

The

# KINGBIRD

New York State  
Ornithological  
Association, Inc.  
Vol. 70 No. 2  
June 2020



ACV

**THE KINGBIRD** (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a peer-reviewed publication of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the state and maintain the official *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*.

Members of NYSOA receive *The Kingbird* and the newsletter *New York Birders*. Membership is available in the following annual dues categories, for the period 1 January through 31 December:

	<b>Electronic Publications (via email)</b>	<b>Paper Publications (via postal service) US / Canada or Mexico / Any Other Country</b>
<b>Individual</b>	\$30	\$40 / \$50 / \$60
<b>Family</b>	\$35	\$45 / \$55 / \$65
<b>Contributing</b>	\$50	\$60 / \$70 / \$80
<b>Kingbird Club</b>	\$100	\$100 / \$110 / \$120
<b>Student</b>	\$20	\$30 / \$40 / \$50

- Join or renew online at [nybirds.org/FedMembership.htm](http://nybirds.org/FedMembership.htm)
- Information for clubs and organizations is available on the website, or email [president1@nybirds.org](mailto:president1@nybirds.org) for membership information.
- Institutional subscriptions to *The Kingbird* are \$50 annually.
- All amounts stated above are payable in US funds only, with checks payable to NYSOA.
- Requests for single copies and back issues (\$5.00 each): New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25, Long Lake, NY 12847.
- Send address changes to: [membership1@nybirds.org](mailto:membership1@nybirds.org)

**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2020-2021 Officers**

**President**

Shirley Shaw  
[president1@nybirds.org](mailto:president1@nybirds.org)

**Vice-President**

Greg Lawrence  
[glawrence21@yahoo.com](mailto:glawrence21@yahoo.com)

**Recording Secretary**

John Kent  
[k2ent76@hotmail.com](mailto:k2ent76@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Mary Jane Dugan  
[mdugan@mansfield.edu](mailto:mdugan@mansfield.edu)

**Directors (Term Expiration Dates)**

Patricia Aitken	2021
Joseph Brin	2020
Brian Dugan	2021
Brendan Fogarty	2021
Douglas Futuyma	2020
Lucretia Grosshans	2021
Richard Guthrie	2020
Robert Spahn	2020
Gerald Thurn	2020

© 2020 New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Website: [nybirds.org](http://nybirds.org)**



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 70 No. 2

June 2020

pp. 101-200

## CONTENTS

Seasonal and anthropogenic factors predict breeding success in  
Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) in shared greenspace  
Joseph Czeisel and Mark E. Hauber ..... 102

The Stone Bridge Common Nighthawk Watch: Three years of data  
Patrice Domeischel and John L. Turner ..... 120

January Waterfowl Count 2020  
Bill Ostrander ..... 125

Notes and Observations  
The Painted Bunting invasion of 2019-2020  
Timothy Healy ..... 129

Patch Birding: Morningside Park  
John H. Haas ..... 131

In Memoriam: Phyllis Jones  
Valerie Freer ..... 133

Highlights of the Season, Winter 2019-2020  
Michael F. Cooper ..... 134

Regional Reports ..... 137

Photo Gallery ..... 149

Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines  
and Map of Reporting Regions ..... 199

*Editor – S. S. Mitra*

*Regional Reports Editor – Patricia J. Lindsay*

*Production Manager – Patricia J. Lindsay*

*Membership Manager – Joan Collins*

*Circulation Manager – Patricia Aitken*

Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Andrew Vallely.

Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Douglas Howland.

# SEASONAL AND ANTHROPOGENIC FACTORS PREDICT BREEDING SUCCESS IN BARN SWALLOWS (*Hirundo rustica*) IN SHARED GREENSPACE

**Joseph Czeisel**

Animal Behavior and Conservation Program, Department of Psychology,  
Hunter College, City University of New York,  
695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065

**Mark E. Hauber**

Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior, School of Integrative  
Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,  
505 S. Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801

**Abstract**—Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) benefit from a complex relationship with humans and their settlements, through these birds' ability to construct mud nests on artificial structures and feed in the open fields created for diverse human activities. However, nesting in close proximity to humans comes with inherent risks, and even passive recreational activities can have negative consequences for wildlife. This study aimed to understand the impact of different intrinsic and extrinsic factors on a population of the North American Barn Swallow (*H. r. erythrogaster*) and its reproductive success in shared greenspace with humans to help inform suitable management strategies. We analyzed three metrics known to be or potentially related to breeding productivity in an urban public parkland over two years, including clutch initiation dates and anthropogenic disturbance levels. Results from the first, but not the second year, demonstrated that earlier nesting dates were positively related to seasonal reproductive success. Nest site use, through the distance of nests inside structures was a positive predictor of chick survival rate in the first but not in the second year. Also, some metrics of human disturbance levels were found to negatively correlate with the total number of eggs laid per season and the proportion of eggs that produced fledglings in one of the two years but were not significantly related to various other metrics of seasonal breeding success. Monitoring of additional seasons of Barn Swallow nesting success in this site and other shared greenspaces is recommended to better understand the relationships between intrinsic and extrinsic factors towards formulating management recommendations.

**Keywords:** aerial insectivore, anthropogenic disturbance, clutch initiation date, mud-nesting, passerine, recreational ecology, seasonal onset

The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) has become the most widespread of all swallow species and breeds on five continents. These birds are now a common sight over grassy fields and a well-researched study organism in avian research,

particularly regarding behavioral and physiological adaptations and ongoing evolutionary processes (Scordato and Safran 2014).

Ornithologists credit the Barn Swallow's expansive breeding range to its nearly obligatory relationship with human settlements. These birds' ability to construct mud nests on artificial structures, such as buildings, bridges, and barns, has enabled them to capitalize on millennia of human expansion (Scordato and Safran 2014). These aerial insectivores also readily take advantage of the abundant food supply in the farmlands and open greenspaces that accompany civilization (Osawa 2015). Despite these benefits, living amidst humankind poses an inherent risk to wildlife, and emerging evidence in recreational ecology suggests that even passive human activities can significantly disrupt social and breeding behaviors within otherwise healthy ecosystems (Marzano and Dandy 2012).

In contrast to the productive literature on the breeding biology of the Barn Swallow, few studies have reported on how increasing levels of human disturbance might impact the productivity of human-commensal populations of this species. Our work sets out to examine the interaction between the known fitness benefits of earlier nesting in Barn Swallows (Safran 2004; Safran 2006), and the potential detrimental impacts of raising offspring in the presence of humans. The applications of this research may, in turn, inform management decisions in shared greenspace with humans of this federally protected species' populations.

### **Clutch Initiation Dates**

In the now-landmark studies, R.J. Safran investigated the causes and consequences of seasonal productivity in Barn Swallows (Safran 2004; Safran 2006). She reported both a correlative and a causal positive relationship between clutch initiation date and annual reproductive success. Specifically, reusing surviving nests from previous years enables (newly settling) Barn Swallow pairs to breed earlier than those that (need to) construct new nests at the start of a season (Safran 2004). Constructing a swallow mud nest is estimated to take approximately 1000-2000 journeys between the muddy soil and the nesting sites (Ramstack et al. 1998), and the resources of time and energy expended building the nest are thus not without cost. Accordingly, pairs that were allowed to reuse old nests have first clutch initiation dates an average of 12 days earlier than pairs that were experimentally forced to build new nests (Safran 2006).

In turn, earlier first breeding can be critical because it increases the probability of having a second clutch the same season (Safran 2004) and is a predictor of increased overall seasonal reproductive success (Safran 2006). Specifically, Barn Swallows that reused old nests exhibited nearly a 25% increase in their productivity compared to new-nest builders regardless of individual age and whether or not the breeding pair was new to the site (Safran 2004).

Recent observational research also suggests that another advantage to nesting earlier in Barn Swallows may be that it provides them with the availability of

feathers used for nest-lining with fewer detrimental microbes (Rubaiee et al., 2018). Overall, nesting earlier in the season is of such fitness advantage to Barn Swallows that first-time breeders take advantage of the earlier-nesting opportunities through settling at breeding sites where they can reuse already existing old nest(s) (Safran 2006).

### **Anthropogenic Disturbance**

There has been a considerable amount of research into the effects of humankind's disturbance on other species of wildlife, including songbirds in particular. A review of studies (1999-2010) focusing on the effects of human presence on wildlife found that people have both direct and indirect negative impacts on commensalist animals, even when people are unaware of the wild animal companions (Marzano and Dandy 2012).

Specifically, loud anthropogenic noise has been linked to nest abandonment in some bird species, and various forms of common recreational activities, including feeding attempts, photography, dog walking, and bicycle riding, have been found to disturb various species of songbirds (Lowry et al. 2011; Marzano and Dandy 2012). Passive recreation in shared greenspace, such as hiking, has also been found to alter avian habitat use and impact the choice of their breeding sites (Lowry et al. 2011). The presence of humans on a regular basis can have unforeseen effects on nesting passerines as animals can respond to people as potential predators in their natural setting (Marzano and Dandy 2012). These effects may be either limited in duration (Lowry et al. 2011) or become exacerbated over time (Sirot 2010).

One of the most immediate effects of human disturbance is the birds' startle response that results in fleeing, often from the nest or other safe location (Lowry et al. 2011). This directly costs birds both time and energy and also risks exposure to actual predatory threats (Marzano and Dandy 2012). It can also leave any unattended eggs or chicks more vulnerable to nest predators (Lowry et al. 2011).

Lasting impacts of human presence in avian habitats often include moderate to drastic behavioral changes, particularly regarding avian antipredator responses (Marzano and Dandy 2012). Accordingly, studies have found that individual birds in urban environments were bolder and more adapted to loud noises, demonstrating delayed flight responses and allowing humans to approach more closely before initiating a flight response (Sirot 2010), compared to individuals of the same species living in rural or unmodified environments (Lowry et al. 2011).

Assuming that Barn Swallows are susceptible to similar anthropogenic pressures as other passerines and that their proximity to urbanization is not without cost, there must be considerable valuable resources for swallows to settle and concentrate at and around human settlements. However, whereas swallows are quick to take advantage of concrete structures to be used as nesting substrates, yet fully urban environments fail to provide adequate food supplies, and accordingly, Barn Swallow nest density is negatively correlated with the urbanization within their occupied landscape (Osawa 2015). Instead, these aerial

insectivores (Ramstack et al. 1998) benefit from feeding grounds near their nesting sites, with ample amounts of flying insects; accordingly, Barn Swallows' nest density is positively correlated with the presence of rivers, farmlands, and other greenspaces adjacent to human dwellings (Osawa 2015).

Here we set out to gauge the effects of human visitors on the overall productivity of a Barn Swallow population in an urban parkland. Measuring the number of offspring animals produced during the course of a breeding season has become a well-established method for evaluating the impact of human presence in nesting wildlife (Hodson et al. 2010; Kight and Swaddle 2007). By comparing the annual reproductive success of Barn Swallows across subareas of varying degrees of anthropogenic disturbance within the same general nesting grounds provides an ideal opportunity to study the effects of human influence while controlling for confounding variables such as food supply levels and other environmental fluctuations. Specifically, our *predictions* were:

1. *Earlier nesting dates will be positively correlated with Barn Swallow reproductive success;*
2. *Increased levels of anthropogenic disturbance will have a negative impact on Barn Swallow reproductive success; and*
3. *Increased distance of Barn Swallow nests from the entrance of concrete structures (and, thus, further from human activity) will be positively correlated with reproductive success.*

## METHODS

### Location

The study site was 136-acre peninsula in Bayside, New York, USA, within the New York City borough of Queens. The area had been used as farmland prior to its acquisition by the United States government in 1857 for the purposes of constructing a fortification. The base itself became known as Fort Totten until its official closing in 1995 (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission [NYCLPC] 1999) and the property has since come under the control of various city agencies with 60.39 acres devoted to public greenspace known as Fort Totten Park in 2005.

The site includes roads, wooded areas, and several large sections of grass-covered open space, which may provide essential feeding grounds for the aerial insectivores (Osawa 2015). Historic structures from the land's time as a military installation remain throughout the park (NYCLPC 1999), and the Barn Swallow population nests exclusively inside the decommissioned fortifications toward the northern section of the peninsula.

The majority of nests monitored during the study, ( $n = 10$  in 2016;  $n = 8$  in 2017) were located within repurposed munition tunnels known as Torpedo Magazines (see Fig. 1). These concrete chambers were built in 1876 to store floating harbor mines, known then as torpedoes (Beyer Blinder Belle Architects

& Planner LLP [BBBAP] 2000), and are covered by an artificial berm such that they are functionally underground. Entranceways to the structures face southward, and are the sole means of accessing the magazines.



Figure 1. Illustration of the study's nesting site entrances including the Visitors' Center (left) and torpedo magazines (right). Illustration by Melissa Zavala.

Both study years also had two active nests inside the concrete passageway that is buried beneath the same artificial berm as the adjacent magazines, known as the Transport Tunnel, located directly to the west of the first torpedo magazine. The remaining active nests ( $n = 1$  in 2016;  $n = 3$  in 2017) were located inside nearby Endicott Period batteries completed in 1900, named Battery Baker and Battery Mahan (NYCLPC 1999). Each Endicott battery is a two-tiered structure composed of reinforced concrete that formerly held disappearing guns on the second level and storage magazines on the first level (BBBAP 2000). All Barn Swallow nests were built on the lower levels of these batteries.

Although no official records of the Barn Swallows were maintained prior to the ownership of the fortifications having been transferred to New York City, there are photographs of nests dating back to 2000 at some of the same locations as above (BBBAP 2000). It appears, therefore, that this is a breeding site-faithful species (Safran 2004), and had established a breeding population at least 16 years prior to this study.



## **Protocol**

The study was conducted from 1 May through 31 August for two breeding seasons (2016 and 2017). Nests were monitored every third day using an automotive telescopic-inspection mirror to gain visibility to high nests. An iPhone was used to take photos and document nest content. Nests were generally checked between 18:00 and 20:00 each day, but no earlier than 15:00 and never later than nightfall.

## **First Clutch Initiation Dates**

During monitoring sessions, each nest was checked for freshly layered mud, the addition of grasses, and/or the addition of down feathers, the last of which indicating that a mated pair was prepping to lay eggs. The presence and number of eggs and/or chicks were counted and recorded, documenting the dates each item first appeared. We considered newly discovered eggs to have been laid on the day found because most passerines lay at dawn or in the early morning hours (Wiebe et al. 2007). As in previous research studying the effects of egg laying dates in Barn Swallows (Safran 2004; Safran 2006), the appearance date of a pair's first egg of the season is termed here as that pair's first clutch initiation date (hereafter FCID). The appearance of a new egg in the nest after the first breeding attempt had ended (either via fledging or predation) is considered as the pair's second clutch initiation date. We enumerated FCID as the number of days since 1 January of each year (Jan 1 = Day 1).

## **Human Disturbance Levels**

To gauge whether human presence and recreational activities are impacting the reproductive success of the Barn Swallows, each nest site was *a priori* categorized into one of three levels based on the amount of actual and potential human disturbance level (HDL) in its location. The distribution of the nests within Fort Totten Park provides a valuable opportunity to examine the reproductive success of the birds because nests are all within the same general area, but within sections of varying degrees of human interference. All the Barn Swallows in the park likely share the same foraging space, food availability, weather events, and other conditions, which helps control for confounding variables.

