eiders showed a striking change in distribution, to the bay north of Shinnecock Inlet (up to 5,000) from their former stronghold at Montauk Point, where most observers reported fewer than 1,000 (with exceptions, such as the 5,000 recorded on 10 February). Scoters, likewise, made a relatively poor showing in eastern Long Island. The 458 Surf Scoters on the Montauk CBC were far fewer than the 1,446 the previous year, and most reports from Montauk registered fewer than 400. Black Scoters paralleled Common Eider; the Montauk CBC recorded only 961 (vs. 2,224 in 2017), and numbers there picked up (to 2,000 or more) only in late February. But Shinnecock Inlet and environs yielded counts of nearly 2,000 in

January. Among bay ducks, high counts of the once much more abundant Greater Scaup included, in Bronx, 3,500 in Pelham Bay Park, and 4,000 in City Island; but in Suffolk, great numbers, estimated at 25,000, staged in Great South Bay before moving elsewhere. Some high counts of Lesser Scaup included 400 in City Island, 743 at the World's Fair Marina in Queens, and in Suffolk, 450 in Eastport Lake. As for Canvasback, the Captree CBC, which over its history has an average count of 267 with a high of 2,422, scored 0, even below its recent 10-year average of 2. The highest count of this long-declining species was 141 at Eastport Lake.

Among freshwater *Anatidae*, single "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** were recorded in two Suffolk sites, and single Blue-winged Teal were found on the Montauk CBC (15 December) and on Robinson Pond, Patchogue, where a male resided throughout February. Male Eurasian Wigeons stayed for extended periods at Bush Terminal Piers Park and at Saltmarsh Nature Center in Kings County and at Avon Lake, Amityville and Makamah Preserve, Northport in Suffolk. There were additional records from Staten Island and Halsey Neck Pond in Southampton. Single Tundra Swans were seen at the Brooklyn piers and Jamaica Bay, and four flew over Shinnecock Inlet on 31 December, but probably because of an early freeze, the Hook Pond pair was elusive, reported sporadically there and nearby from 20 January to 10 February. Single-digit counts of Northern Pintail were relieved by a few high counts, such as 92 at Massapequa Preserve and 46 at Robinson Pond, Suffolk. American Wigeon was unfortunately noteworthy for its low numbers this season. CBC counts tell the story: only 23 on Montauk, 47 on Southern Nassau (a new minimum), 35 on Bronx-Westchester (lowest in more than 60 years), 202 on the Smithtown CBC (less than half the 10-year average), and missed entirely on Captree, for the first time.

The "usual rarities" among geese were recorded once again. Only a single Ross's Goose was reported, this at a stormwater basin in Old Westbury. The same habitat, but in Lake Success, hosted the only **Pink-footed Goose**. A single Greater White-fronted Goose was spotted at Roslyn Pond, and two roamed the Riverhead sod farms and Merritt's Pond from 11 January to 21 February. A Barnacle Goose was seen in Southold on 7 and 8 December, while another (or the same?) bird frequented the Riverhead sod fields from 6 December to 25 February. Cackling Goose may not be common, but it isn't rare: it was reported from at least four sites in Staten Island, in mid-January and mid-February from Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx, once in Brooklyn, five sites in Nassau County (including Roslyn Pond and Arthur Hendrickson Park, where seen in previous years), and 11 sites in Suffolk County, harboring at least 15 individuals.

Hoped-for winter visitors from the north include land birds such as finches. Reports of poor seed crops to our north, as well as huge southbound flocks of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches along the barrier beaches in November, raised hopes, but winter finches were disappointingly sparse. The most abundant were Pine Siskin and Purple Finch; both were recorded in all counties, with single-

digit counts in multiple sites, throughout the season. The maximum count of Pine Siskin was 40 at Robert Moses State Park on 4 December, at the tail end of the southbound passage. Common Redpolls were most uncommon; they were reported at only six sites, with a maximum of five at Avalon Gardens in Stony Brook. Red Crossbills were few and mostly early, seen at only five sites up until 6 January. Evening Grosbeaks were recorded in four counties, the high count being six, at both Montauk and a residence in Commack. One or two birds were seen at six other locations in Nassau and Suffolk but none delighted as many observers as one found in Riverside Park, Manhattan, on the 16 December CBC, that persisted beyond the season to 4 April.

As for other winter visitors, only a single **Northern Shrike** was seen (on 18 February, in Mc Allister Park, Port Jefferson, Suffolk). In contrast, it was a big year for Red-breasted Nuthatch; for example, the Montauk CBC set a new high with 131, exceeding the 115 counted in 2007. (This CBC recorded only two in 2017.). This species was abundant through the season in some coastal sites, with numbers fairly typical of irruption years. The Captree CBC on 15 December registered two Lapland Longspurs; otherwise, one or two birds were found at four traditional sites on Long Island. Northern diurnal raptors were represented only by single Northern Goshawks in the Bronx and Staten Island, and by one or two Rough-legged Hawks at one site in Brooklyn, two in Nassau, and three in Suffolk. The resident Bald Eagles in our Region were greatly augmented, with reports from at least 17 locations in Staten Island, 10 in Manhattan, four in Bronx, nine in Brooklyn, five in Queens, 17 in Nassau, and ca. 75 in Suffolk; it is hard to know how many individuals were seen, but the species is clearly far more abundant than a few decades ago.

Snowy Owls were seen at eight coastal sites in Suffolk; at least two frequented the vicinity of Jones Beach West End to Nickerson Beach in Nassau (where they were mercilessly stalked by photographers), and one was seen at Breezy Point in Queens. Possibly others were seen but not “eBirded” by birders intent on minimizing disturbance. I applaud their concern, and urge birders not to broadcast reports of this and other sensitive species until well after the birds have departed. Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from at least 38 locations in all counties except Richmond, and counts on some CBCs were high (e.g., nine on Smithtown and 13 on Montauk), owing to the skill and industry of enterprising owl-whisperers (see T. J. Sturm and B. Bomkamp, *Kingbird* 67(2):96-102, 2017). At least four Barred Owls in **Manhattan** (three of them in Central Park) and at least four in three Bronx sites were an unusually high number. Four Barn Owls were recorded in bay island nest boxes on the Southern Nassau CBC, one was flushed in Smith Point on the Central Suffolk CBC, and two continued in Gateway National Recreation Area. But *Asio* species continue to be disturbingly sparse: only four Long-eared Owls, in three counties, were reported, and only two Short-eared Owls, at the EPCAL grassland and in Napeague.

Among the rare or uncommon species not already mentioned, surely the most surprising was the **Magnificent Frigatebird** seen and photographed by Keith Cashman at about 3 p.m. on 22 December as it flew westward past the Ponquogue Bridge Coast Guard station—after having been recorded that morning on a Rhode Island CBC. Another major rarity was a **Varied Thrush** in Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island, that was seen (although sometimes only with patience) from 5 December to at least 31 January. A Brown Pelican was seen at Moriches Inlet on **4 January**, and Chris Gangemi found an American White Pelican on Mecox Bay, 12-16 January (et seq). Other uncommon species included a **Sandhill Crane** at Jones Beach West End on 9 December, a Common Gallinule at Blydenburgh Park, Suffolk, on **19-20 January**, a Clay-colored Sparrow in Quogue from **26 January to at least 11 February**, a Lark Sparrow in East Hampton **31 January-28 February**, a Dickcissel at Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area 27 February-3 March, single Red-headed Woodpeckers in Clove Lakes Park 19 January and Pelham Bay Park 19-23 December, and **Pileated Woodpeckers** (rare south of Westchester County) in Pelham Bay Park (long continuing after 13 December) and Nassau's Shu Swamp reserve (16 February).