The level HDL1 consisted of sections of the Fort with a minimal amount of human interference. These sections are gated from the public so that only the data collector (JC) and a handful of park employees had access. These magazines are locked, preventing anyone from approaching the nests and give the birds a much higher degree of privacy than nests located in other areas.

HDL2 areas were those of moderate human disturbance and consisted primarily of sections that were usually vacant but where employees, but not the public, could be present for extended periods. These areas included magazines used by maintenance staff for storage with varying periods of commotion, ranging from a few minutes to a couple hours; however, the area could also be vacant for several days at a time.

HDL3 areas were those with ongoing human disturbance. These areas were open to park patrons two to five days per week, and almost always had people present during daylight visiting hours. Members of the public are encouraged to enter these areas to educate and immerse themselves in the history of the park and are required to sign in at the Visitors' Center in order to do so. From May through August the Visitors' Center's log showed 1585 park patrons being granted admittance into these sections of the fort in 2016, and 3073 patrons in 2017.

Finally, it is important to note that the inception of the Barn Swallow population and its establishment as a nesting site occurred prior to our categorization of the HDLs. Though not a manipulative experiment, through altering the usage of these areas after the sites were originally chosen by the swallows, the humans working in the park inadvertently created the varying anthropogenic disturbance levels prior to the onset of the study.

### **Tunnel Entrance to Nest Distances**

We also measured and explored whether the distance from the entrance of a tunnel to a nest (hereafter: TEND, Tunnel Entrance to Nest Distance), and thus further away from potential disturbances, had a positive influence on reproductive success.

### **Statistical Analyses**

All correlation tests were performed using Microsoft Excel or via VassarStats (<http://vassarstats.net/kw3.html>). We used Student's t-tests for analyses of reproductive success and/or effects of TENDs. Non-parametric analyses were used to compare HDLs, due to the small sample size, and were performed using Kruskal-Wallis tests. No individuals were captured or marked between seasons and all analyses were conducted separately for 2016 and 2017 so as to avoid inflated sample sizes due to potentially resampling the same breeding philopatric individuals.

To determine if earlier nesting has a positive relationship to the likelihood of laying a second clutch, correlation analyses between known FCID and the number clutches each pair laid in each season were performed. To examine if earlier nesting might increase a pair's reproductive fitness, correlation analyses were performed between FCID and total number of eggs laid (hereafter: Tot Eggs), the total number of offspring surviving to fledge (hereafter: ARO, Annual Reproductive Output), and the percentage of eggs in a season surviving to fledge in each season (hereafter: SR, Survival Rate).

To determine if the HDL of nesting sites influenced reproductive success in each year, nest productivity in each of the three HDLs was compared using Kruskal-Wallis tests to FCID, Tot Eggs, ARO, and SR.

To determine if TEND is positively correlated with reproductive success, seasonal correlation analyses were performed between the TEND and FCID, Tot Eggs, ARO, and SR.

## RESULTS

### **Prediction 1: Earlier FCID is positively associated with seasonal reproductive success.**

Correlation analyses did not reveal statistically significant relationships between FCID and the number of clutches in either 2016 ( $r(11) = -0.343, p = 0.252$ ) or 2017 ( $r(10) = -0.442, p = 0.150$ ; Fig. 2). Barn Swallow pairs had statistically similar FCIDs in 2016 ( $M = \text{Day } 143.46, SD = 11.67$ ) as in 2017 ( $M = 149, SD = 11.38; t(23) = -1.2, p = 0.242$ ).

FCID showed no significant relationship with Tot Eggs in either the 2016 ( $r(11) = -0.458, p = 0.115$ ) or in the 2017 season ( $r(10) = -0.539, p = 0.071$ ; Fig. 3). In both years, those pairs that laid second clutches ( $M = 9.13, SD = 1.642$ ) produced more eggs than pairs that laid only a single clutch ( $M = 4.56, SD = 0.705; t(24) = 10.08, p < 0.001$ ).

Pairs with earlier FCIDs were significantly more likely to produce an increased ARO in 2016 ( $r(11) = -0.653, p = 0.016$ ; Fig. 4), whereas this relationship was again positive but not significant in 2017 ( $r(10) = -0.554, p = 0.062$ ; Fig. 4).

FCID showed a significantly negative correlation with offspring SR ( $r(11) = -0.656, p = 0.015$ ; Fig. 5) in 2016, illustrating that earlier nests fledged a greater proportion of their eggs hatched, and a non-significant relationship with pairs' SR in 2017 ( $r(10) = -0.396, p = 0.201$ ; Fig 5).

### **Prediction 2: HDL has negative relationship with seasonal reproductive success.**

There was no statistical relationship between HDL and FCID in either 2016 ( $H(2) = 0.17, p = 0.919$ ) or in 2017 ( $H(2) = 4.52, p = 0.104$ ; Fig. 6). There was also no significant relationship between HDL and Tot Eggs in 2016 ( $H(2) = 3.2, p = 0.19$ ; Fig. 7). The 2017 season, however, demonstrated a significantly negative relationship between HDL and Tot Eggs ( $H(2) = 8.4, p = 0.015$ ; Fig. 7): increased human interference was inversely related to the total number of eggs a Barn Swallow pair produced per season.

The relationship between nests' HDL and ARO was not significant in either 2016 ( $H(2) = 2.7, p = 0.25$ ; Fig. 8), or in 2017 ( $H(2) = 4.7, p = 0.095$ ; Fig. 8).

HDL and SR did not have a significant relationship in either 2016 ( $H(2) = 1.3, p = 0.50$ ) or in 2017 ( $H(2) = 4.04, p = 0.133$ ; Fig. 9).

### **Prediction 3: TEND will have a positive correlation with seasonal reproductive success.**

The relationship between TEND and FCID was not significant in both 2016 ( $r(11) = -0.387, p = 0.192$ ) and in 2017 ( $r(10) = 0.382, p = 0.219$ ). The correlation between TEND and Tot Eggs was not significant in either 2016 ( $r(11) = -0.037, p = 0.907$ ) or in 2017 ( $r(11) = -0.027, p = 0.930$ ).

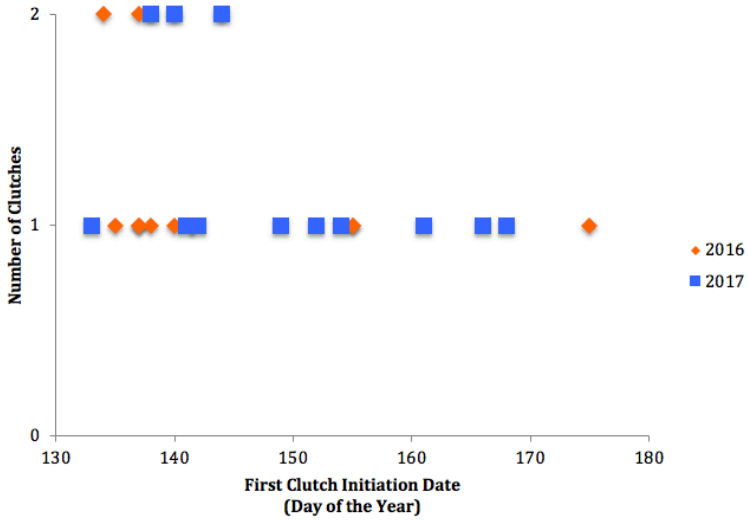


Figure 2. Scatterplot showing the relationship between FCID (First Clutch Initiation Date) and Number of Clutches in 2016 and 2017.

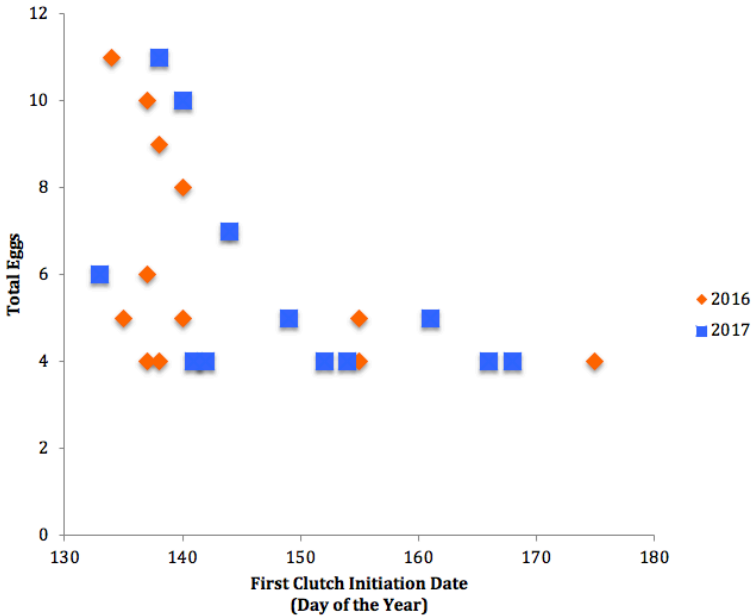


Figure 3. Scatterplot showing the relationship between FCID (First Clutch Initiation Date) and Tot Eggs (total eggs laid) in 2016 and 2017.

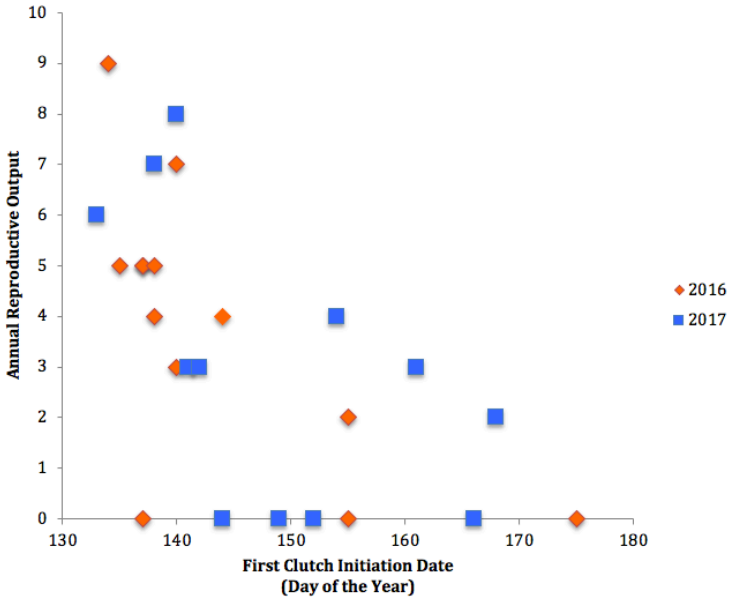


Figure 4. Scatterplot showing the relationship between FCID (First Clutch Initiation Date) and ARO (Annual Reproductive Output) in 2016 and 2017.

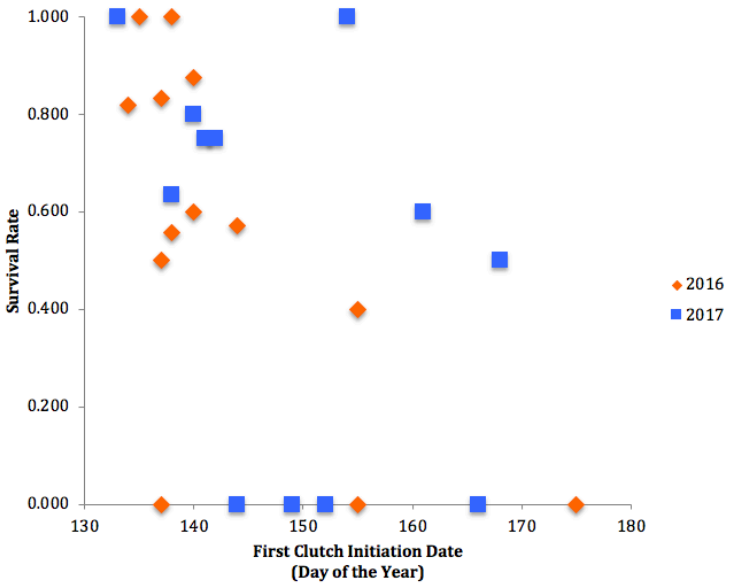
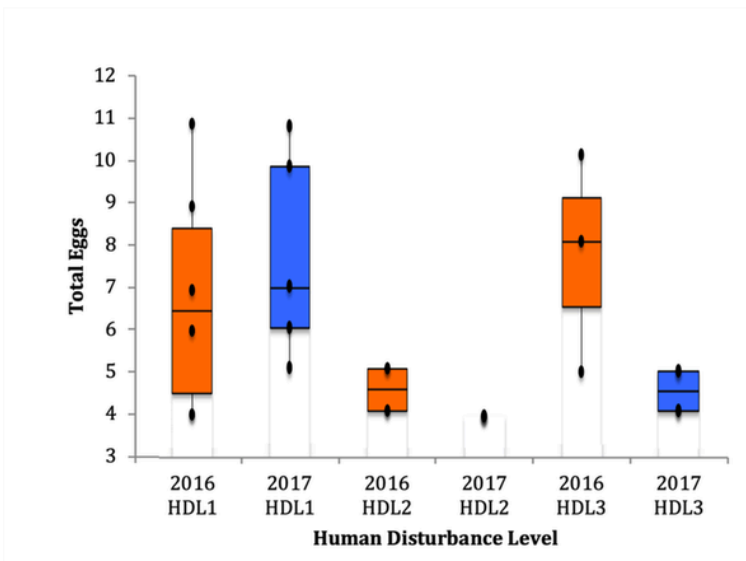
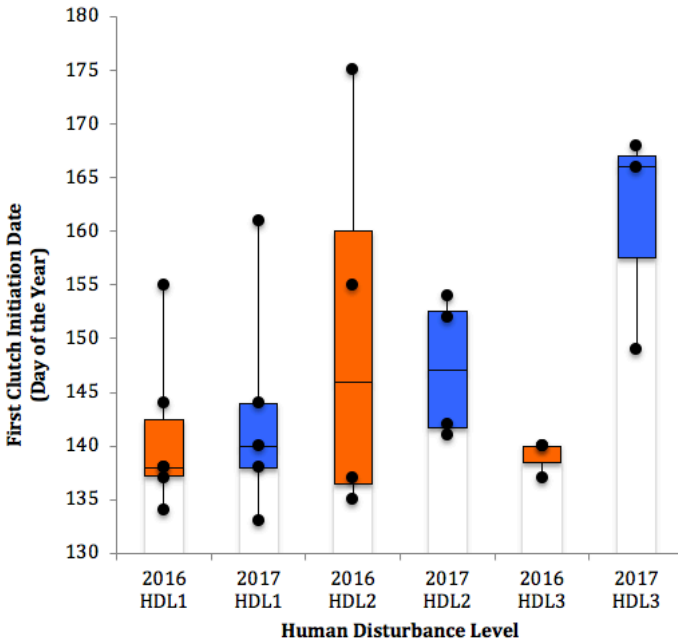
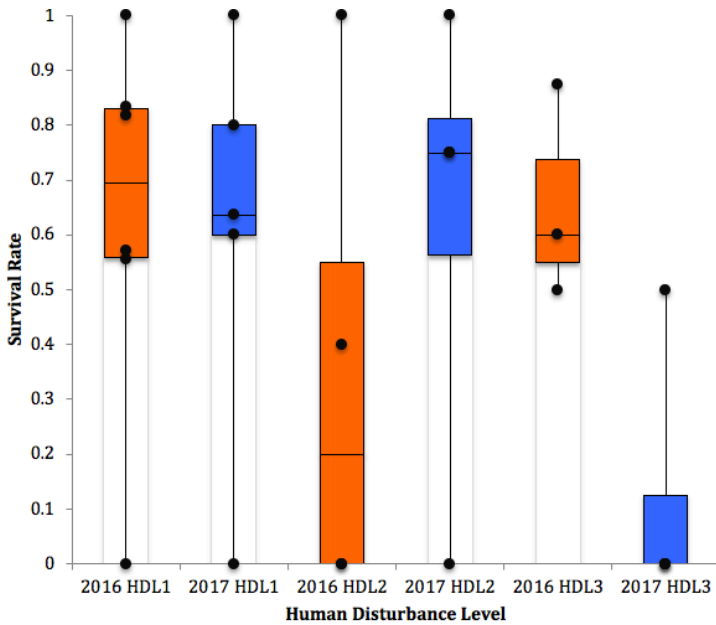
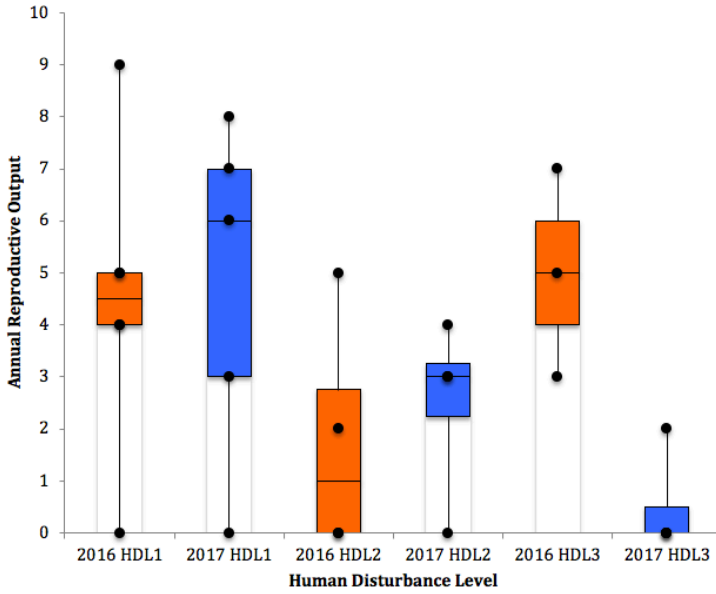