A long list of warm-weather species lingered well into the winter. Relegating most details to the checklist, these "half-hardies" included Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, American Oystercatcher, a single Semipalmated Plover, two Marbled Godwits (only to 2 December), American Woodcock (many reports, mostly in December and February, the latter perhaps including returning migrants), Wilson's Snipe, a single Spotted Sandpiper (only six others in eBird since 1995), Greater Yellowlegs, one Willet (nine others since 1995), Common Tern (one; one other since 1995), American Bittern, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo (two in earliest December; five others since 1995), Tree Swallow, House Wren (11 sites, 10 reports in December), Marsh Wren (13 sites, 11 reports in December), Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush (one; one other since 1995), Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, White crowned Sparrow (unusually abundant), Vesper Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow (one report; eight others since 1995), Saltmarsh Sparrow (one report), Lincoln's Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird (a declining species, found at 34 sites, all counties), Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, and Boat-tailed Grackle. A Scarlet Tanager in the Bronx on **9 December** was the only one since 1995 (in eBird) and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in Suffolk was the third since then. Yellow-rumped Warblers were recorded at many locations, in all counties, but were unusually sparse on several CBCs, including Bronx-Westchester (only one bird), Captree, Montauk, and Southern Nassau (with a record-breaking low of 183). Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at 24 sites, in all counties, until at least 7 February. Less common or unusual warblers included Palm, Pine, Common Yellowthroat, Nashville, Ovenbird (12 others seen since 1995), and single Cape May (one

other), Yellow-throated (one other), Yellow (three others), and Tennessee (one other) Warblers.

Some of our species are notable for their changes in population. As noted earlier, Bald Eagle has increased greatly, and the 11 on Bronx-Westchester CBC set a new high. For this species and other diurnal raptors, it is very hard to know how the number of sites reported in eBird is related to the number of birds, but the well known increase of Peregrine Falcon is reflected by the dense sightings in Manhattan and some other NYC locations, in contrast to the “mere” 29 throughout Suffolk. In contrast, Northern Bobwhite was not reported, and may have suffered its predicted extirpation. The few (16) Red Knots on the Southern Nassau CBC might add to concern about this species’ plight, but a healthy 316 two years ago shows that any one count may provide little information. Dense reports of American Kestrel in Manhattan and a few places in Queens and Brooklyn contrast with only 11 reports throughout the much larger area of Suffolk County, with much more seemingly suitable habitat for this once abundant species. Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls plummeted in 1979 and have been fairly steady since; estimates of both species were somewhat below recent averages on some of this season’s CBCs. Ring-billed Gulls were below average on the Captree CBC and at their lowest in the last 10 years on the Southern Nassau CBC. The counts of Ring-billed (585), Herring (610), and Great Black-backed Gulls (72) on the Smithtown CBC were the lowest since 1979, 1956, and 1960, respectively (S. Duffy).

Climate warming has added a number of formerly more southern species to our fauna, an undoubtedly continuing process. Tufted Titmouse increased in the 1960s on the Bronx-Westchester CBC from a few singletons in the mid-1950s, and was recorded on the Montauk count only in 1979. This season, these counts registered 433 (a relatively high count) and 118 (about average), respectively. Numbers in Central Park were unusually high this winter. Northern Mockingbird became consistent on these counts in the mid-1960s, and stayed at about its recent average this season. Red-bellied Woodpecker was first recorded on the Bronx-Westchester CBC in 1969, and this year exceeded 200 for the sixth time, with 222. Boat-tailed Grackle, first recorded on the Southern Nassau CBC in January 1998, dropped to 12 on this year’s count from 243 the previous year, but estimates of up to 410 were reported from sites in Queens. Turkey Vulture has long been increasing in our Region, reported this season from at least 130 sites, and Black Vulture appears to be following suit, with a total of 13 individuals reported from six sites in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Riverhead area in Suffolk County. This bird bears watching. Conversely, we might ask if winter visitors will stay further north as climate warms. American Tree Sparrow might be a candidate. Numbers were very low on several CBCs, including Montauk, which has seen a steady decline since 1998, with only two recorded this season, and Bronx-Westchester, with a new minimum. Numbers on the Smithtown CBC have declined from triple digits several decades ago, to usually double digits recently, to zero this year, for the first time since 1938.

Introduced species should not be neglected, as they can have various impacts. Ring-necked Pheasant continues to decline in the Region; there were records (mostly of single birds) from four sites in Queens, one in Brooklyn, and 12 in Suffolk. Wild Turkeys were seen at six sites in the city boroughs and at least 70 sites in Suffolk, these stemming from releases in the early 1990s and again in 2004 (and in the 1950s on Gardiner's Island). Since 1966, the Montauk CBC has recorded over 100 several times; this season's count was 75, up from 30 in 2017. Monk Parakeets were reported from five counties, with greatest abundance in southern Nassau and southwestern Suffolk. The Montauk CBC's count of European Starling exceeded 1,200 the last four years, but this year dropped to 623, the lowest since 1960; it has dropped steadily for five years on the Bronx-Westchester count, but has shown similar fluctuations in the past. House Finches increased on the Montauk CBC from the first record in 1964 to a peak of 1,117 in 1994. That year, regional populations started to decline as a bacterial eye disease spread. This season's Montauk count recorded 101, down a bit from the last four years. Population changes recorded by the Bronx-Westchester CBC have been much the same, but this season's count of 72 was the lowest in 56 years.

Disease is also likely to be a significant factor in the population dynamics of some *Corvidae*, following the outbreak of West Nile virus (WNV) in 1999-2000, first in the New York City region and spreading widely from there. (Cf. "West Nile virus and wildlife" by P. P. Marra et al., 2004, *BioScience* 54 (5):393-402, and "West Nile virus emergence and large-scale declines of North American bird populations" by S. L. LaDeau et al., 2007, *Nature* 447 (7145):710-713.) American Crow was quickly identified as one of the most significantly affected species, at least based on the numbers of corpses reported. A paper in 2011 reported striking results of experimentally infecting American and Fish Crows with WNV: Fish Crows remained "clinically normal," but American Crows developed huge titers of virus, suffered inflammation and lesions in many organs and tissues, and rapidly died (N. M. Nemeth et al., 2011, *Veterinary Pathology* 48(6):1061-1074). Many observers have noted the decline in American Crows, compared to decades past, and some CBCs seem to bear this out. Among the CBCs I looked at, Montauk shows the least dramatic change, although numbers peaked in the late 1990s and show some decline since. Southern Nassau had 144, below the maximum (343) in the last 10 years—but compare that to the all-time high of 1,949 in 1993. Captree, similarly, had an all-time average of 535, a most-recent 10-year average of only 149, and a 2018 count of 113. The 35 recorded on the Smithtown CBC were the lowest since 1960, and a continuation of a steady decline since 2012, when the number plummeted to 251 from the 6,029 in 2011. The Bronx-Westchester CBCs show a clear presumed impact of WNV: from 1991 to 2001 averaged 2,525; from 2004 on, the average is about 390 (and only 129 this season). In contrast, Fish Crow has been much more abundant on the Bronx-Westchester CBC since 2010 than before, reaching a new high this year of 373 (almost thrice

the number of American Crows). The Southern Nassau count was 2,488 last year (a new high), and 1,237 this year (8.6 times more abundant than American Crow). On Long Island, at least one large winter crow roost that was dominated by Fish Crow, near Stony Brook, disappeared a few years ago, but Uniondale in Nassau hosts a roost of more than 1,000 Fish Crows. It seems very likely that the decline of American Crows has relieved competition and enabled growth of this WNV-resistant species' population. Perhaps the same explanation accounts for the amazing increase of Common Raven in our Region since about 2009. It was recorded from every county, ranging from three sites in Bronx to 88 in Suffolk.