Figure 5. Scatterplot showing the relationship between FCID (First Clutch Initiation Date) and SR (Survival Rate) in 2016 and 2017.



Figures 6 and 7. Ranges of FCIDs (First Clutch Initiation Dates; top) and ranges of Tot Eggs (total eggs laid; bottom) for each HDL (Human Disturbance Level) in 2016 and 2017.



Figures 8 and 9. Ranges of ARO (Annual Reproductive Output; top) and ranges of SR (Survival Rate; bottom) for each HDL (Human Disturbance Level) in 2016 and 2017.

There was no significant correlation between TEND and ARO in either 2016 ( $r(11) = 0.323, p = 0.283$ ) or in 2017 ( $r(11) = 0.402, p = 0.172$ ). However, TEND had a significantly positive correlation with SR in 2016 ( $r(11) = 0.599, p = 0.031$ ) but not in 2017 ( $r(11) = 0.500, p = 0.081$ ; Fig. 10).

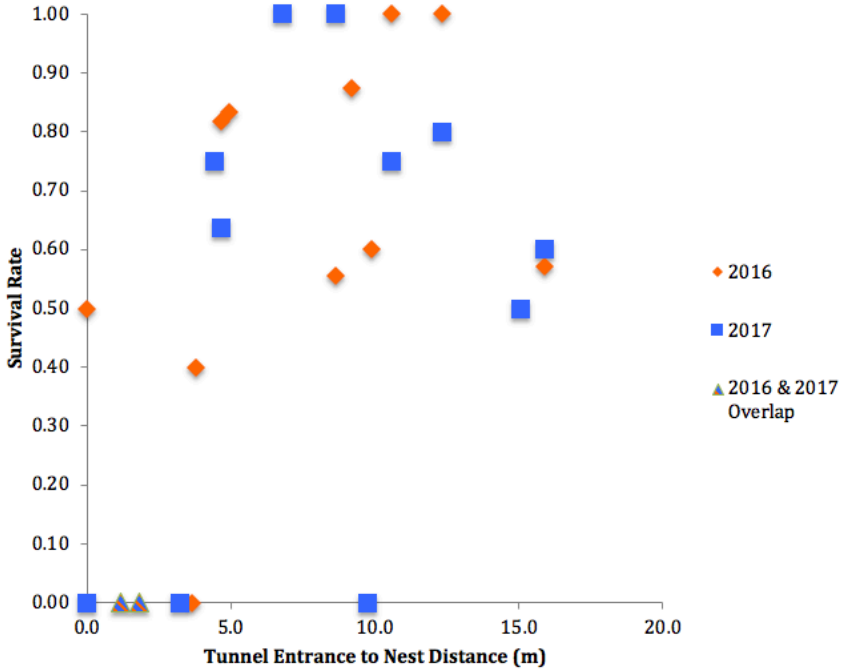


Figure 10. Scatterplot showing the relationship between TEND (Tunnel Entrance to Nest Distance) and SR (Survival Rate) in 2016 and 2017.

## DISCUSSION

### First Clutch Initiation Date

In our sample, FCIDs were not found to be a predictor of the number of clutches a pair laid in a breeding season; nevertheless, FCID patterns positively covaried with other metrics of seasonal breeding productivity. The timing of the earliest FCID of any pair at our study site was also consistent for both years within one day of each other (Days 134 and 133, respectively), and both years saw no pair with a FCID after Day 144 produce a second clutch (Fig. 2). This is suggestive of consistent onset of the laying season across our two study years, and supports that laying too late in the season prevents a pair from producing a second clutch (Safran 2006). In turn, pairs that laid second clutches produced consistently more eggs than those pairs that laid a single clutch in both years (Safran 2004).



In the first year of our study, we detected significant correlations between FCID and the nests' ARO and SR, supporting the hypothesis that earlier nesting (perhaps through reusing the previous year's nests) by Barn Swallows is a positive predictor of seasonal reproductive success. These findings are consistent with those of Safran (2006) and are valuable data to inform management of Barn Swallow populations in parkland breeding sites and other shared natural and artificial greenspace areas, where old nests from the previous year may be prone to intentional or accidental removal by park staff.

Results of the 2017 season suggested that the ARO and SR were not associated with a pair's FCID; however, there is evidence that this discrepancy is the result of varying environmental factors between seasons. Foremost, Barn Swallows tended to nest over a week later in 2017 than in 2016 (Figs. 2-5). In turn, in both years, once a swallow pair's FCID fell after the 144<sup>th</sup> day of the year, birds did not produce a second clutch. Because a pair's ARO is dependent on their ability to produce multiple clutches (Results), this generally delayed timing of FCIDs in 2017, compared to those in 2016, and could be the reason for the inconsistent statistical relationship of FCID and ARO between the two years of the study.

The interannual fluctuation in FCID's influence on SR, however, was also likely affected by an increase of interaction from other birds in the nesting site. The 2016 season lost three clutches to depredation, perhaps by Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), which were regularly observed near the torpedo magazines entrances. In addition to the continued presence of grackles, the 2017 season identified an additional threat to the Barn Swallow eggs. House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) took up residence in the park. That year had five Barn Swallow clutches fail due to interference from wrens where two of those nests were filled with twigs following the destruction of the eggs. House Wrens use these tactics to prevent insectivorous competitors from re-nesting (Finch 1990). The 2017 season also saw three additional clutches (two from the same nest) eliminated by an unseen species, presumed to be again grackles, and one nest destroyed by human vandals.

These varying environmental factors of delayed overall FCID and disparate depredation levels are the primary reasons for the inconsistency between seasons and represent, in part, why we have chosen not to pool the two years' worth of data. Because the components contributing to the reproductive success of the Barn Swallows were distinct in each of the seasons, combining the two seasons would misrepresent the influences of the population's statistics. Should the study be continued, it would be unsurprising for one to find additional season(s) where the FCID was significantly and negatively correlated with the ARO and the SR and other seasons without these statistical effects.

### **Human Disturbance Level**

We did not find any evidence that FCIDs were influenced by HDLs in 2016 or 2017 (Fig. 6), suggesting the birds start laying eggs at approximately the same

time regardless of exposure to humans or noise levels. These findings are consistent with our ad hoc observations during monitoring. When people are within a few meters of an active nest, the parent Barn Swallows were hesitant to approach and instead opted to cause distraction through alarms or flying in circles.

There was also no association between HDL and Tot Eggs for the 2016 season (Fig. 7). Barn Swallows were not observed expending additional energy by distracting potential predators prior to laying their eggs, and it follows that increased human activity would not inflict negative consequences upon the birds before eggs were laid to reduce clutch size. In contrast, however, HDL was significantly and negatively associated with the metric of Tot Eggs during the 2017 breeding season, (Fig. 7). This discrepancy may have stemmed from the contrasting environmental factors between seasons, such as the delayed laying and fewer pairs producing second clutches in 2017. It would be interesting to see whether this variation in egg outputs is more or less likely to occur when there is a later median FCID and shall require further data collection in additional years.

The data also suggested that if HDL were to affect ARO or SR, its influence is minor (Fig. 8-9), or there are other factors that are overshadowing its effects. One such factor outside the control of the study was nest depredation. In 2016, 16.67% of clutches were lost to depredation, whereas in 2017 31.25% of the clutches were lost due to inference from other birds. Studying additional years with fluctuating predation levels would indicate more clearly whether HDL directly affects seasonal reproductive success, or perhaps works through a mediating factor of the varying the levels of interspecific avian predation and competition.

### **Tunnel Entrance to Nest Distance**

The distance to nests from the entrance of the magazines or tunnels that the Swallows built their nests inside was examined as a more direct and objective proxy metric of whether noise and other activities attributable to people outside the structures were a contributing factor to swallow reproductive success. We found no evidence to suggest that TEND statistically affected a pair's FCID, Tot Eggs, or ARO. However, TEND was a positive predictor of SR in 2016, and the correlation was also still positive but not quite significant the following season (Fig. 10). Four clutches in 2016 had an SR of 0%, all of which had relatively small TEND values. Reasons for clutch failures included one instance of predation, two instances of eggs failing to hatch, and one instance of nest abandonment. The latter three of these events had no visible causes and could be correlated with stress from exposure proximity to humans. These results thus support the prediction that reproductive success (through SR) is greater with further distance away from anthropogenic activities.

In comparison, the relationship between TEND and SR in 2017 was not statistically significant (Fig. 10). This inconsistency is perhaps again indicative that varying ecological conditions (that we were unable to account for during the study) can be more influential than human interference. Specifically, there were

five nests that had an SR of 0% in 2017. Unlike the previous year, however, these failed clutches were suspected to be not attributed to background patterns of human disturbance because all of the clutch losses were due to destruction from other birds or direct vandalism. As seen above, the data indicate that the monitoring of additional years is recommended to fully understand the relationship of these two variables across multiple breeding seasons.

### **Limitations of the Study**

While the research revealed several statistical predictors of swallow reproductive success, the study's primary limitations stemmed from its small sample size both within and across breeding seasons. The unequal distribution of nests across different HDLs resulted in a data set that was necessary to be analyzed with conservative, non-parametric tests. Furthermore, without a means to exclude natural nest predators and competitors, varying levels of depredation and nest disruption between the two years of the study may have overshadowed the effects of our focal predictor variables. Finally, the shift towards later FCIDs in 2017, in addition to the statistical non-independence issue of individual birds potentially reusing the same nests across consecutive breeding seasons (Safran 2006), made it unsuitable to combine the two years' worth of data to increase statistical power in order to offset the small annual sample sizes.

### **Conclusions**

Results from the 2016 season support our first prediction and reinforce findings by Safran (2006) that earlier nesting is a predictor of Barn Swallows' greater reproductive success via both ARO and SR. The putative mechanism is that there is a temporal cut-off date for producing second clutches, and pairs that produce second clutches produce more eggs than pairs that have time to lay only one clutch. Regarding anthropogenic effects, HDL was not found to directly influence Barn Swallow reproductive success in either season; except in 2017 when greater human interference was inversely related to the total number of eggs a Barn Swallow pair produced per season. However, HDL's generally small impact on other metrics of swallow reproductive success may have been overshadowed by other ecological factors, such as varying levels of nest depredation. The study implied that different types of predation in different HDLs may need to be explored in future studies. Finally, the results supported the hypothesis that larger TEND might positively affect Barn Swallow reproductive success through increased clutch survival rates.

Overall, despite the inconsistencies between the two years, this study contributes new insights into the various ecological and anthropogenic factors affecting annual reproductive success of Barn Swallows in shared greenspace and suggests several new directions for future studies.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the Fort Totten Park maintenance staff, Northeast Queens Parks Administrator Matthew Symons, Deputy Director Marc Sanchez, and the Urban Park Rangers for providing access to the swallow nesting sites. We would like to thank Danielle Allen, and Professors Martin Chodorow and Ofer Tchernichovski for their crucial input on improving the study. Thanks are due to Melissa Zavala for her artistic contribution. We are grateful to M. Brodylo, M. O’Keeffe, J. Kovacs, M. Kuchinskas, L. Lam, and W. Park for their assistance in nest monitoring and educating the public on the importance of leaving the nests intact between seasons. Special thanks to Professor Rebecca Safran for her eye-opening studies into hirundine reproductive success. Finally, J. C. would like to thank Marianna Czeisel for her assistance in nest monitoring, data recording, proofreading, and limitless support during the course of the study. The referees and the editor of this journal made valuable comments on an earlier draft.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planner LLP. 2000. *Fort Totten Battery: Historic Preservation & Interpretive Plan*. Bayside, NY
- Finch, D. M. 1990. Effects of predation and competitor interference on nesting success of House Wrens and Tree Swallows. *The Condor*, 92, 674–687.
- Hodson, J., Fortin, D., LeBlanc, M.-L., & Bélanger, L. 2010. An appraisal of the fitness consequences of forest disturbance for wildlife using habitat selection theory. *Behavioral Ecology*, 164, 73–86. doi: 10.1007/s00442-010-1691-4
- Kight, C. R. & Swaddle, J. P. 2007. Associations of anthropogenic activity and disturbance with fitness metrics of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). *Biological Conservation*, 138, 189–197. doi:10.1015/j.biocon.2007.04.014
- Lowry, H., Lill, A., & Wong, B. B. 2011. Tolerance of auditory disturbance by an avian urban adapter, the noisy miner. *Ethology*, 117, 490–497. doi: 10.1111/j.1439-0310.2011.01902.x
- Marzano, M., & Dandy, N. 2012. Recreationist behaviour in forests and the disturbance of wildlife. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 21, 2967–2986. doi: 10.1007/s10531-012-0350-y
- New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. 1999. *Fort Totten Historic District: Designation Report*. Bayside, NY
- Osawa, T. 2015. Importance of farmland in urbanized areas as a landscape component for Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) nesting on concrete buildings. *Environmental Management*, 55, 1160–1167. doi: 10.1007/s00267-015-0457-5
- Ramstack, J.M., Murphy, M.T., & Palmer, M.R. 1998. Comparative reproductive biology of three species of swallows in a common environment. *Wilson Bulletin*, 110, 233–243.

- Al Rubaiee, Z., Al Murayati, H., & Møller, A. 2018. Arrival date and microorganisms in Barn Swallows. *Journal of Avian Biology*, 49, e01665. doi: 10.1111/jav.01665
- Safran, R. J. 2004. Adaptive site selection rules and variation in group size of Barn Swallows: individual decisions predict population patterns. *The American Naturalist*, 164, 121–131. doi: 10.1086/422198
- Safran, R. J. 2006. Nest-site selection in the Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*: what predicts seasonal reproductive success? *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, 84, 1533-1539. doi: 10.1139/Z06-176
- Scordato, E. S., & Safran, R. J. 2014. Geographic variation in sexual selection and implications for speciation in the Barn Swallow. *Avian Research*, 5, 8. doi: 10.1186/s40657-014-0008-4
- Sirof, E. 2010. Should risk allocation strategies facilitate or hinder habituation to nonlethal disturbance in wildlife? *Animal Behaviour*, 80, 737-743. doi: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2010.07.014
- Wiebe, K. L., Koenig, W. D., & Martin, K. 2007. Costs and benefits of nest reuse versus excavation in cavity-nesting birds. *Annales Zoologici Fennici*, 44, 209-217.



# THE STONE BRIDGE COMMON NIGHTHAWK WATCH: THREE YEARS OF DATA

**Patrice Domeischel**

25 Bluetop Road, Setauket, NY 11733  
patrice5421@hotmail.com

**John L. Turner**

19 Main Street, Setauket, NY 11733  
redknot@optonline.net

For the past three years (2017, 2018, and 2019) the Four Harbors Audubon Society has conducted an annual census involving the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) at a site in Setauket, Suffolk County, New York. Known as the “Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch,” it takes place at the southern end of Frank Melville Memorial Park where a stone bridge traverses a waterway, the dominant feature in the park. It runs from 27 August to 6 October each year. In 2017, 2018, and 2019 we counted 2,046, 2,018, and 2,757 nighthawks, respectively (Table 1, Fig. 1). One of the authors (JT) described the first year of the Nighthawk Watch in the September 2018 issue of *The Kingbird* (Turner 2018). In 2017 observers counted the aforementioned 2,046 nighthawks in 4,022 minutes of observation, an average of 0.51 birds per minute in that first count.

In 2018 the count largely mirrored the prior year’s count both in terms of the total number of birds as well as the pace at which they moved through. Similarly, by 11 September we had 1,363 in 2017 and 1,326 nighthawks in 2018 and by 25 September 1,985 and 1,968 nighthawks passed by in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The 2019 census started off at nearly an identical rate with 1,372 nighthawks being seen through 11 September. However, on 17, 18, and 19 September, days with clear weather, no nighthawks passed through the Watch, leading us to believe the season may be ending early; it was the first time in the three-year history of the watch we had a three-day consecutive drought in the peak month of September.

By 19 September, nighthawks totaled about 400 fewer birds than the totals up to that date in each of the previous two years, and we surmised it might indicate an early conclusion to the count year. Then, on 20 September, the skies opened. The first of over 1,300 birds coursed through, and nighthawk numbers steadily increased. Soon, numbers had reached and surpassed the 2017 and 2018 totals of 2,046 and 2,018, respectively, and our fears of a premature end to the season were allayed. The total number of nighthawks nearly doubled during the final seventeen days of the Watch, ending on 6 October with 2,757 nighthawks counted for the season, the highest annual total recorded in the three-year census history. This total is 711 and 739 more birds than tallied in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Surprisingly, we tallied 237 nighthawks on 1 October, a somewhat late date for the season, this daily total being the second highest of the 2019 season (in contrast,

Date	2017				2018				2019			
	Count	Min.	BPM	Cum.	Count	Min.	BPM	Cum.	Count	Min.	BPM	Cum.
8/27	7	105	0.07	7	68	141	0.48	68	20	141	0.14	20
8/28	5	115	0.04	12	71	131	0.54	139	0	90	0.00	20
8/29	0	0	0.00	12	74	139	0.53	213	12	139	0.09	32
8/30	26	119	0.22	38	28	137	0.20	241	148	131	1.13	180
8/31	5	115	0.04	43	18	128	0.14	259	30	138	0.22	210
9/1	21	115	0.18	64	211	133	1.59	470	88	132	0.67	298
9/2	13	93	0.14	77	106	118	0.90	576	23	133	0.17	321
9/3	64	128	0.50	141	141	130	1.08	717	<b>281</b>	134	2.10	602
9/4	164	127	1.29	305	56	130	0.43	773	69	128	0.54	671
9/5	101	124	0.81	406	178	126	1.41	951	179	128	1.40	850
9/6	3	60	0.05	409	5	37	0.14	956	3	86	0.03	853
9/7	<b>302</b>	124	2.44	711	23	108	0.21	979	91	127	0.72	944
9/8	<b>573</b>	122	4.70	1284	23	106	0.22	1002	43	123	0.35	987
9/9	36	120	0.30	1320	18	100	0.18	1020	139	120	1.16	1126
9/10	17	120	0.14	1337	1	65	0.02	1021	151	112	1.35	1277
9/11	26	115	0.23	1363	<b>306</b>	105	2.91	1327	95	112	0.85	1372
9/12	27	119	0.23	1390	57	98	0.58	1384	2	100	0.02	1374
9/13	135	110	1.23	1525	35	106	0.33	1419	5	115	0.04	1379
9/14	83	112	0.74	1608	16	105	0.15	1435	15	117	0.13	1394
9/15	107	113	0.95	1715	71	71	1.00	1506	27	109	0.25	1421
9/16	35	131	0.27	1750	77	109	0.71	1583	14	105	0.13	1435
9/17	74	115	0.64	1824	65	94	0.69	1648	0	104	0.00	1435
9/18	9	105	0.09	1833	114	100	1.14	1762	0	100	0.00	1435
9/19	0	41	0.00	1833	80	97	0.82	1842	0	101	0.00	1435
9/20	25	96	0.26	1858	97	85	1.14	1939	66	107	0.62	1501
9/21	10	88	0.11	1868	19	97	0.20	1958	104	101	1.03	1605
9/22	15	90	0.17	1883	5	100	0.05	1963	154	92	1.67	1759
9/23	14	98	0.14	1897	5	97	0.05	1968	155	112	1.38	1914
9/24	16	101	0.16	1913	0	88	0.00	1968	154	110	1.40	2068
9/25	72	90	0.80	1985	0	25	0.00	1968	92	97	0.95	2160
9/26	28	98	0.29	2013	19	78	0.24	1987	15	87	0.17	2175
9/27	16	87	0.18	2029	10	90	0.11	1997	172	95	1.81	2347
9/28	1	83	0.01	2030	0	90	0.00	1997	90	92	0.98	2437
9/29	0	90	0.00	2030	16	90	0.18	2013	14	90	0.16	2451
9/30	0	83	0.00	2030	0	85	0.00	2013	31	75	0.41	2482
10/1	0	88	0.00	2030	3	84	0.04	2016	<b>237</b>	114	2.08	2719
10/2	3	81	0.04	2033	0	69	0.00	2016	29	83	0.35	2748
10/3	0	80	0.00	2033	2	80	0.03	2018	0	60	0.00	2748
10/4	3	70	0.04	2036	0	64	0.00	2018	9	80	0.11	2757
10/5	4	71	0.06	2040	0	75	0.00	2018	0	85	0.00	2757
10/6	6	80	0.08	<b>2046</b>	0	75	0.00	<b>2018</b>	0	68	0.00	<b>2757</b>

Table 1. Summary data from the Stone Bridge Common Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, Suffolk, NY 2017-2019: Daily counts, minutes of effort (Min.), birds per minute (BPM), and cumulative totals to date (Cum.).

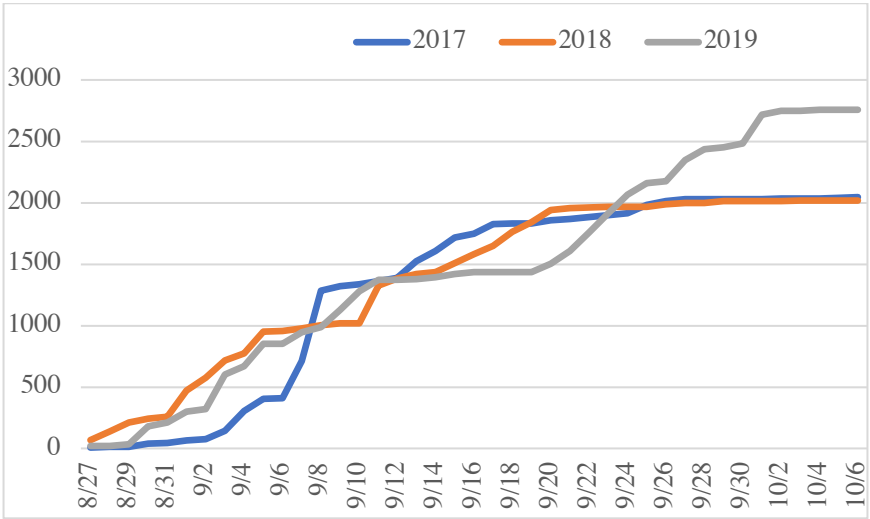


Figure 1. Cumulative counts at the Stone Bridge Common Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, Suffolk, NY 2017-2019.

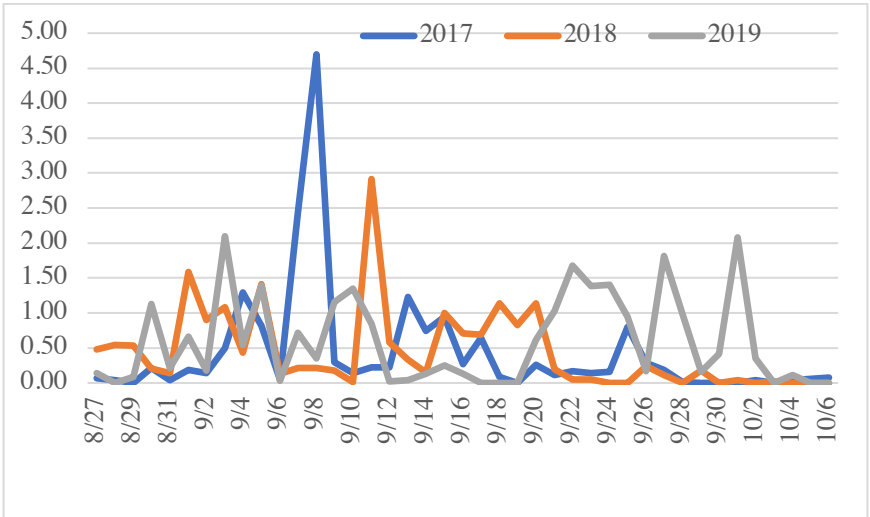


Figure 2. Birds per minute at the Stone Bridge Common Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, Suffolk, NY 2017-2019.



in 2017 we saw no nighthawks on this date and in 2018 tallied only three). We hypothesized that a mass delayed migration, possibly weather related, had taken place.

Nighthawk movement during the 2019 count period was steady and spread out with occasional larger flocks streaming through. There were very few memorable banner days, though, and many evenings migrating nighthawks were frustratingly distant, allowing only long-range views.

The highest single daily total for the three years remains the 573 nighthawks we saw on 8 September 2017, followed by 306 birds on 11 September 2018 and 302 birds on 7 September 2017 (see bolded values in Table 1).

A key statistic that we have tracked is the number of “birds-per-minute” or bpm (Table 1, Fig. 2). This “per-unit-effort” statistic can help ensure that results aren’t affected or distorted by the number of minutes logged by observers. It is simply a fraction of the number of total birds seen divided by the total minutes tallied. In 2019 we had 0.63 bpm, while the bpm in 2018 was 0.51 and, as mentioned above, was 0.51 in 2017.

This year, 2019, we continued to observe other bird and wildlife species at the Nighthawk Watch. Our resident Belted Kingfisher continued to steal our breath when he flew dangerously low back and forth over Old Field Road most evenings. Mixed blackbird flocks involving hundreds, sometimes thousands, of Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, European Starlings, and Brown-headed Cowbirds continued to return each evening to their roost in the stands of phragmites north of the spillway to the pond. Blue Jays carrying acorns were seen during the latter part of the Watch. As the season progressed, we began to see the first winter ducks including a female Northern Pintail and the expected collection of “puddle ducks”—Gadwall and American Widgeon. Resident and migrating raptors flew overhead, some harassing the murmurations of Starlings. Typically the Nighthawk Watch closed for the evening when one or more bats emerged at dusk, a Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) being the only species we could conclusively identify.

One of the more interesting aspects of the Watch has been the occasional appearance of “tailless” nighthawks. In both 2017 and 2018 we saw a few tailless birds which led us to pay more attention to the number of tailless birds we saw in 2019. Four were seen in 2019 with two encountered on the same evening. This prompted some interesting questions. Are tailless nighthawks the result of an encounter with an avian predator? Are they immature or molting birds?

Previous account descriptions on molting in this species indicate the definitive basic molt “rarely begins or proceeds to any significant extent on the breeding grounds, but rather occurs largely or entirely on the wintering grounds after fall migration” (Selander 1954). However, one bird was photographed (see photo p. 152) by one of the authors (PD), illustrating a tailless individual, which showed the beginnings of a tail emerging that could denote a molt in progress. This bird lacked the white throat of an adult male (normally we would see a white subterminal tail band as well but obviously could not because of a lack of a tail),

instead showing the buffy or dark throat of a female or immature bird. The wing blazes looked substantial enough to be an adult, but we suspect this bird is probably a juvenile. Getting a clear photo of each of the tailless birds would have been optimal, providing an interesting comparison, which we will endeavor to do at future Watches.

Studies like the Nighthawk Watch create more interesting and intriguing questions which we and other researchers will try to answer. Can we use the Watch to better understand the process of molting in Common Nighthawks? Does the pattern of nighthawk movement at the Watch provide details on the extent to which weather, both locally and further north, affects fall nighthawk migration and perhaps the movement of other migrating birds?

To all who have visited the Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch over the past three years and counted alongside us (and occasionally filled in for us), we are grateful for your help, and we hope you will all join us again next year at the Frank Melville Stone Bridge for census year four!

### LITERATURE CITED

- Selander, R.K. 1954. A systematic review of the booming nighthawks of western North America. *Condor* 56:57-82.
- Turner, J. L. 2018. The Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch 2017 season. *The Kingbird* 68:179-181.