For many years, I kept records of uncommon or otherwise notable species, but not of common, everyday birds. The drastic changes in crow populations (like those of common gulls years ago, when garbage dumps were capped) show that records of common species may turn out to be important in the long run.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; **APEC** – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **BPdP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CIC** – Coney I Creek/P, KING; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CroP** – Crocheron P, QUEE; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P (aka Drier Offerman P), KING; **DP** – Democrat Pt, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **DR** – Dune Rd, CCP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **et seq.** – observers who saw a bird after the discoverer (from *et sequentes*, “and persons following”); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING;

FKP – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadow-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GBY** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HHCG** – Hither Hills Campground, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **KCP** – Kissena Corridor P, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox In, SUFF; **Mon** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **NYIT** – New York Institute of Technology, NEWY; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PatchL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert; **RI** – Randalls I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Riis P, QUEE; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SCFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Education Center, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SMNC** – Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine P (KING); **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **TB** – Tiana Beach, near Shinn, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VMP** – Veterans Memorial Pier, KING.

Christmas Bird Counts: NYMK Montauk; NYNN Northern Nassau; NYSN Southern Nassau.

WATERFOWL - GREBES

Snow Goose: max 850 JBWR 13 Jan (DGo).
Ross's Goose: Old Westbury 8 Dec (SA).
Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 Riv 11 Jan (GB, A. Gilbert)-23 Feb (AnW); Roslyn Pd P 20 Jan (S. Schellenger).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Lake Success 17-20 Dec (D. Martin et al.).
Brant: max 2550 SMNC 15 Dec (m.ob.).
Barnacle Goose: Riv 6 Dec-28 Feb (ACo, G. DeLalla et seq.); Southold 7 Dec (J. Sep).
Cackling Goose: at least 28 indivs in Region: BRON (2 sites); RICH (3 sites); KING (FBF); NASS (5 sites); SUFF 11 sites, inc 5 indivs in Riv 10 Feb (PJJ).
Canada Goose: max 5000 Riv.
Mute Swan: max 150 Watermill 13 Jan (TH).
Tundra Swan: JBWR 3 Dec (J. Bock); 4 Shinn 31 Dec (BBo, TJS); Bush Terminal

Piers P KING 2 Feb (S. Blodgett, JMa); Georgica Pd, SUFF 10 Feb (AnW).
Blue-winged Teal: Mon CBC 15 Dec; Robinson Pd, West Patchogue 1-23 Feb (MMcB).
Northern Shoveler: max 280 PP 15 Dec (D. Smith).
Gadwall: max 225 Swan L, E. Patchogue 10 Jan (KFeu).
Eurasian Wigeon: singletons at Avon L, Amityville 11 Dec-3 Feb (EMU et seq.); Bush Terminal Piers, KING 23 Jan-24 Feb (ABk); Makamah Pres, SUFF 3 Feb (R. Young et seq.); Halsey Neck Pd, SUFF 6 Feb (D. Daniels); MPB 8 Feb cont. (m.ob.).
American Wigeon: max 117, PatchL 1 Jan (PPal).
Mallard: max 859 Marratooka L 27 Jan (J. Sep).
American Black Duck: max 2356 JFKMWS 29 Dec (S. Camillieri).

Northern Pintail: max 92 Mass 12 Dec (J. Landesberg).

Green-winged Teal: “Eurasian”: Setauket Mill Pd 27 Dec (CBC), SC 23-29 Jan (SMu).

Canvasback: RICH: 3 sites; BRON: 2 sites (max count = 10); KING: 3 sites; QUEE: 5 sites (max count = 92); NASS: 1 site; SUFF: 25 sites (max counts = 62, 98, 141, 70); *intro*.

Redhead: KING: 4 sites; QUEE: 7 sites (max counts 94 BPdP 29 Jan (ABk); 50 JBWR 29 Dec (J. O’Sullivan); NASS: 8 sites; SUFF: 20 sites, max counts 85 Avon L, Amityville 4 Jan (EMu), 45 PatchL 19 Jan (MN).

Ring-necked Duck: max 150 Southaven CP 4 Feb (KFeu).

Greater Scaup: max counts BRON: 3500 PBP 20 Dec (RAR), 400 City Island 23 Dec (A. Burke; perhaps the same flock); SUFF: **25,000** HSP 30 Dec (JGI).

Lesser Scaup: max counts BRON: 400 City Island 23 Dec (A. Burke); QUEE: 743 World’s Fair Marina 2 Jan (SP); SUFF: 300 PatchL 29 Jan (BBel), 1000 Eastport Pd 24 Feb (P.Moynahan, N. Houlihan).

King Eider: SUFF: Orient Point ferry 15 Dec (D. Provencher), 29 Dec (D. Alpeter); Southold Town Beach 29 Dec (J. Sep), f Shinn 31 Dec (BBo, TJS), male Shinn 12 Jan (PMor).

Common Eider: concentrations in SUFF at Mon: 746 15 Dec CBC; max counts 1,999 23 Jan (E. Zawatski); 5000 10 Feb (SSM, PJJ); and Shinn/Ponquogue Bridge max count 5000 31 Dec (GB, TWB, PJJ, SSM); *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: most at traditional sites; Jones In (JBWE to PL) 20 Dec-26 Feb, max 5 on 10 Feb (SP); SUFF: Mon: 4 15 Dec CBC, 4 29 Dec (P. Cohen); Shinn: 14 Dec-19 Jan (m.ob.), 3 26 Dec (KFeu); Moriches In 1 Feb, (C. Kessler); SPCP 2 Feb (KCa); Orient Pt CP: 2 5 Feb (P. Baker), 2 16 Feb (P. and M. Wolter); RMSP 18 Feb (KFeu).

Surf Scoter: max 1200 MP 23 Jan (E. Zawatski); *intro*.

White-winged Scoter: max 1905 Gardiner’s I 15 Dec (AnW).

Black Scoter: max 30,000 FDR Boardwalk and Beach, Staten Island 16 Feb (J. Ramirez-Garofalo).

Long-tailed Duck: max 1200 Sagamore Yacht Club, Oyster Bay 22 Feb (J. Cantor et al.).

Bufflehead: max 1000 SPCP 5 Feb (CLI Birding).

Common Goldeneye: max 265 Caumsett SP 22 Feb (KFeu, SF).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: 1 Mon (Camp Hero) 15 Dec (GB, TWB, ABk); singles PBP 30 Dec-9 Jan (RAR et al.); 2 PBP 1 Jan (RBA); 1 CMB 3 Jan-5 Feb (TJS et seq.); Sands Pt, NASS 13 Jan (G. Quinn).

Hooded Merganser: max 152 Baldwin NYSN 29 Dec (MMcB).

Common Merganser: max 164 L. Ronkonkoma 17 Feb (K. Kleinpeter).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 330 DR 9 Dec (KFeu).

Ruddy Duck: 1080 Eastport L 27 Dec (Vincent C).

Ring-necked Pheasant: KING: Fountain Ave landfill 15 Dec (JMa); FBF 27 Jan (J. Velozzi); QUEE: Far Rockaway 16 Dec (R. Dieterich), KP 5 Feb (J. O’Sullivan), Rulers Bar Hassock 7 Feb (J. Stiller); SUFF 13 sites, max 11 near hunt club, Eastport, perhaps locally released (S. Stewart and R. Valente 5 Jan).

Wild Turkey: RICH: 4 sites, max count 80 (L. Ewing 3 Jan); SUFF: at least 65 sites; *intro*.

Horned Grebe: max 57 Great Neck Estates P 26 Jan (SP).

Red-necked Grebe: BRON: 4 reports PBP; NEWY: 1 report; KING: 5 sites, 6 Dec-27 Feb; NASS: 4 sites; SUFF: 14 sites, 3 of them with 2 indivs, 2 with 3.

RAILS-LARIDS

Clapper Rail: RICH: Seaside Wildlife Nature P 18 Feb (ACi); sole report.

Virginia Rail: 2 Mon 15 Dec (EMu); Shu Swamp, NASS 15 Dec (E. Becher), 28 Feb (B. Garriel); West Sayville 16 Dec (K. Thompson); Cedar Point CP 29 Dec (V. Bustamante, K. Rubinstein, B. Rubinstein); 2 Arshamomaque Pres. 17 Jan, 2 Feb (J. Sep); Makamah Pres. 26 Jan (JGI).

Common Gallinule: Blydenburgh P, SUFF 26-27 Jan (PDom et seq.).

American Coot: max 80 PatchL 18 Jan (KFeu, SF).

Sandhill Crane: JBWE 9 Dec (RBA).

American Oystercatcher: RICH: 2 Huguenot Beach 15 Feb. (M. Shanley); KING: FBF 21 Jan (K. O’Hearn); NASS: 1-7 indivs. JBWE 1 Dec-11 Jan, also 1 17 Feb, 2 Atlantic Beach 26 Feb (D. Lichten, PL 16 Feb (PJJ, SSM); SUFF: 5 Shinn 9 Dec (E. Schwinn, M. Higgiston), 31 Dec (AP), Nap 8 Dec (LN, K. Thompson).

Semipalmated Plover: PBP 7 Dec (M. Janssen).

Killdeer: max 12 Mill Creek RICH 1 Jan (ACi).

Marbled Godwit: 2 JBWE 2 Dec (TH).

Ruddy Turnstone: reports from 1 site in BRON, 1 in KING, 4 in NASS (max count 22 Long Beach P 14 Jan, EMu), 7 in SUFF (max counts 69 NYNN 15 Dec, 105 Gardiner’s I NYMK 15 Dec, AnW).

Red Knot: BPt 31 Dec (PPau); 7 Shinn 3 Jan (CFi); 2 NB 12 Jan (L. Ewing); RMSP 15 Jan (KFeu); 6 PL 16 Feb (PJJ, SSM); JBWE 23 Feb (J. Schickenrieder).

Sanderling: max 800 NB 2 Jan (KFeu).

Dunlin: max 2630 JBWE 29 Dec (TH, BFo).

Purple Sandpiper: 40 JBWE 29 Dec (BFo).

Wilson’s Snipe: RICH: 4 reports 2 Dec (4 indivs)-31 Jan; BRON: PBP 23 Dec; KING: 26 Dec; QUEE: 1 Dec; NASS: singles 15 Dec, 9 Jan; SUFF: 5 sites incl Swan R Pres, Patchogue (1-3 indivs 9 Jan-19 Feb), Georgica Cove (2-4 indivs 19 Jan-10 Feb).

Spotted Sandpiper: West Meadow Beach Hist. District, Stony Brook 10 Dec-24 Feb (PDom et seq.).

Willet: “Western”, Long Beach P 9-13 Jan (J. Gaglione et al.; identified to ssp. by MMcB).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1-3 indivs in 1 site in BRON 5 Dec; 1 site in KING 6 Dec-1 Feb; 3 in QUEE 15 Dec-17 Jan; 6 in NASS 1 Dec-4 Feb, where max count 6 Norman J Levy P 15 Jan (BBel); 4 in SUFF 6 Dec-19 Feb (DR, multiple reports).

Dovekie: QUEE: BPt 13 Jan (D. Paul, PPau); SUFF: Shinn 6 Jan (SSi), MP 7 Jan (J. DiCostanzo), 2 MP 26 Jan (AnW).

Common Murre: Mon (Camp Hero) 23 Dec (AnW); 3 Shinn 6-19 Jan (ph. by RAr, SMu, A. Regler); JBSP Field 6 8 Feb (SA, MN); moribund ind RMSP 11 Feb (C. Formanski, ph.), *intro*.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: Shinn 30 Dec (J & D Bohrer)-to 30 Jan (m.ob); JBWE 17 Jan (B. Anderson), 19 Jan (2 KFeu, SF); Mon 17 Jan (KFeu, SF); GBY to VMP 18 Jan (DGo et al.); PL 19 Jan (B. Filemyr).

Razorbill: Major invasion, single estimates to **9,000-10,000**; *intro*.

Black Guillemot: Mon 9 Dec (ACo); Shinn 23 Dec (A. Regler).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Mon 15 Dec-10 Feb, max counts 91 12 Jan (MMcB), 25 16 Jan (M. Scheibel), 12 Ditch Plains 12 Jan (MMcB); Port Jefferson harbor 16 Dec (N. Tepper); Shinn 24 Dec-13 Jan, max count 6 31 Dec (GB, TWB); 2 SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB); RMSP 5 Jan (SSM, PJJ); JBWE 15 Jan (J. Girgente).

Bonaparte’s Gull: 2 sites RICH; 2 KING (max count 31 CIC 20 Jan (SSi, PPau); NASS: JBWE reports of 2-7 indivs 20 Dec-19 Jan, max 60 15 Jan (J. Girgente), PL 23 Dec-19 Jan, max 20 19 Jan (B. Filemyr et al.); SUFF: ca. 12 sites, high counts 246 SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB), 500 3 Jan (AP); 160 TB (L. Betti et al.), 400 Shinn 13 Jan (ACo), 187 Camp Hero 16 Feb (M. & P. Wolter).

Black-headed Gull: JBWE 6 Dec (D. Martin)-13 Jan.; singles at KING: CIC 30 Dec, 15 Jan (M. Yuan et al.), Sheephead Bay 10 Jan-21 Feb (m.ob.), VMP 16-17 Feb (PPau et al.); Setauket 3-27 Jan (K. Kleinpeter et seq.); Lake Montauk 10-14 Feb (BBo et al.).