# **JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT 2020**

**Bill Ostrander**

80 Westmont Avenue  
Elmira, New York 14905  
browncreeper9@gmail.com

More than 337 volunteers went into the field 17-26 January 2020 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged 872.5 party-hours and counted 380,513 waterfowl. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The weather in January leading up to the count period was warmer than usual throughout the State. Temperatures suddenly dropped into a more seasonable (colder) range on the day before the count began. There were predictions of bad weather conditions on both weekends of the count, but little snow fell either weekend. None of the field workers seemed deterred.

## **RESULTS**

In this summary, I will compare the 2020 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 380,513, was just 3,193 (1%) less than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. Geese, particularly Canada Goose and Brant, compensated for the lower numbers of swans, dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and all other waterfowl.

Some species had higher counts than the 2001-2010 decade average: Canada Goose, Brant, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Common Loon. The counts of 121 Wood Ducks, 18 Eurasian Wigeon, 951 Northern Shovelers, and 3,227 Hooded Mergansers were the highest counts ever. These are all less hardy species that apparently benefited from the warmer than normal conditions leading up to the count period. No species count was the lowest ever.

## **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 4,065 in

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2020 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Snow Goose	0	2	3	2	43	0	0	0	30	813	893
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gr. White-fr. Goose	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	396	25274	25,670
Cackling Goose	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	6
Canada Goose	6,655	20,750	36,391	5,924	7,515	2,890	47	7,112	29,562	51,484	168,330
Mute Swan	12	259	23	0	81	27	0	3	225	1107	1,737
Trumpeter Swan	0	10	4	0	11	5	0	0	0	0	30
Tundra Swan	47	3	250	0	267	0	0	0	0	1	568
swan species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	2	0	0	2	5	2	0	0	10	100	121
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	951	951
Gadwall	17	36	75	2	4	3	0	0	125	2,044	2,306
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Am. Wigeon	0	2	6	2	1	0	0	0	26	634	671
Mallard	2,726	3,817	8,937	1,598	1,765	890	1,777	2,001	5,712	8,800	38,023
Am. Black Duck	52	434	879	280	136	34	129	145	919	6,612	9,620
Mallard X Black Duck	1	9	2	10	4	1	1	0	4	31	63
Northern Pintail	0	5	6	1	0	7	0	0	6	92	117
Green-winged Teal	0	0	6	5	1	0	1	5	1	184	203
Canvasback	694	10	4,163	0	0	0	0	0	46	301	5,214
Redhead	823	11,604	13,612	7	1,247	733	0	0	2	83	28,111
Ring-necked Duck	33	222	564	28	7	0	0	3	1,858	775	3,490
Tufted Duck	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Greater Scaup	1,336	1,978	470	0	406	420	5	0	1,080	12,502	18,197

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser Scaup	28	192	603	0	6	2	1	1	91	2,176	3,100
scaup species	298	161	364	0	230	0	2	1	0	3,670	4,726
King Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,492	2,492
Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	13
Surf Scoter	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	385	388
White-winged Scoter	1,550	255	21	0	98	105	0	0	3	1,400	3,432
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	786	790
scoter species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,189	1,189
Long-tailed Duck	910	2,875	4	1	887	445	0	0	213	4,179	9,514
Bufflehead	508	22	162	28	115	90	22	1	465	5,748	7,161
Com. Goldeneye	2,249	1,693	2,162	115	1,068	2,283	1,144	262	371	1,095	12,442
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	10
Hooded Merganser	83	14	19	278	41	9	44	56	763	1,920	3,227
Com. Merganser	1,305	678	548	641	1,218	1,818	562	292	2,604	177	9,843
Red-br. Merganser	1,482	4,560	299	0	540	782	8	1	66	2,440	10,178
Ruddy Duck	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2,321	2,340
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	30	39
Horned Grebe	14	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	32	148	200
Red-necked Grebe	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Am. Coot	7	36	251	6	27	0	0	0	59	144	530
Red-throated Loon	87	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	159	258
Common Loon	0	6	1	0	2	2	10	0	21	377	419
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	33	13	0	0	30	0	1	0	1	133	211
Great Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	94	123
Other/Unidentified	3,207	0	168	0	1	107	0	0	15	40	3,538
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24,162</b>	<b>49,654</b>	<b>69,999</b>	<b>8,932</b>	<b>15,762</b>	<b>10,658</b>	<b>3,755</b>	<b>9,883</b>	<b>44,770</b>	<b>142,938</b>	<b>380,513</b>

2016. That number dropped to 1,443 in 2017 and to 655 in 2018. The number rebounded somewhat in the 2019 count to 1,317, but dropped to only 568 in 2020.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2020 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 (sp.), White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser and Great Cormorant.

### FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2021 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information is available online at:

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

—where you can also view the historical data.

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:

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

2022 – January 15-23 (target date Sunday, January 16)

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2020 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	Debbie Suggs	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

### LITERATURE CITED

Swift, B. L. 2007. January waterfowl counts, 2005-2007, and some observations on long-term trends. *Kingbird* 57:198-213.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### The Painted Bunting Invasion of 2019-2020

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) is a rare but regular vagrant to New York, with a long history of records. Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964) listed five records from New York City and Long Island between 1927 and 1952 (not counting earlier records questioned as escapes), and Lindsay (Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*. pp. 542-543 in E. Levine, ed.: *Bull's Birds of New York State*, Cornell University Press, 1998) cited approximately 30 acceptable records statewide. In the past decade, one or more birds has been recorded annually.

On Saturday, 21 Dec 2019, I was busy patrolling my assigned territory for the Montauk Christmas Bird Count. My morning circuit of owling, seawatching, and bushwhacking had been quite productive overall, largely thanks to the best count day weather I had experienced since I first joined the Point North team in 2015. Some of the early highlights of my efforts included Northern Saw-whet Owls, Rough-legged Hawk, Palm Warblers, and a good smattering of seabirds. With noon fast approaching, I made my way south on East Lake Drive to reunite with the team captains for a lunchtime check-in, scanning for birds along the way. I noticed my count partner, Tim Dunn, had stopped his vehicle up ahead, presumably to sift through the sparrows working the brushline and roadside lawns. Following his lead, I paused on the shoulder some distance behind him for a quick survey. Upon turning my gaze to the left, I spied a bright green songbird foraging in the dry grass directly opposite my car. The vividly plumed passerine was instantly recognizable as a Painted Bunting. I quickly grabbed my camera and fired off a few documentation shots, rushing to get Tim and territory leader Doug Futuyama on the phone and inform them of the discovery. Within minutes, other count participants convened on the site. All happily enjoyed good views of the bunting feeding alongside American Tree Sparrows and Song Sparrows. The bird continued in the vicinity for several days, gradually wandering further up the trail towards the parking area for Big Reed Pond, and was last reported on Tuesday, 24 Dec. Despite its rarity, Painted Bunting had been on my radar as something to watch for during the 2019 CBC season, as a number of sightings had already occurred in the Northeast during the preceding weeks.

The first observation of the season in NYS was made by Marc Passmann at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*, on 3 Nov. Others soon followed, in numbers far exceeding those seen in a typical year. On 21 Dec, the same day as the Montauk CBC, another bunting was reported by Jim Gobetz at a feeder in Amityville, *Suffolk*. A week later, on 28 Dec, Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm found and photographed a Painted Bunting at Jones Beach State Park, *Nassau*, a first record for the Southern Nassau County CBC. A day later, Heather Wolf turned up yet another at Brooklyn Bridge Park, *Kings*. These last two were long-staying birds, lingering until late January and late February, respectively. Additional

sightings in the new year, 2020, came from Dune Road, *Suffolk* (1 Jan, Thomas Moran), Canarsie Beach Park, *Kings* (16 Feb, Peter Paul), Cemetery of the Resurrection, *Richmond* (16 Feb, Anthony Ciancimino), and Plumb Beach, *Kings* (19 Mar, Shane Blodgett).

The spate of Painted Bunting sightings was felt throughout the Northeast. From eBird, between November and March, multiple records came from the states of New Jersey (4), Pennsylvania (2), Delaware (4), Massachusetts (11), Maryland (10), and Virginia (7); and single birds were reported in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Ohio, and West Virginia. Three distinct individuals were detected in Cape May, New Jersey during December alone. The excitement in New York even continued into the spring, with reports from Heydi Lopes at the Salt Marsh Nature Center, *Kings* on 7 Apr and another feeder visitor discovered by Kaye Fenlon on 14 May in Marcellus, *Onondaga*, the only confirmed NYS sighting outside Region 10 associated with this incursion.

Although several adult males were recorded in other states, all of the birds recorded in NYS were green-feathered female-type or immature birds. Those that were assessed in detail by feather experts like Peter Pyle were determined to be hatching-year individuals, which was not surprising, as this age category seems to be over-represented among fall vagrants to Long Island. It is also important to note that there are two distinct populations of Painted Bunting, the southeastern nominate *P. c. ciris* and the southwestern *P. c. pallidior*. These subspecies are differentiated by molt timing, with *ciris* birds molting at their coastal breeding grounds prior to migrating and *pallidior* individuals typically staging a molt-migration before continuing to their wintering range (Pyle 1997: *Identification Guide to North American Birds*. Point Reyes Station: Slate Creek Press). I, for one, would be curious to know the points of origin for the buntings in the Northeast during this past winter, which could shed some light on the potential environmental factors which led to the influx. However, the variation in these populations is largely clinal, making it difficult to distinguish between them even with exceptional photographs or in-hand measurements (Pyle 1997).

The flurry of Painted Buntings in New York and the other Northeastern states was among the highlights of the 2019-2020 winter season. For a species that is so rare in our area, having cooperative birds at multiple sites was a real treat for observers all across Region 10. In an interesting coincidence, I learned that the bird I found in Montauk was the first easily chaseable Painted Bunting in Suffolk County since one on the same CBC on 19 Dec 1992, found by Andy Baldelli and Dave Mizrahi.

One major advantage of the interconnected, digital age of birding is the ability to track influx events such as this one in real time. Indeed, eBird proved to be a valuable resource for researching and consolidating the full scope of the documented sightings.

I'd like to offer my thanks to Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra for contacting me with the inspiration for this piece.

**Timothy Healy**, Astoria, NY



## **PATCH BIRDING MORNINGSIDE PARK**

**John Haas  
Wurtsboro, NY**

I had been an independent birder for about six years when I joined Sullivan County Audubon in 1999. One of the great things about joining a group is finding out information about birds and locations that are right in your area that you were previously unaware of. That was the case with Morningside Park. A few birders had told me about the park and said there were occasionally shorebirds at that location. Having a special interest in shorebirds and always looking for somewhere new to find them in our Catskill Mountains county, that piqued my interest.

I checked out the location with a few of my friends and to be honest, it did not seem that interesting at the time. Morningside Park is a town park in Fallsburg Township, Sullivan County. It has a lake of about 80 acres, a ball field, a pavilion, a campground and is a real attraction for fisherman. It is also the destination for many local citizens. I visited the park a few times and kind of forgot about it. Then one day a friend of mine, Ed DeBellevue, called to tell me he believed he was looking at a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER on a mud flat at the lake. I arrived to find he was correct and that was when my addiction to Morningside began. Baird's Sandpiper would be seen again many times in the future.

Morningside is unique in that it is a man-made lake for which many trees were cut to extend the area. Some of the trees and all their stumps and roots were left in place. Each summer, as the water warms, gases form under the mass on of the bottom of the lake. The gases raise the remains of the trees and large mud flats come to the surface. There are also permanent islands throughout the lake that attract waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds. I started checking the lake regularly in season and it developed into a real hot spot for me. The best way to bird the lake itself is by kayak. It not only allows you to reach all areas of the islands not viewable from shore, but it allows close approach to birds that are seldom startled by the kayak. Not only is the lake a draw, but the extensive woodlands on the property support both breeding and migrating birds as well.

My next good shorebird at Morningside was a STILT SANDPIPER. After that, the birds just kept coming. A long list of common shorebirds was eventually compiled. At that point, some interesting things began to show. I discovered a SANDERLING, only the third ever for the county. It would be followed by a several more in the coming years. A special bird appeared in 2013, a RUDDY TURNSTONE! Why so special? It was a first (and only, still) record for the county and as a bonus it was banded. Turnstone #0AH was banded two years earlier as an adult in the state of Delaware. The bird has since been seen year after year in several locations, last reported in 2019. It is at least 11 years old as of the last sighting.

The following summer, six BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS were found by a DEC goose bander! Many lucky birders got to see and photograph these first-for-the-county birds. It did not stop there. Each year I would find new and exciting birds at the park. The shorebird list got longer and longer. In 2015, I found two new county birds in a single morning. We had had a nice fallout of shorebirds from a storm the night before and as I kayaked around the lake one good bird after another came into view. The best was a juvenile WESTERN SANDPIPER, a stunning bird! As if that was not enough, I came upon the first county LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER shortly thereafter. Many of our local birders flocked to see these two birds. The sandpiper remained for two days allowing others to get in on the action. At that time, the shorebird list for the park had grown to 23 species, the highest of any location in the county.

Waterfowl are also attracted to Morningside with two dozen species recorded. Waders like the habitat, with Great Blue and Green Herons and Great Egrets being regular there. Virginia Rails are periodic breeders on the islands and American Coot can be found during migration. All the tern species that have been recorded in the county have occurred at Morningside. Common and Black Terns have been present on many occasions while Caspian and Forster's Terns have each been seen once. Four species of gulls have been recorded as well.

Raptors are quite common at the park. Bald Eagles and Osprey can be seen at any time and Merlins seem to take up residence once shorebird migration begins. They remain through the fall. Peregrine Falcons have been present a few times as well.

Perhaps my most astonishing find occurred in July 2018 when I found an ANHINGA huddled in a tree after a thunderstorm. The bird stayed the afternoon and was seen by all who could make it there before it departed. It returned a week later for an unexpected encore. This year I have already had waterfowl, waders, and woodland birds at the park and with shorebird season just around the corner, I cannot wait to launch my kayak. To date the park has a list of 160 species and as you can see from this text, almost anything could turn up at this small birding gem in Sullivan County!



## IN MEMORIAM: PHYLLIS R. JONES

Phyllis Jones, friend, colleague, and an outstanding leader of both Sullivan County Audubon Society and the state ornithological association, recently passed away.

Since her arrival as a Librarian at Sullivan County Community College in June 1996, Phyllis served in many leadership roles in our local Audubon Society, including President and Director. She wrote many articles for this newsletter, and was the Editor or Co-Editor for many years. She was the sole administrator of “Audubon Adventures”, National Audubon’s educational program for students in local elementary schools, for more than 15 years.

Phyllis also did every aspect of the writing and production of each edition of our membership brochures. She also handled the proof reading and printing of many other SCAS publications, including all five recent editions of the *Checklist of Birds of Sullivan County*.