Little Gull: Mon 10-16 Feb (PA et al.).

Laughing Gull: 4 reports 1 Dec: RICH (ACi), NEWY (A. Farnsworth), RMSP (SSM), and 11 SPCP to Old Inlet (MLL); JBWE 8 Dec (J. Gaglione); Port Jefferson 16 Dec (N. Tepper).

MEW GULL: ad Bush Terminal Piers P 3 Jan (ABk, ph).

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 Brooklyn Bridge P 10 Feb (SSi, DGo).

Herring Gull: max 2400 Staten I 15 Dec (S. Wollney).

Iceland Gull: SUFF: 7 sites 1 Dec-28 Feb, incl lasting indivs at CMB 23 Dec-28 Feb, Oldfield Pt 7 Dec-15 Feb; KING: 7 sites 15 Dec-23 Feb, incl lasting indivs at GBy 21 Jan-23 Feb; QUEE: 16 Dec, also BPt 15 Dec-13 Jan; NEWY: 4 sites 22 Dec-13 Feb; NASS: 4 sites 29 Dec-15 Feb; RICH: 3 sites 31 Jan-11 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: RICH: 4 sites; NEWY: 2 sites incl CP; KING: 3 sites; QUEE: 2 sites; NASS: 1 JBWE, 1 JBSP; SUFF: 13 sites 1 Dec-25 Feb, max count 5 at DP 16 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: SUFF: DR 4 Dec-6 Jan (m.ob.), Shinn 11 Jan flyby (SA, MN), BBYC 15 Jan (MMcB)-26 Feb (2, 24 Feb, LN et al.); NASS: JBWE 2 Jan (D. Martin); RICH: GKP 16 Jan (T. Gabe), Joline Ave Beach 19 Jan (ACi).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 300 Shinn 1 Dec (PA).

Common Tern: Lake Montauk 13 Dec (KFeu, SF).

Black Skimmer: Bush Terminal Piers P 2 Jan (RBA).

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 1430 Lake Montauk In 15 Dec (BBo, MMcB).

PACIFIC LOON: Sagamore Yacht Club, Oyster Bay 3-28 Feb, m.ob. (ph J. Wilson-Pines, SSM, PJJ); JBWE 16 Feb (PJJ, SSM, ph).

Common Loon: max 124 Lake Montauk In 15 Dec (BBo, MMcB).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Shinn CG Station 22 Dec (KCa, ph); *intro*.

Great Cormorant: max 55 BrP 13 Jan (DGo, H. Wolf).

American White Pelican: MB 12-16 Feb (C. Gangemi et seq.).

Brown Pelican: Moriches In 4 Jan (RBA).

American Bittern: JFKMWS 9 Dec (C. Cammarota); Cedar Beach 16 Dec (KFeu, SF); JBSP 26 Dec (E. Becher); DR 26 Dec-28 Jan (DR et seq.); SPCP 29 Dec (KCa); Orient 29 Dec, 17 Feb (P. Polshak); CLP 18 Jan-9 Feb (J. Kepler et seq.).

Great Egret: QUEE: 1-2 FMCP 1 Dec-12 Jan, World's Fair Marina 9-16 Dec, Powell's Cove P 16 Dec; BRON: 1-2 PBP 2 Dec-9 Jan; NASS: 15 indivs at 7 sites, to 17 Feb, but few past mid-Jan; SUFF: singles at 9 sites, to 17 Feb but few past mid-Jan.

Cattle Egret: Hither Hills 23 Dec (AnW).

Green Heron: Timber Point Golf Course 2 Dec (LN); Betts Creek In KING 12 Dec (JMa).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: NASS: 7 sites 1 Dec-26 Feb, max 30 Cammans Pd P 12 Jan; QUEE: 6 sites, 1 Dec-23 Jan, max count 9 FMCP; SUFF: 12 sites 2 Dec-24 Feb, max 12 Ketcham's Creek 11 Jan; NEWY: 2 sites, 3 Dec-12 Jan; KING: 5 sites, 7 Dec-28 Feb; BRON: 3 sites, 10 Dec-23 Jan.

Black Vulture: RICH: 7 sites, 1-3 indivs each; NEWY: 3 CP 1 Dec (G. Henry); SUFF: North Fork Pres 4 Jan (SSM), 1-2 Riv and environs 6-25 Feb (m.ob.), 2 Riv 10 Feb (SA, MN); KING: 2 GwC 10 Feb (K. Topping).

Turkey Vulture: max 31 Riverhead Supreme Court 8 Jan (PPal).

Osprey: SUFF: Argyle L 3 Dec (EMu), Blydenburgh CP 6 Dec (R. Gostic).

Northern Goshawk: CR 6 Dec (ACi); NYBG 23 Dec (ABk).

Bald Eagle: max 10 Wave Hill, BRON 10 Feb (The Wildlab).

Rough-legged Hawk: SUFF: 2 Gardiner's I 15 Dec NYMK (AnW), Jessup's Neck SUFF 29 Dec (MLL), EPCAL 22 Jan (KFeu, SF); KING: Canarsie Beach P 19 Jan (AnW); NASS: Loop Pkwy 16 Feb (PJJ, SSM).

Barn Owl: 1-2 Gateway National Recreation Area 26 Jan-27 Feb; SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB), 4 NYSN CBC 29 Dec.

Snowy Owl: KING: FBF 20 Dec (G. Keri); QUEE: BrP 15 Dec-26 Jan (m.ob.), FT 1 Jan (CFi); NASS: 1-2 NB 29 Dec-12 Jan, JBWE 1 Dec-17 Feb; SUFF: 8 coastal sites, RMSP (1, 6 Jan, MN) east to L. Montauk In 15 Dec (BBo, MMcB); repeated sightings SPCP 23 Dec-6 Jan, 1-2 indivs DR 8 Dec-26 Feb; undetermined number of indivs at sites with repeated sightings.

Barred Owl: BZ 1 Dec-8 Feb, 2 on 26 Dec (T. Olson); 4, possibly 5 CP, throughout park, 1 Dec-18 Jan; 3 PBP 5 Dec-24 Feb (m.ob.); Fort Tryon P 4 Jan-3 Feb, IHP 17 Jan (D. Hannay et al.).

Long-eared Owl: FPF 2 Dec (JMa); Fort Tryon P 7 Dec (F. Pimentel et al.); RMSP 12 Dec (W. Mayes); Bridgehampton 23 Dec (ACo); JFKMWS 29 Dec (S. Camillieri, NYSN CBC).

Short-eared Owl: Nap 14 Dec (GB, TWB); EPCAL 19 Jan-9 Feb (PA, E. Zawatski).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: BRON: singletons at PBP, BZ; NEWY: 1-2 CP North End 20 Dec-26 Jan, (U. Mitra et al.), 1-3 or 4 CP Ramble 1 Dec-7 Feb (m.ob.); KING: PP 13 Jan-6 Feb (R. Payne et al.), 2 FBF 27 Jan (J. Velozzi); QUEE: 2 RP 15 Dec (RAR), FT 23 Dec (CFi), 22 Feb (L. Kahle), Charles

Memorial P 16 Dec (R. Serio), 1-2 FP 1-27 Jan (CFi et al.); NASS 9 sites 12 Dec-23 Feb; SUFF 27 sites, max counts 6 Oldfield 17 Dec (TJS), 5 MP 15 Dec (TJS, TH), 4 Wicks Farm Pres 26 Jan (TH).

Red-headed Woodpecker: PBP 19-23 Dec (J. Rothman et al.); CLP 19 Jan (CB et al.).

Northern Flicker: max 26 FBF 15 Dec (A. Burke, HJ Kim, J. Drucker).

Pileated Woodpecker: PBP 5 Dec-18 Feb (P. Horan et al.); CR 10 and 20 Feb (ACi); Shu Swamp Nature Pres, NASS 10 Feb (PPal et al.).

American Kestrel: numerous reports from all counties; *intro*.

Merlin: numerous reports from all counties.

Peregrine Falcon: numerous reports from all counties; *intro*.

Monk Parakeet: BRON: 8 BZ, 2 PBP, 21 Fort Schuyler; KING: 10 5th Ave, 15 GwC; QUEE: 9 121 St., 13 Hawtree Creek; NASS: 18 sites, including 105 Valley Stream, 68 Baldwin (NYSN CBC), 18 Norman Levy P; SUFF: 18 Ketcham's Creek, 27 Copiague, 35 Irmisch P, 9 sites in Lindenhurst-Amityville, Oldfield Pt 8 Dec (PDom, unusual site).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: single indivs in RICH: 2 sites, 1 Jan, 10 Jan; BRON: BZ 1 Dec-16 Jan (1-3 indivs); NEWY: 2 sites, 15 Dec-8 Jan; KING: 4 sites, 3 Dec-27 Jan; QUEE: 2 sites, 1 Dec-21 Jan; NASS: 3 sites, 15 Dec-16 Feb (TH); SUFF: \geq 5 sites, to 21 Feb (PDom).

Northern Shrike: McAllister P, SUFF 18 Feb (TJS, J. Ortiz et seq.).

Blue-headed Vireo: Mineola (NASS) 2 Dec (BFo); PP 21 Jan (K. O'Hearn, M. Brawer).

Blue Jay: max 100 CP 15 Dec (P. Dorosh), 5 Jan (J. Ward).

American Crow: max 450 108 St., NEWY 15 Dec (PPau, M. Yuan, C. Eliot); *intro*.

Fish Crow: max 900 Hempstead Plains Pres 29 Dec (C. Eliot); *intro*.

Common Raven: approx number of reported sites: RICH 20, NEWY 14, BRON 8, KING 16, QUEE 16, NASS 30, SUFF 85; max count 5 NYBG 8 Dec (D. Mullins, T. Zahner); *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 102 JBWE 29 Dec (m.ob.).

Tree Swallow: RICH: GKP, 2 Fort Wadsworth (to 2 Jan); KING: 20 Coney I 4 Dec, 10 Manhattan Beach (to 13 Jan), 1-7 MPB (to 15 Dec), 1-11 PlumbB (to 15 Dec), FBF; QUEE: 3 Rockaway 11 Dec, 2 Edgemere 1 Dec, BrP 8 Dec-6 Feb, high counts 76 15 Dec, 45 13 Jan, 25 16 Jan, last 8 16 Feb; NASS: 6 sites incl 35 PL 1 Jan, JBWE many reports incl 115 8 Dec, 30 15 Dec, then single digit reports, last 1 31 Dec; SUFF: 9 sites incl Massapequa 12 Jan, 11 SC 17 Dec, 6 Ocean Parkway 27 Dec, 8 Overlook Beach 16 Dec and 1 on 2 Jan, 3 RMSP 31 Dec, 5 Gardiner's I 15 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 57, Mon 15 Dec NYMK (MMcB).

Tufted Titmouse: unusually abundant in CP; higher counts incl. 36 North End 19 Dec (V. Castanho); 70 Ramble 4 Feb (D. Chernack, "precise count"), 60 Ramble 13 Feb (AMNH bird group).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 23 Nap 15 Dec (M. Scheibel); *intro*.

House Wren: BZ 26 Dec (T. Olson); NYIT 15 Dec (L. DiNapoli); Marcus Garvey P, NEWY 11 Dec (T. Collins); NASS: Halfmoon Bay 15 Dec (L. DiNapoli), Roslyn Pd 15 Dec (S. Schellenger, J. Gaglione), Mass 26 Dec (J. Kepler); SUFF: Wading River 29 Dec (J. Lee), Shelter I 29 Dec (S. Stewart, R. Valente), Mecox Road 13 Jan (DF, PDom), Hidden Ponds Pres 22 Dec (ACo).

Marsh Wren: RICH: 3 River Rd 15 Dec (ACi); KING: 2 MPB, to 15 Dec (H.

Lopes et al.); QUEE: JBWR 19 Dec (C. Frome et al.), APEC 19 Jan (I. Resnick, N. Tognan, L. Tognan); NASS: Crescent Beach 16 Dec (PPal), Pearsall's Hammock 29 Dec (SP); SUFF: Mott Lane 2 Jan (M. Scheibel), Terrell River CP 27 Dec (SMu), Arshamomaque Pres 21-24 Feb (J. Sep et seq.), Sagg Main 19 Jan (AnW), Georgica Cove 10 Feb (AnW), 4 Mon 15 Dec (TJS, TH, T. Dunn).

Carolina Wren: max 35 Huntington 26 Jan (BFo, BBo).

Eastern Bluebird: NEWY: CP 2 Jan (F. Pimentel); BRON: 2 local sites 16 Feb (D. Powers); KING: 5 sites, max count 10 FBF 1 Dec (T. Preston); QUEE: APP 19 Dec (J. Landesberg); NASS: Shu Swamp Pres 6 11 Feb (MN), Caumsett SP latest 4 Feb (KFeu, SF); SUFF: 9 sites, max count 16 SMSP 27 Dec (BBo), latest 9 EPCAL 26 Feb (J. Milton).

Hermit Thrush: max 14 Mon 15 Dec NYMK (GB).

Wood Thrush: Quogue Wildlife Refuge 13-19 Jan (PA et seq.).

VARIED THRUSH: CLP 5 Dec (CB)-19 Jan (m.ob.).

Brown Thrasher: NEWY: CP 5 Dec-16 Feb, 45 St. park 4 Dec-25 Feb, Peter Detmold P 8 Jan; BRON: PBP 7 Dec, 24 Feb; NASS: 5 sites, 3 Dec-22 Feb; SUFF: 15 sites 2 Dec-27 Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: 1 h Stillwell Woods P 1 Dec (TH).

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 CP 5 Dec (T. Winston, m.ob.).

American Pipit: max 26 Edgemere Landfill, QUEE 16 Dec (CFi); mostly 1 or 2 indivs at 1 site in RICH, 3 in KING, 2 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 9 in SUFF.