As a representative of SCAS, Phyllis became active at the state level in the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs, now called the NYS Ornithological Society (NYSOA). Her work as Archivist has been particularly valuable, as for more than 20 years she single-handedly collected and catalogued important historic documents and securely stored them for perpetuity in the Kroch Library at Cornell University. She also served as the Editor of the newsletter *New York Birders* for four years and made important improvements in that publication. For several years she produced a Directory of the officers of the 50 member clubs. She also served as a Director of the state organization and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Atlas of Breeding Birds of NYS. For her many contributions to the organization, Phyllis was awarded the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

Phyllis was a faithful participant in our many local activities, including feeder counts, the Christmas Count and butterfly counts. In 2009, Phyllis was honored for her outstanding service to Sullivan County Audubon Society. Her passing leaves a large hole in our lives, yet we treasure our association with her for more than 30 years.

**Valerie Freer**—Ellenville, NY

This tribute is reproduced here, with details regarding Phyllis’ Meade Award added, from the Sullivan County Audubon Society newsletter, *Warblings*, with kind permission from the editor and the author.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2019-20

**Michael F. Cooper**

mikec02@optonline.net

Possibly the most remarkable thing about winter 2019-2020 throughout the state was how consistently warm it was. December temperatures were reported as average in three Regions, but above average everywhere else. January was absurd, ranging from 6-8° F above, while February temps were “only” 1.5° to 5° above normal in every Region reporting this data. Region 6 reported oscillations of unusual cold and warm temps throughout the period, particularly noting a low-temperature swing of 53° in 24 hours on 9 and 10 February.

For the short term, at least, the effect on the birds was positive, with “half hardies” widely reported everywhere. Many species that sometimes linger into early winter were still being found in January or even February. Waterfowl tended to be well represented, as many locations had less than icing on waterways, encouraging waterfowl and other aquatic species to remain north. In Region 5, David Wheeler mentioned “Oswego yielded good numbers of Long-tailed Duck and White-winged Scoter with the lack of widespread freezing making an easy winter for waterfowl.” Not so in Region 6, where duck numbers were mostly, surprisingly, unimpressive.

Early returns were noted for species like Snow Goose, Killdeer, Woodcock and blackbirds. Even some of the disappointing numbers in mid-winter were probably due to birds being able to forage in areas not visible to observers. Region 2 coordinator Robert Spahn commented “The open field birds, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, were generally scarce, likely partly due to open fields so they were not pushed to road edges much of the season.”

High Snow Goose counts were recorded in Region 3, with 25,000 found in December and again in late February. Canada Goose numbers maxed out at over 20,000 in Region 2. Tundra and Trumpeter Swans were widespread and, in some locations, large counts were made, such as 105 of the latter in Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (MWMA) in Region 2 and 3,500 of the former on Cayuga Lake in Region 3. Impressive max duck counts included 11,604 Redhead during the waterfowl count in Region 2, 350 Pintail in Region 5, 6,200 Canvasbacks in Region 1 and 2,500 Common Goldeneye in Region 1. Redhead in particular made a good showing in several Regions, apart from the very high number mentioned above. Spahn in Region 2 noted that Canada Goose and Redhead accounted for 2/3 of the individuals noted on the waterfowl count in that Region. Non-coastal Regions recorded nice numbers of scoters, with White-winged being by far the most abundant; the opposite situation was seen in Region 10, where counts of all three species were relatively low.

Many Regions recorded notable species among the waterfowl. Regions 3, 5 and 7 hosted Tufted Ducks, and King Eiders and Harlequin Ducks were found in four Regions, including a third record for Cattaraugus County. Barrow’s

Goldeneye was found in six Regions. A Brant found in a Canada Goose flock in Cape Vincent in Region 6 was a rare find; at least one Cackling Goose was also among this flock. A Black Brant was found in Brooklyn in Region 10, and further east on Long Island, a Pink-footed Goose was shot by a hunter.

Eared Grebes were recorded in Regions 1, 2 and 3, and Region 2 also turned up their twelfth record of Western Grebe. Another was present on New Year's Day in Region 10. Sandhill Cranes were apparently less widespread than in previous seasons, with reports from "only" four Regions, including a flock of 42 reported both in Regions 2 and 3 on 16 December at MNWA.

Shorebirds were rather scarce considering the warm weather and open water, with highlights being Purple Sandpipers in Regions 1 and 2, and Lesser Yellowlegs and Semipalmated and Piping Plover in Region 10. An American Avocet at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 8 December was probably the best of the lot. Two Atlantic Puffins at Montauk on 16 December were the best finds among the alcids, but a Common Murre and a handful of Thick-billed and Dovekies were also noteworthy in Region 10.

Large numbers of gulls were recorded in Regions 1 and 2, with counts of 2,700 Ring-bills and 4,800 Herrings in Region 2. The top gull of the season by far was the adult Slaty-backed photographed at Niagara Falls on 18 December. A Black-headed Gull on Cayuga Lake provided a first winter record for Region 3. Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backs seemed to be scattered around in decent numbers. A first winter Glaucous Gull on Dune Rd. in Region 10 had been banded as a chick at Coats Island in Nunavut at the north end of Hudson Bay. Glaucous Gull band returns are pretty scarce, and this may be the first for New York State. Surprisingly, there were no terns reported anywhere in the state, but a handful of Black Skimmers lingered into early December in Region 10. A Great Cormorant was a continuing rarity in Region 7, and White and Brown Pelicans were noteworthy in Region 10.

Seven Regions recorded Golden Eagles, including one in Region 10 where still quite rare. An immature Gyrfalcon was a one-day wonder at the Shawangunk Grasslands WMA on 22 January, and Region 6 received unsubstantiated reports of two birds on Point Peninsula in January and February, which may have referred to sightings from nearby Ontario.

Turning to landbirds, our boreal specialties seem to be just barely hanging on, with reports of small numbers of Canada Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker and Boreal Chickadee from Regions 6 and 7 only, and only one report of Spruce Grouse, from Massawepie Mire in Region 6 on 8 December. That honorary winter finch, the Bohemian Waxwing, was represented by a single report of 25 birds at Saranac Lake, and our actual winter finches were likewise almost non-existent. Open ground species seemed to be present in good numbers, although conditions may have allowed them to forage away from easy observation. Even at that, though, Lapland Longspurs were recorded from every Region. Snow Bunting flocks in the thousands were recorded, with a max count of 5,000 in Region 3. Horned Larks were also widespread and numerous.

As mentioned up top, half-hardies and other lingering passerines brightened up the season for many observers. Among the species that lingered in higher than normal numbers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found in all but two Regions, and Eastern Towhees and Gray Catbirds were found in all but one, while Hermit Thrush and Chipping Sparrow were reported from all Regions. In Region 9, John Haas commented that the “season produced an unprecedented incursion of wintering Chipping Sparrows.”

In addition, there were many records of species that don’t normally occur in winter at all—the reader should scan through the Regional reports to see the many exceptional records. A few that stand out include, in Region 1, two wintering Phoebe and a second winter record for White-eyed Vireo; an Orange-crowned Warbler in Region 2; Baltimore Oriole, House Wren and Black and White Warbler in Region 3; Field Sparrow and Ovenbird in Region 5; Brown Thrasher and Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Region 6; Black-throated Blue Warbler in Region 8 and Summer Tanagers in Regions 9 and 10.

There also seemed to be a better than usual scattering of other rarities—those which may have occurred not as a consequence of the warm winter. Western vagrants included Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Regions 2, 3, and 10; two Ash-throated Flycatchers and a Townsend’s Solitaire in Region 10; Varied Thrushes in Regions 4 and 10; Lark Sparrows in Regions 5 and 8; and a Dickcissel in Region 5. In Region 10, a Sedge Wren played hide and seek with birders throughout the period, and an amazing tally of seven Painted Buntings was spread out over four counties.

With so many extraordinary records this winter, I’m sure I’ve missed some that should have been mentioned, so I encourage you to scour the Regional reports to find your favorites. Finally, many of these exceptional records were notable for being out of season or for occurring in much higher than normal numbers, but one bird does stand out as genuine “rare at any time” record—for me that is the adult Slaty-backed Gull photographed at Niagara Falls SP. A really great bird for New York and my pick for Bird of the Season.

Once again, thanks for reading and bird responsibly!

=====

Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:  
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD\_relFeb-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,  
Ithaca, New York. Feb 2020.

=====

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

**Mike Morgante**

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

December 2019 was relatively mild, especially over the last ten days. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 33.3° F, 3.2° above normal, with 5.37" of precipitation, 1.48" above average. Snowfall totaled 16.1", which was 11.3" below normal. The mild weather continued into the new year. The January mean temperature was 33.0°, a whopping 8.1° above average. Precipitation was 2.72", 0.46" below average, and 13.2" of snow, a foot (12.1") below normal. A strong wind event occurred with a cold front passage on the 12<sup>th</sup> which resulted in a 9' seiche on Lake Erie. February was also much milder than usual. The average temperature was 29.4°, 3.1° above normal. Rainfall was 2.50", 0.01" above normal, with 20.6" of snow, 3.3" above normal. Lake Erie remained wide open and ice free throughout the winter.

The warm winter allowed a variety of species to overwinter or at least linger late into the season. An Eastern Phoebe overwintered at Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown with sightings throughout the winter, while one at Amherst SP made it until at least early February. While there have been winter records in the Region before, I do not recall any evidence of true overwintering phoebes. Other passerines with more presence than usual included Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. Most Bonaparte's Gulls depart the Niagara River by mid-January in a typical winter, but many more stuck around this winter than usual. A Black-headed Gull and juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake were among them with reports of presumably the same gulls into February; neither species is usually present throughout the winter. Similarly, a Purple Sandpiper in Buffalo Harbor had an unexpectedly prolonged presence from late December until 12 February. There were more Wood Duck reports than any other winter that I recall. Tundra Swans were observed multiple times at Iroquois NWR throughout the winter, which is unusual for the mid-winter period.

There was evidence of early spring migration in February for all the regular dabblers except Blue-winged Teal, which is usually a later arrival. Four Northern Pintails at Barcelona on 20 January may have already been spring migrants or at a minimum demonstrating northbound facultative movement. Multiple sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese occurred in February, including 22 at Conewango Swamp WMA. One in Clarence on 5 January was more unusual for the date. A Trumpeter Swan was identified at Bennett Beach for the only winter season report. Harlequin Duck was found again at Niagara Falls SP, plus two on the Niagara River at Buffalo, and, most notably, one at Olean on 24 February for a rare inland occurrence and third Cattaraugus County record. Other notable waterfowl included a lone report of Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze and a

group of 28 Surf Scoters on Findley Lake on 1 December. An Eared Grebe was found by Gale VerHague off Lake Erie SP on 27 December.

Celeste Morien was delighted to see (and hear) a group of 32 Sandhill Cranes flying over the Iroquois NWR headquarters building on 12 December, which ties the Regional maximum.

There were good numbers of gulls around Niagara Falls in late December and early January. Josh Ketry photographed an adult **Slaty-backed Gull** at Niagara Falls SP on 18 December, which was probably the same gull observed twice earlier in the month in nearby Thorold, Ontario where found by Ryan Griffiths. There were several follow up Slaty-backed Gull reports at Niagara Falls; however, none were documented and there were several similar looking darker mantled gulls with pink legs that were observed in the area at that time. I witnessed these gulls several times and know the temptation to claim one as a Slaty-backed, but they were likely hybrids or variations of Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull.

Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures were observed in Lewiston near the Niagara River Gorge throughout the winter with maxima of eight and 31, respectively. Northern Goshawks were observed at Wilson-Tuscarora SP and in Gerry. It was a typical showing for Rough-legged Hawk, while Red-shouldered Hawk was reported in numbers well above average from mostly Southern Tier locations.

Up to three Snowy Owls were found at Buffalo Harbor throughout the winter and there were reports from two other locations. Short-eared Owl was reported from four regular winter locations. There were two Long-eared Owl and three Northern Saw-whet Owl reports.

A White-eyed Vireo was a good find at Evangola SP on 7 and 13 December by Sue Barth, this was the second winter record for the Region. Northern Shrike was well reported this winter. Up to four Fish Crows were identified among the many American Crows roosting at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, while Scott Diedrich reported 1-2 on a near daily basis in February in another part of Buffalo.

Cedar Waxwings were scarce this winter, as were Purple Finches. A Red Crossbill was a good find on the Beaver Meadow CBC. There were not many Pine Siskins around with just a few reports and maximum of 10. Redpolls and grosbeaks went unreported. There was the usual smattering of Lapland Longspur reports, while Snow Bunting numbers peaked in late January and early February.

It was a three-warbler winter. Yellow-rumped Warblers were found in good numbers at Buckhorn Island SP again with as many as 13 there. A Pine Warbler was in Amherst in December. The Prairie Warbler seen several times since September on the Buffalo waterfront was found again on 2 December, but not after.

This report represents a milestone for me as I have now prepared the Region 1 report for 20 years. My first report was for the Spring 2000 season and appeared in *The Kingbird*, Volume 50, No. 3. At one point I was grooming Jim Pawlicki to take over, but then he moved out west. The years and reports keep rolling by, and



fortunately, the Region 1 birds and birders have always given me plenty to write about.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Moe Ademan, Sue Barth, Jim Berry, Kyle Brock, Brad Carlson, Edward Conboy, Doug Daniels (DDa), Willie D'Anna, Martin Dibble, Scott Diedrich, Deborah Dohne (DDo), Barbara Gee, Anne Goulden, Alec Humann, Josh Ketry, Twan Leenders, Alejandra Lewandowski, Andrew Mashburn (AMa), Vincent Meyer, Andrew Meyers (AMe), Joe Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, David Muller, C & Marc Parnell, Heather Renyck, Bruce Robinson, James Sawusch, Karl Schmidt, Nathan Scrivani, Shelley Seidman (SSe), William Seleen, Logan Smith, Tom & Laura Somerville, R Stineman, Scott Stoleson (SSt), David & Debbie Suggs, Patrick Sysiong, Cindy Vars, Gale VerHague, David Wheeler, Peter Yoerg.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ACNC** – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown CHAU; **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; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RTPI** – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown CHAU; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

### WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** Wilson NIAG 8 Dec; arr 68 Forestville CHAU 19 Feb (JK, SSe); 18 Shelby ORLE 24 Feb.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Clarence ERIE 5 Jan (MA); max 22, 18 CSWMA 25, 26 Feb (BR ph!, KB); 6 Lyndonville NIAG 29 Feb (WD); third consecutive spring with February arrivals.

**Cackling Goose:** arr 2 BuFH 21 Feb; Olean CATT 28 Feb (BG); 3 Lyndonville NIAG 29 Feb.

**Mute Swan:** DH 1 Dec - 23 Feb; Wellsville ALLE 2-10 Dec; BeSP 20-31 Dec; max 9 PB 12 Feb.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Bennett Beach ERIE 30 Jan (EC), only report.

**Tundra Swan:** 107 NF 14 Dec; max 136 Lakewood ChauL 16 Dec; 56, 30, 108 INWR 15 Jan, 9, 28 Feb (CM, DM, CM), usually not present mid-winter at this loc; 40 ACNC 19 Feb.

**Wood Duck:** three Dec rpts; max 5 Olean CATT 26 Jan (HR); three other Jan rpts; arr 2 Lyndonville NIAG 29 Feb; better than usual winter showing.

**Northern Shoveler:** max 59 BWWTP 10 Dec; NFSP 16 Dec; arr 6 Barcelona CHAU 23 Feb.  
**Gadwall:** 7 BufH 6 Dec; max 25 Tifft NP 14 Jan; 8 NFSP 15 Feb; arr Clymer CHAU 16 Feb.