Evening Grosbeak: NEWY: Riverside P 16 Dec thru (CBC, K. Fung), CP 12 Dec (T. Zahner et al.); QUEE: Bpt area 15 Dec (P. Wilson-Camhi et al.), JBWR 2 Dec (J. Bock); NASS: 2 Baxter Estates 2 Dec (P. Maslow), 2 Bayville 2 Dec (B. Garriel), Stillwell Woods P 1 Dec (TH), 1 HLSP 3 Dec (BBel), JBWE 4 Dec (B. Anderson); SUFF: E. Northport 2 Dec (K.

SanFanandre), Mount Sinai 3 Dec (R. Adamski), 6 Mon 1 Dec (P. Rosen).

House Finch: max 80 JBWR 2 Jan (N. Tognan).

Purple Finch: mostly single-digit numbers at 8 sites in RICH, 5 in NEWY, 3 in BRON, 9 in KING, 5 in QUEE, 15 in NASS, 24 in SUFF; max 20 St. John's Pd Pres, SUFF 19 Jan (C. Cammarota, R. Taylor).

Common Redpoll: NEWY: Randall's I P 20 Jan (A. & C. Davidson-Onsgard); QUEE: 3 Breezy Pt area 15 Dec (SSi et al., CBC); SUFF: 2 SMSP 1 Dec (SSM, P.JL), ≤5 Avalon Gardens, Stony Brook 22-25 Jan (PDom et seq.), SPCP 27 Dec (C. McVoy, MMcB), Mon 15 Dec (MMcB).

Red Crossbill: KING: FBF 8 Dec (T. Preston); NASS: 4 JBWE 6 Jan (TH, PPal); SUFF: 4 RMSP 31 Dec (D. LaMagna), 6 Captree CBC East territory 16 Dec (K. Thompson et al.), 11 Cedar Beach (Brookhaven) 1 Dec (AP).

Pine Siskin: max 40 RMSP 4 Dec (DF); mostly single-digit counts in RICH (6 sites), NEWY (CP), BRON (3 sites), KING (5 sites, max count 19, PP 1 Dec), QUEE (JBWR), NASS (10 sites, max count 7 Shu Swamp 8 Dec), SUFF (30 sites, latest 28 Feb).

American Goldfinch: max 120 RMSP 1 Dec (AP, J. Ward, M. Harbison), also 4 Dec (DF).

Lapland Longspur: SPCP 11-12 Dec (KCa, B. Bull); JBWE 15 Dec (ACo); Captree CBC East territory 16 Dec (LN et al.); DP 16 Dec Captree CBC (P.JL); RMSP 27 Dec (SSM); NB 29 Dec (ABk)-8 Jan; RMSP 13 Jan (DF).

Snow Bunting: RICH: GKP 3 Dec-1 Jan, max count 17 on 9 Dec (CB); KING: 6 sites, max count 35 Bpt 25 Dec (B. Klein, D. Gustafson); QUEE: 2 sites; NASS: 7 sites, all coastal, 1 Dec-26 Feb, max count 100 JBWE 11 Dec (J. Landesberg); SUFF: ca. 23 sites 1 Dec-26 Feb, mostly coastal; max count 180 DP 16 Dec Captree CBC (P.JL, SSM).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Chipping Sparrow: RICH: 4 sites, latest 2 GKP 16 Jan (T. Gabe); NEWY: 3 sites, latest CP 28 Feb (m.ob.); BRON: 2 sites, max 7 NYBG 23 Dec (ABk); KING: 5 sites, max 5 GwC 28 Feb (T. Coughlan); QUEE: 8 sites, max 9 KP 3 Dec (C. Castillo); latest FP 17 Feb (C. Castillo); NASS: 9 sites, max 10 Manhasset 1 Jan (SP); latest 1 HLSP 24 Feb (B. Berlingeri); SUFF: 10 sites; max 6 Quail Hill, Amagansett 23 Dec (J. Giunta), latest Nissequoque R SP 27 Feb (K. Coyle).

Clay-colored Sparrow: East End Community Organic Farm, Easthampton 5 Dec (DR); Quogue 27 Jan (m.ob.) to at least 11 Feb, last report (DR).

Vesper Sparrow: Stillwell Woods P 1 Dec (BFo, SP); APP 4 Dec (J. Keane); Caumsett SP 10 Dec (SF); 4-5 SCFED 25 Jan-16 Feb (MMcB et seq.).

Lark Sparrow: TNC Center for Conservation, SUFF 31 Jan-28 Feb (DR et al.).

American Tree Sparrow: max 30 Hulse Landing Rd, SUFF 7 Feb (K. Coyle).

Seaside Sparrow: PlumbB 15 Dec (m.ob.).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: Gardiner P, SUFF 11 Dec (KFeu, SF).

Lincoln's Sparrow: NEWY: E 52 St 1 Dec (A. Farnsworth), IHP 2 Dec (N. O'Reilly), CP 3 Dec (T. Zahner), RI 9 Dec (D. Barrett); KP 8 Dec (P. Reisfeld); 1 SC 23 Feb (PMor).

White-throated Sparrow: max 230 CP 16 Dec (J. Spindel).

White-crowned Sparrow: ca. 48 sites, all counties; max 62 East End Community Organic Farm, East Hampton 10 Feb (AnW).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 100 GwC 4 Dec (K. Toomey).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Mon 15 Dec (JGI, NYMK); HHCG 27 Dec (KFeu,

SF), 17 Jan (SF); DR week of 1-7 Jan (RBA); CLP 14-21 Jan (T. Gabe et seq.).

Eastern Meadowlark: FKP 2 Dec (J. Pettibone, M. Herman); QUEE: McGuinness Blvd 17 Feb (A. Novak), 4 Edgemere Landfill 1 Dec, 4 Dec (CFi), 4 Far Rockaway 16 Dec (R. Dieterich); SUFF: Caumsett SP 4 Dec (KFeu, SF), 6 Green Pt 24 Feb (R. Ogden), Mott Lane Brookhaven 2 Jan (M. Scheibel), 1-2 SCFED 7-17 Feb (MMcB et seq.), max 22 EPCAL 26 Feb (J. Milton), 3-5 Wainscott Pd 14-23 Feb (KFeu, SF, C. Gangemi), 2 Further Lane, East Hampton 1 Dec (L. Tognan).

Baltimore Oriole: RICH: Trap House 9 Dec-17 Jan (M. Shanley), local 12 Dec (M. Shikhman); NEWY: Fort Tryon P 1 Jan, 21 Jan (T. Gray), Lenox Ave 6 Dec (T. Collins); BRON: Wave Hill 9 Dec (P. Keim); SUFF: West Babylon feeder 30 Dec (LN ph, for home owner), West Islip 23 Dec (EMu).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 Reeves Ave Buffalo Farm, SUFF 25 Feb (N. Houlihan, P. Moynahan).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 SCFED 28 Jan (SK, KFeu).

Rusty Blackbird: 1 site in RICH, 2 in NEWY, 4 in BRON (high counts 42 NYBG 23 Dec (ABk); 40 VCP 3 Jan (anon), 1 in KING, 4 in QUEE (max 21 KP 23 Dec (J. O'Sullivan), 5 in NASS, max 28 Shu Swamp 24 Feb (TH), 17 in SUFF, max 35 Hidden Pond P 6 Jan (D. LaMagna).

Common Grackle: max 2000 Wertheim NWR 4 Jan (SSM); 2000 Southaven CP, SUFF 28 Jan (SF, KFeu).

Boat-tailed Grackle: RICH: 9 sites, max 58 Tysens Ln 3 Jan (ACi); QUEE: 4 sites, max 410 JBWR 3 Dec (J. Bock); NASS 4 sites (single-digit counts); SUFF: 3 sites Gilgo to RMSP, max 25 23 Dec (PPal), 3 Ponquogue Bridge 23 Feb (D. Mullins).

Ovenbird: Union Sq, NEWY 13 Dec-15 Jan (A. Deutsch et seq.); Carl Schurz P NEWY 28 Dec (E. Gaillard); BZ 15-17 Jan (T. Olson); CP 23 Jan (E. Gaillard).

Tennessee Warbler: West Meadows Wetlands Reserve, SUFF 9-23 Dec (PDom et seq.).

Orange-crowned Warbler: RICH: 7 sites, latest GKP 23 Jan (L. Ewing); NEWY: E. 52 St 1 Dec (A. Farnsworth), Morningside P 25 Dec (P. Ribolow)-9 Jan; KING: 4 sites, latest CVP 1-23 Jan (AxW); QUEE: 5 sites, latest CroP 1 Feb (J. Keane); NASS: 5 sites, latest West Babylon 7 Feb (J. Christopher); SUFF: 6 sites, latest 18 PNS 18 Jan (DR).

Nashville Warbler: SMNC 6 Dec (JMa); KCP 8 Dec (P. Reisfeld), 3 Jan (J. Keane); Bushwick In 19 Dec (A. Duvall); JBWE 29 Dec (BBo, TJS, PMor).

Common Yellowthroat: NEWY: Battery P 14 Dec (CB), Union Square P 4 Dec (A. Deutsch)-26 Feb, BRY 8 Dec (D. Gustafson)-16 Dec; HSP 1 Dec (HJ Kim, B. Washburn); Stillwell Woods P, NASS 2 Dec (PPal); Oldfield, SUFF 9 Dec (M. Schrimpf), Mon 15 Dec (PJL, SSM); Forge R, SUFF 27 Dec (MLL).

Cape May Warbler: Union Square P, NEWY 17 Dec (R. Bate)-9 Jan (m.ob.).

Yellow Warbler: 1 wastewater treatment plant, KING 15 Dec (JMa, ph).

Palm Warbler: RICH: 15 Dec (S. Wollney); NEWY: IHP 2 Dec (N. O'Reilly), Randall's I 7 Dec (J. Keane); KING: GwC 24 Dec (R. Manian), 27 Dec (J. Keane); SMNC 4 Dec (J. Salas, R. Bourque)-10 Jan; QUEE: 2 FMCP 16 Dec (C. Castillo)-7 Jan, BPdP 1 Dec (CFi); NASS: HLSP 12 Jan (BBel), JBSP 1 Dec (E. Becher), 4 Dec (B. Anderson); SUFF: Cedar Beach, Babylon 16 Dec (SF, KFeu), RMSP 4 Dec (SSM), CCP 4 Dec (G. DeLalla et al.).

Pine Warbler: NASS: Syosset 15 Feb (A. Zerling); SUFF: CRSP 30 Dec (K. Hart), Ronkonkoma 23 Feb (A. Regler, ph.), 2 Southaven CP 19 Jan (SMu, ph), 21 Feb (P. Baker, ph), East Hampton Oaks 7 Dec-3 Jan (L. Mandell, ph).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 95 JBWE 10 Feb (SP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Baldwin, NASS feeder 29 Dec NYSN, cont from earlier in month (MMcB, PjL, SSM).

Prairie Warbler: PBP 19 Dec (J. Rothman, J. McManus, ph).

Scarlet Tanager: ad male Wave Hill, BRON 9 Dec (P. Keim and group).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: imm male Mastic, SUFF feeder (M. Michaelis, ph).

Dickcissel: OMNSA 27-28 Feb (M. Farina et al., ph).

ADDENDA

The following reports were inadvertently left out of the Region 10 Fall 2018 report (KB Vol 69, No. 1):

Western Kingbird: RMSP 4 Nov (P. Morris & JGI ph, et al.).

Northern Shrike: HSP 11 Nov (JGI), ph.



Thick-billed Murre and Razorbill, Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 1 Jan 2019, © Shai Mitra.

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.

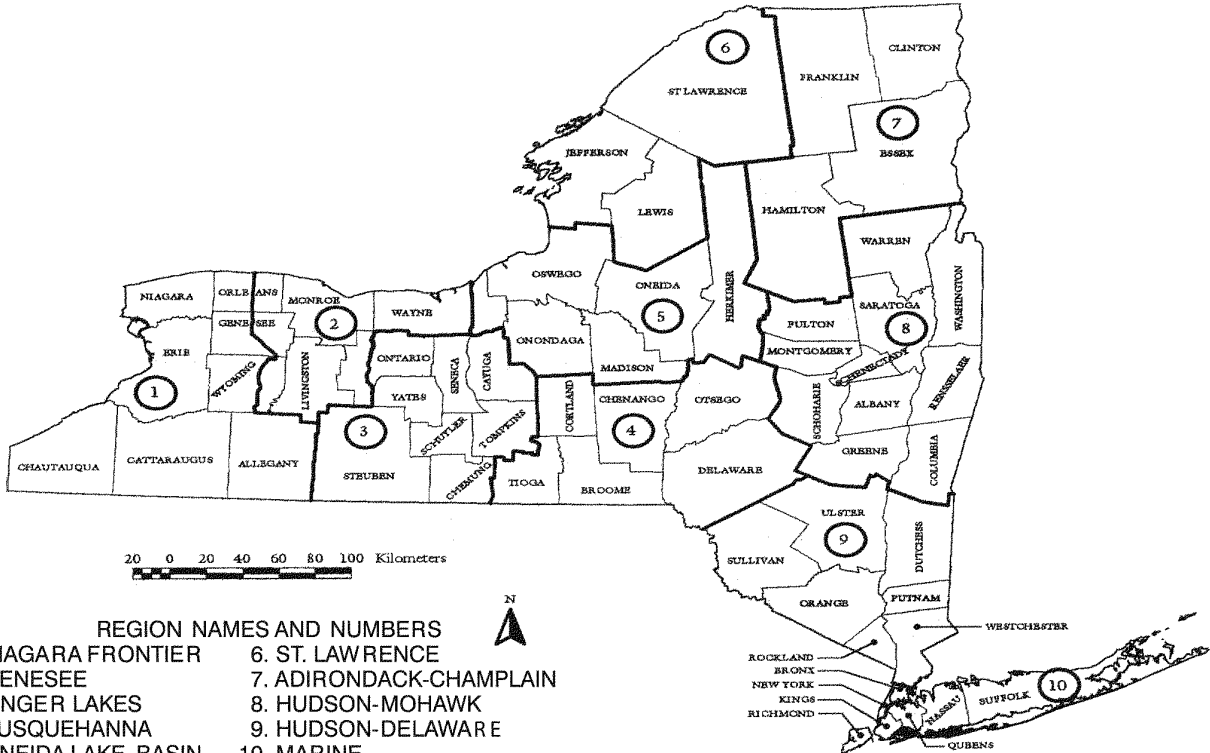
REPORTING DEADLINES

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



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