**American Wigeon:** 2 Chautauqua ChauL 21 Dec; 3, 6 NFSP 25 Dec, 15 Feb; arr 3 DH 1 Feb.

**American Black Duck:** 12, 24 DH 8 Dec, 22 Feb; 16 Wendt Beach CP ERIE 23 Dec; 10 BWWTP 8 Jan; 10 Oakfield GENE 10 Jan; 15 BufH 10 Jan; max 28 CSWMA 25 Feb.

**Northern Pintail:** 2 WTSP 3 Dec; DH 7 Dec; 4 Cassadaga L CHAU 15 Dec; ACNC 11 Jan; BWWTP 14 Jan; arr 4 Barcelona CHAU 20 Jan; 4 CSWMA 12 Feb; max 33 Tonawanda NR 24 Feb; 26 INWR 24 Feb.

**Green-winged Teal:** last 2, 2 WoBSP 24 Dec, 13 Jan (SB); no other rpts beyond Dec.

**Canvasback:** max 6200, 2500, 1800 NFSP 22 Dec, 2 Jan, 3 Feb; 3500 BeSP 29 Jan; 2000 BufH 12 Feb.

**Redhead:** 600 Celeron ChauL 8 Dec (WS); 400, 400, max 800 BufH 11 Dec, 25 Jan, 15 Feb; 150 DH 14 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 49 Findley L CHAU 7 Dec; 45 BWWTP 3 Jan; 30 Buffalo NR 20 Jan; arr 6 DH 3 Feb; 16 Buffalo NR 9 Feb.

**Greater Scaup:** 200 NF 13 Dec; max 1000, 700 BufH 25 Jan, 9 Feb; 160 DH 22 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 1000 Chautauqua ChauL 7 Dec (WS); 45 BufH 21 Jan; 45 DH 1 Feb; arr 16 BWWTP 25 Feb.

**King Eider:** no rpts.

**Harlequin Duck:** 2 Unity I NR ERIE 1 Dec (KB); NFSP 4 Dec – 2 Jan, 3 Feb (mob); Olean CATT 24 Feb (VM), rare inland record, 3<sup>rd</sup> for Cattaraugus Co.

**Surf Scoter:** max 28 Findley L CHAU 1 Dec (C&MP), great count for inland loc; 4, 3 EvSP 26 Dec, 7 Jan; BufH 10 Jan; 3 PB 3 Feb.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 400, 340 NFSP 25 Jan, 22 Feb.

**Black Scoter:** 2 NFSP 4 Dec; 3, 1 NFSP 13 Dec, 2 Jan; 2 LESP 30 Dec; BufH 10 Jan; 2 DH 23 Jan; 2 PB 11 Feb; only rpts.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 220, 130 Lewiston NR NIAG 22 Dec, 9 Feb; 210 PB 5 Feb.

**Bufflehead:** max 1100 Buffalo NR ERIE 14 Jan (JK).

**Common Goldeneye:** 340 Buffalo NR ERIE 7 Dec; 325 Lakewood ChauL 13 Dec; max 2500 Buffalo NR ERIE 14 Jan (JK), remarkably high count.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** PB 22 Dec (BM), regular location, perhaps same individual as over the past decade.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 215 Mayville ChauL 6 Dec; 140 DH 7 Dec; 43, 62 BeSP 25 Jan, 23 Feb, good winter counts for one loc.

**Common Merganser:** 117 Cuba L ALLE 3 Dec; max 214 Lakewood ChauL 13 Dec; 193 BeSP 25 Jan.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 575, 378 DH 4 Dec, 20 Jan.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 12 Lakewood ChauL 1 Dec; 9 Cuba L ALLE 6 Dec; 5 EvSP 23 Dec; BWWTP 26 Dec, 3 Jan; Chautauqua ChauL 26 Dec; Barcelona CHAU 27 Dec – 14 Jan; 3 Celeron ChauL 15 Jan; 1, 3 BufH 27 Jan, 1 Feb; 1, 1 DH 1, 9 Feb; 3 Tonawanda NR 24 Feb.

**Wild Turkey:** max 59 Shelby ORLE 7 Feb.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 2, 1 Olean CATT 1 Jan – 3 Feb, 5-20 Feb (BG); Barcelona CHAU 20 Jan; 1, 1 DH 1, 26 Feb; FNSP 23 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

**Horned Grebe:** max 22 DH 4 Dec; 15 EvSP 26 Dec; 11 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 14 Jan.

**Red-necked Grebe:** BufH 6 Dec; GHSP 3 Jan; only rpts.

**Eared Grebe:** LESP 27, 28 Dec (GV, KB), rare in winter.

## RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**American Coot:** max 100 N Harmony ChauL, 57 Findley L CHAU 1 Dec; 22 DH 3 Feb.

**Sandhill Crane:** 32 INWR 12 Dec (CM), ties Reg maximum.

**Killdeer:** Lewiston Res NIAG 2 Jan (NS); arr BufH 23 Feb; Hamburg ERIE 24 Feb.

**Dunlin:** BufH 31 Dec (PY), only rpt.

**Purple Sandpiper:** BufH 31 Dec, 10, 26 Jan, 4-12 Feb (NY, SSe), apparent overwintering.

**Wilson's Snipe:** Dunkirk Airport CHAU 27 Jan, only rpt.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1,2, 2 juv Whirlpool SP NR NIAG 22-31 Dec, 3, 15 Jan, 5 Feb, apparent overwintering; juv FNSP 23 Dec.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 4500 Unity I NR ERIE 11 Dec; 2200 Lewiston NR NIAG 22 Dec; 2000 Whirlpool SP NIAG 4 Jan.

**Black-headed Gull:** Whirlpool SP NR NIAG 1-13, 22 Dec, 2, 4, 19 Jan, 5, 10, 20 Feb, apparent overwintering (AG, WD).

**Little Gull:** 5 NFSP 23 Dec; 4 Unity I NR ERIE 31 Dec; max 6 Lewiston NR 19 Jan.

**Iceland Gull:** 3, 4 DHSP 8, 15 Dec; DH 4, 27 Jan, 1, 22 Feb; 6, 6 NFSP 6, 19 Jan; max 11

NPP 19 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 20 Jan; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Feb; 3 Buffalo NR 9 Feb. **“THAYER’S” ICELAND GULL:** multiple reports from NFSP Dec, Jan.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 8, 12, 16 NFSP 22 Dec, 2, 5 Jan; 1, 2 DH 25 Dec 12 Jan, 1 Feb; 5 WoBSP 28 Dec; 2 Barcelona CHAU 20 Jan; 3 BufH 6 Feb; PB 11 Feb.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** NFSP 18 Dec (JK, ph!), no other substantiated sightings, *see intro*.

**Glaucous Gull:** DHSP 7, 25 Dec, 9 Feb; NPP 7, 8 Dec; NFSP 2, 15 Jan; 2, 1, 2 BufH 14, 25 Jan, 17 Feb; Somerset NIAG 23 Feb; lower numbers than usual.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 45 NFSP 22 Dec; 35 WoBSP 7 Jan; 44 DH 12 Jan.

### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** Olcott NIAG 21 Dec; Barcelona CHAU 27 Dec, 1 Jan; FNSP 2 Jan; max 2 Somerset NIAG 23 Feb.

**Common Loon:** BufH 2, 27 Jan, 1 Feb; Unity I NR ERIE 12, 20 Jan; FNSP 25 Jan, 9 Feb; PG 25 Jan; Somerset NIAG 23 Feb; mid-winter rpts have been rare in recent winters.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 22 BeSP 8 Dec; 20 Tonawanda NR ERIE 31 Jan

**Black Vulture:** 8, 6, 4 Lewiston NIAG 20 Dec, 15 Jan, 9 Feb (DW, DDo, BC, DDa, AMa), year-round presence in area.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 26, 31, 21 Lewiston NIAG 22 Dec, 15 Jan, 23 Feb.

**Northern Goshawk:** WTSP 21 Dec (JK, WD); Gerry CHAU 9 Feb (RS); only reports.

**Bald Eagle:** max 10 Buffalo NR 29 Feb.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** three Dec rpts; four Jan rpts; nine Feb rpts; mostly in Southern Tier.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** average number of reports.

**Snowy Owl:** 1, 2, 3, 1-2 BufH 3, 20 Dec, 7-13 Jan, 1-28 Feb, most reliable location; NF Airport NIAG 22 Dec, 5, 30 Jan; Sheridan CHAU 11 Feb.

**Long-eared Owl:** Forestville CHAU 13 Dec; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 5 Jan; only reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** 2 Jamestown Airport CHAU 15 Dec; 2, 3, 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 16, 30 Dec, 9 Jan, 1-19 Feb (GV); 1, 2, 3 Shelby ORLE 25 Dec, 23 Jan, 25 Feb; 4 Newstead ERIE 6 Feb (JM); mostly regular locs.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Randolph CATT 15 Dec (AMe); Sherman CHAU 3 Feb (AL); Forestville CHAU 5 Feb (GV); only reports.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 3, 2, 1 EvSP 7 Dec, 3 Jan, 26 Feb; 2 Wendt Beach CP ERIE 23 Dec; 1, 2 Bennett Beach ERIE 2 Jan, 8 Feb; only reports.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Tiffit NP 12 Jan (LS); only report.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Barre ORLE 14 Jan (CM), only report away from known breeding areas.

### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Eastern Phoebe:** RTP1 14 Dec, 22 Jan, 28 Feb (TL); AmSP 31 Jan, 1 Feb (JSA); rare overwintering birds.

**Northern Shrike:** well reported.

**White-eyed Vireo:** EvSP 7, 13 Dec (SB ph!); 2<sup>nd</sup> winter record.

**Fish Crow:** 1-3, 3-4 FLC 27-30 Jan, 4-5 Feb; 1-2 Buffalo ERIE 28 Jan – 26 Feb (SD); continued presence with American Crows at roosts.

**Common Raven:** increasing reports.

**Horned Lark:** max 73, 113 Bethany GENE 6 Dec, 16 Feb.

**Winter Wren:** 2 Tiffit NP 3 Dec; max 2, 3 BeSP 7 Dec, 11 Jan; 2 WTSP 21 Dec; AmSP 10 Feb; BuSP 16 Feb; Lancaster ERIE 26 Feb. **Carolina Wren:** 41 NF CBC 27 Dec, large increase over recent winters.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** NFSP 22 Dec, 15 Jan; Shelby ORLE 27 Dec; BuSP 11 Feb; better showing than usual.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 17 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Feb.

**Hermit Thrush:** Medina NIAG 27 Dec; BuSP 29 Jan; only reports.

**American Robin:** max 120 NFSP 1 Feb.

**Gray Catbird:** 3, 1 Tiffit NP 3 Dec, 22 Dec – 29 Feb, overwintered; EvSP 22, 24 Dec; LESP 4 Jan; Hamburg ERIE 8 Jan; Willing ALLE 12 Feb.

**Cedar Waxwing:** very few this winter.

**House Finch:** max 57 Forestville CHAU 31 Dec (GV), good count for recent years.

**Purple Finch:** only 7 reported from 9 CBCs.

**Red Crossbill:** Beaver Meadow CBC 21 Dec; only report.

**Pine Siskin:** max 6, 10 Alfred ALLE 15, 17 Dec (CV); Orangeville WYOM 1, 18 Jan; max 10 N Harmony CHAU 17 Jan (MD); Cambria NIAG 2 Feb; 4 E Aurora ERIE 16 Feb; 5 Buffalo ERIE 20 Feb.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 10 Shelby ORLE 18 Jan; 2 Somerset NIAG 20 Jan; 5 Sheridan CHAU 12 Feb; Bethany GENE, 6 Yates ORLE, Carlton ORLE 29 Feb.  
**Snow Bunting:** 80 Attica WYOM 20 Dec; max 459 Shelby ORLE 20 Jan (CM); 75 Alexander GENE 20 Jan; 50 BufH 21 Jan; 200 Gaines ORLE 3 Feb; 125 Holland ERIE 16 Feb.

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** Alfred ALLE 4, 9 Dec; 2, 1 NF 11, 31 Dec; Rushford ALLE 17 Dec – 27 Feb (KS), overwintered; ACNC 14 Feb; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 20 Feb.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** Chautauqua CHAU 2, 20 Dec; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 12, 21 Dec; Jamestown CHAU 16, 26 Dec, 1 Jan; 2 Orangeville WYOM 18 Jan (T&LS); more than usual.  
**Field Sparrow:** BMAC 20 Dec; Aurora ERIE 28 Dec; Ripley CHAU 5 Feb; Silver Creek CHAU 18 Feb; max 3 Sheridan CHAU 22 Feb.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Carroll CHAU 15 Dec (JB); INWR 30 Dec (CM); winter reports increasing.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 4 BeSP 3 Dec; Tiff NP 16 Jan; Clymer CHAU 5 Feb.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 7 Shelby ORLE 19 Jan; 4 Dunkirk CHAU 10 Feb.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 4 Carroll CHAU 15 Dec (JB, SS); arr 2 Dayton CHAU 9 Feb; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 25 Feb.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 3 SPWS 29 Dec; arr 18 S Buffalo ERIE 30 Jan; 28 Clymer CHAU 3 Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 130 Shelby ORLE 27 Dec; 39 Wethersfield WYOM 14 Jan; arr 23 Bethany GENE 2 Feb.

**Rusty Blackbird:** no reports.

**Common Grackle:** Amherst ERIE 7, 8 Dec; 3 SPWS 29 Dec; arr 9 BufH 6 Feb.

**Pine Warbler:** Amherst ERIE 19 Dec (D&DS); only report.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 13, 11, 9 BuSP 21 Dec, 9 Jan, 1 Feb (AH), regular wintering location.

**Prairie Warbler:** Buffalo ERIE 2 Dec (PS); continuing from fall.



## REGION 2—GENESEE

**Robert Spahn**

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580  
rspahn@prodigy.net

It was generally a warm and relatively benign winter season, however with interesting short-term details. December began with only five days in the first three weeks at above normal temperatures, then the last ten days averaged 12° F above normal. Temperatures for the month averaged 31.5°, 1.5° above normal. Precipitation totaled 3.90", 1.27" above normal, with 22.4" of snowfall, 0.6" above normal. But the largest single snowfall was only 3.9" on 2 December, with the largest Regional event on 12-14 December but mostly in the hills south of Rochester. The three local Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) all were affected by weather—snow for the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on the 14<sup>th</sup>, snowy periods and windy for the Rochester CBC on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and breezy with some precipitation for the Conesus-Hemlock CBC on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Most of the ponds, bays, and other still waters were frozen for all the counts due to the early deep cold in November

and continued bouts in early December. January was a warm month, continuing the late December temperatures to 17 January. A snowfall of 5.5" arrived on the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> and temperatures dropped to single digits for only the second and third times for the season. Temperatures averaged 31.1°, 6.4° above normal, with 26 days above freezing the sixth greatest total for a January, and the 64° on the 11<sup>th</sup> a record high. Precipitation totaled 2.81" 0.40" above normal, with snowfall at 21.8" 6.4" below normal. There was one high wind event on 12 January. Lake Ontario remained essentially ice-free. February was another quiet, mild winter month, the 18<sup>th</sup> warmest February, with temperature averaging 28.6°, 2.2° above normal. There were four short cold intrusions toward month's end. Precipitation totaled 2.51", 0.56" above normal, with snowfall 21.6", 0.1" above normal. Of that total, 0.58" fell as rain, freezing rain, and 7.7" of snow in the period 5-7 February. A heavy lake effect snow event passed at month's end, but most of the snow fell to our west or to the east into the Tug Hill area, passing Rochester out over Lake Ontario; it made national weather channels. There was a brief arctic surge from 14-15 February that dropped us into the single digit lows again. By 22-24 February we had a nice taste of spring, with some early migrants noted.

Looking at the general picture, we find most of the expected species at least reported, but peak numbers of nearly all were low. The three local CBCs all tallied low totals—Letchworth-Silver Lake – 60 species, Rochester – 78 (plus six count week species), and Conesus-Hemlock – 79 (plus one count week). Another factor for the counts was that the waterfowl hunting season was open through all of December for the first time since I've birded here (50 years). On Braddock Bay for the Rochester CBC on 15 December, decoy numbers exceeded duck numbers. On the CBCs, there were few new high counts: none for the Letchworth-Silver Lake count; only Bald Eagle and a tie for Peregrine Falcon for Rochester; and Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and Carolina Wren for Conesus-Hemlock. Starting the new year, the eBird download was down 15% from last year in contrast to a normal steadily increasing trend, and the species total for the month was the lowest since 2004. In February, there were some early spring migrants, but in many cases the few wintering individuals were numerous enough and scattered about enough to make judgement calls on arrival difficult.

Moving next to our usual groupings, we start with waterfowl and find the usual; with many birders reporting, essentially all expected species were found each month. Peak counts for most species were low. In December, we had only one record for Snow Goose, a few more in January, and numbers increasing in February after mid-month. Mute Swan numbers remained high, with the peak counts each month occurring between Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay with site depending on how various areas froze and thawed. In December, rarer ducks included a Harlequin Duck on the 8<sup>th</sup> and two King Eiders and a Barrow's Goldeneye later in the month. January added Greater White-fronted Goose and dropped Northern Shoveler and the rarer December ducks. February only added back the Northern Shoveler and brought some spring arrivals, with some of those wintering species with jumps in numbers or appearance at new locations. Given

the picture of scarcity, it is interesting that the State Waterfowl Count produced the third highest total in our Region since the 1973 start. BUT, 2/3 of that total was from just Canada Goose and Redhead and adding Mallard and Red-breasted Merganser counts pushed to 80% of the total. The aim date of 19 January again hit the change to winter winds and snow, so the count was done by various observers on dates through the alternate next week of dates allowed. Care was taken to avoid double counting due to birds moving some.

Grebes were also generally in low numbers, illustrated by no Pied-billed and only one report for Horned Grebe and two records for Red-necked Grebe in February. However, in December we had a good count of 408 Red-necked Grebes by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach on the 8<sup>th</sup>, an Eared Grebe photographed by Joe Wing at Sodus Point on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and a **Western Grebe**, the Region's 12<sup>th</sup>, was found near the mouth of the Genesee River on the 28<sup>th</sup> by Karl Schmidt and seen and photographed by many birders through 14 January. As in other recent years, Sandhill Crane lingered into December, with 42 tallied in the Wayne County sectors of the Montezuma CBC on 16 December and six seen flying from the Honeoye Creek WMA on the 28<sup>th</sup> during the Conesus-Hemlock CBC. None were reported in January, but a record early individual was seen near Braddock Bay by Andy Guthrie and Pat Martin on 16 February.

Shorebirds are a weak grouping for this Region in winter, but a Purple Sandpiper was found at Sodus Point on 14 January and seen and photographed by many there through 1 February, when it was one of few records for the Region for that month. Killdeer arriving on 18 February and American Woodcock on 25 February and additional sightings of each afterward were the only other shorebirds for the season.

Among the gulls and terns, we again have few special records. We start with a maximum of only 130 Bonaparte's Gulls on 7 December, then the last reports for the season of that species on 1 January. The usual Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls of winter were present in good numbers all season. On 15 February, there was a huge gathering of "large" gulls on ice floes off Manitou Beach, on the water, and on piers near shore. Near that day and subsequently, maxima of 2700 Ring-billed Gulls and 4800 Herring Gulls were reported. The only rare gull report for the season was a likely Herring x Great Black-backed Gull seen by Andy Guthrie at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 1 February.

Loon numbers were low all season, other than a few good Red-throated Loon counts and many reports of both loons from the area near the mouth of the Genesee River by birders searching for the Western Grebe. Double-crested Cormorant again wintered in small numbers, with a maximum of 19 decreasing to seven or eight seen at sites from Irondequoit Bay to Braddock Bay dictated by ice and winds. Great Blue Herons were scarce all season. Finally, there were the usual small flocks of wintering Turkey Vulture at typical sites, and the first few obvious migrants passing several lakeshore sites on 23 February.

Raptors, too, were relatively scarce. Bald Eagle numbers were good and are summarized as lines in the eBird downloads for each month. There was only one Northern Goshawk report for the season and one, one, and three Red-shouldered Hawks reported for the three months, respectively. As usual here, Cooper's Hawks far outnumbered Sharp-shinned; this season by 5:1. Wintering Rough-legged Hawks were few. Mike Tetlow and Greg Lawrence began the Braddock Bay hawkwatch on 23-24 February and tallied 16 birds. The official counter, David Brown continuing from last year, begins on 1 March.

Looking to the non-passerine landbirds, we start with the owls. The usual Eastern Screech-Owl numbers for the CBCs was suppressed a bit by winds and precipitation, but still 33 were found on the Rochester count and 30 on the Conesus-Hemlock-count. Snowy Owls were few this winter, with only about three in December, six+ in January, and two in February; the most reports were from the Genesee County Airport north of Batavia. The usual Short-eared Owl surveys out of the DEC office near Avon were late in starting, but decent numbers were tallied in the January and February counts. There was a single Northern Saw-whet Owl reported from the Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Road through January and three likely different individuals there in February as well as a Barred Owl seen on 8 and 25 February, thought to be one individual. Among the woodpeckers, there were no Red-headed Woodpeckers and only 1-2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reported each month. The rest of the resident woodpeckers are not studied enough for useful comment. The three regular falcons were each reported in typical numbers each month.

Turning last to the passerines, we find species variety is down a bit each month. Factors may include a poor breeding season to the north, the early snow and cold in November, a cold, snowy early December, and a lack of irruptive species moving into the Region. There were essentially no winter finches here all season. Lingering half hardies were actually good for variety and most continued through the season. The list included: Tree Swallow seen in December and January; many Winter Wrens; Ruby-crowned Kinglet in December and January; Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow in January and February; Field, Savannah, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows through; and Fox Sparrow and Yellow-rumped Warbler in December and January. In January, a very rare-in-winter Orange-crowned Warbler was found and photographed on the 10<sup>th</sup> by Candy Giles and several other observers and again on the 11<sup>th</sup> on the west side of Irondequoit Bay. Again, winter finches were reports by only a very few observers and in small numbers. The open field birds, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, were generally scarce, likely partly due to open fields so they were not pushed to road edges much of the season. Blackbirds were also generally scarce, though one of the few rarities for the season was male and female Yellow-headed Blackbirds showing up with a flock of blackbirds at the edge of our Region just north of Armitage Road into Wayne County near East Road and nearby, first reported by Kyle Gage then by many others on 20-24 February.

The eBird downloads, after removal of out-of-Region records from the split counties in the Region, were approximately (approx. due to my potential errors in doing this removal task): December – 13,956, January 19,408, and February – 24,226. The species counts by month compared with their 10-year averages were: December – 125 vs. 131.8, January – 121 vs. 126.8, and February 118 vs. 118.7. With the many variables involved and many observers reporting, it is difficult to draw many conclusions from any season. We can only point out interesting observations and suggest things to keep looking at with the passage of time.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Richard Ashworth, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry (MB), Sue Barth, Douglas Bassett, Doug Beattie, Janice Beglinger, Don Bemont, Gillian Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Mike & Ivy Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, David Brown (BBRR hawk watcher), Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Jill Church, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Peter Debes, Deborah Dohne, Mark Druziak, Diane Egan, Heidi Faulkner, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Janis George, Candy Giles, Bill Gillette, Fiona Gilroy, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, John & Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert Haggett, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Greg Hartenstein, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Jennalee Holzschuh, Dick Horsey, Bill & Mari Howe, Alec Humann, Mary-Ann Ingraio, Archie J., Carolyn Jacobs, Alyssa Johnson, Nicholas Kachala, Logan Kahle, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Bernie Kester, Josh & Julie Ketry, Jim Kimball (JK), Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Augie Kramer, Hans Kunze, Mike Laird, Tom Lathrop, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence (GL), Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Bill Maier, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, James McKay, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Mark Miller, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Judy Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Frank Morlock, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Matt Nusstein, David Nutter, Dave Odell, Annie O'Reilly, Jay Ovsiovitch, Andrea Patterson, Erma Perkins, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Bill Purcell, Nick Pusateri, Doug Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Susan Robertson, Rochester Young Birders Club, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salisbury, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel,



Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, Wendy Stevenson, Allan Strong, Dan Strong, Dave Strong, Joel Strong, June Summers, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, M. J. Thomas, Sarah Toner, Nathan Ukens, Jeanne & Thomas Verhulst, Matt Voelker, Jules Wagner, Brad Walker, Davey Walters, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Richard Weilacher, Emilee Weir, David Wheeler, Kinsley Whittum, Dave Will, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Mark Zodarecky.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB – ES or WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock; **BB – HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 28 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; **IB – W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **LSLCBC** – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 14 Dec; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Pond 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 Rd; **RCBC** – Rochester Christmas Bird Count on 15 Dec; **SPT** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

### WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** 4 Nations Rd IBA 28 Dec; max 2500 NMWMA (MR), WAYN 15 Jan (GD); 1000 Rush-Henrietta Townline Rd MONR 13 Feb; max 2500 Rt. 63, Piffard, LIVI 25 Feb (JK).  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** HB 20; 22 Jan (RRe, AGu, BCar, KH, PMar).  
**Cackling Goose:** 13 rep, ~ 9 ind 8 loc 4-28 Dec (8+ obs); 10 singles 8 loc Jan; max 3 Stafford, GENE 26 Feb (AGu, BriM).  
**Canada Goose:** max 10000 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, LIVI 10 Dec (JK); total 20,751 WFC 18-26 Jan (sev obs), very high count; 3000 BB-HW 1 Feb.  
**Mute Swan:** 162 IB-S 15 Dec; max 195 BB-HW 1 Feb (JiM).  
**Trumpeter Swan:** max 106 NMWMA (AR) 8 Dec (SBI, JMcG, BWal).

**Tundra Swan:** max 130 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GD); first migr 42 BB-ES 17 Feb.  
**Wood Duck:** NMWMA (AR) 5 Jan (AnM); Corbett P, Brockport 23 Jan (AGu); Caledonia Fish Hatchery 1 Feb (RSt); scarce in winter.  
**Northern Shoveler:** last Sodus Bay 15 Dec (MG); arr 1, 2 SPT 11, 24 Feb (MG).  
**Gadwall:** max 40 BB-HW 23 Feb, decent count.  
**American Wigeon:** last CLWMA 8 Dec (J&KGo); max 31 BB-HW 26 Feb (BCar), low max.  
**Mallard:** max 1000 NMWMA (MR) 15 (GD); 990 CL 20 Jan (MW); good counts.  
**American Black Duck:** max 174 CL 20 Jan (MW), ok max.  
**Northern Pintail:** total ~14 ind 9 loc Jan, scarce mid winter; arr 11 BB 10 Feb (MG).  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr Kings Bend P, Pittsford 23 Feb (CGi, DR).

**Canvasback:** max 80 BB 25 Feb & Spt 28 Feb, low max.

**Redhead:** max 6450 CL 20 Jan (MW); total 11,604 WFC 18-26 Jan (sev obs), very high.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 589 Hemlock L P 28 Dec (BH, JSI), during CHCBC.

**Greater Scaup:** max 1100 Spt 2 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 150 BB 2 Feb, low max.

**King Eider:** 2 Brown Rd., T Wolcott, WAYN 22 Dec (W&MR); 1 imm m Spt 20-21 Dec (JWi, LCB, MG).

**Harlequin Duck:** 1 ad m Spt 3 Dec (MG), ad m, rare.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 450 Spt 16 Feb (TL), good number, generally scarce.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 1400 Rigneys Bluff, Greece 4 Feb (KGr); flock approx. this size present in area all season.

**Bufflehead:** max 60 CL 7 Dec, low max.

**Common Goldeneye:** total 1693 WFC 18-26 Jan (sev obs); max 340 BB-ES 17 Feb.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1 m PtB 22 Dec (BriM, ph), only report.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 120 CL 7 Dec, low max.

**Common Merganser:** max 800 IB-W 3 Feb (ET).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2000 West Port Bay, WAYN 1 Dec (W&MR); 2407 IB 21 Jan (R&SSp); total 4560 WFC 18-26 Jan (sev obs), high numbers.

**Ruddy Duck:** last IBO 18 Jan (JO); CL 22 Feb (NK), scarce by late win.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 408 HB-YC boat ramp 1 Dec (AGu), good count; IBO to Genesee R 10-4 Feb, scarce in Reg in Feb.

**EARED GREBE (R2):** Spt 13 Dec (JWi, ph).

**WESTERN GREBE:** Lake Ontario near mouth of Genesee R 28 Dec – 14 Jan (KS, mob, many ph), 12<sup>th</sup> Reg record.

### RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** no reports.

**American Coot:** max 50 CL 23 Jan, low.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 42 WAYN sectors Montezuma CBC 16 Dec; 6 leaving Honeoye L WMA 28 Dec (KK, WS), CHCBC; BB 16 Feb (AGu, PMar), Reg record early.

**Killdeer:** arr RIT 18-25 Feb (EW), early.

**Purple Sandpiper:** pier off Manitou Beach 9 Dec (CSp, RSp); Spt 22-25 Dec (MT, MG); Spt 14 Jan – 1 Feb (MG, mob, many ph), few Reg Feb records.

**American Woodcock:** arr Mendon Center Rd. 25 Feb (PMar), early.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 130 IB-W 7 Dec, low max; last IBO & 2 Sodus Bay 1 Jan, early departure.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 2700 IB-N 15 Feb, good count.

**Herring Gull:** 1500 Long Pd, Greece 29 Dec; 1200 BB 18 Jan; max 4800 BB 21 Feb (RB, NK).

**Iceland Gull:** ~ 5 ind 2 loc 4-31 Dec; max 6 Cranberry Pd, G 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 15 ind 9 loc 1-27 Jan; ~ 20 ind 7 loc Feb.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 Round Pd, Greece 15 Dec (CW); 1 ad CL 24-28 Dec (6+ obs); 6 ind 7 loc 1-20 Jan; ~ 28 ind 12 loc Feb.

**Glaucous Gull:** ~ 7 ind 8 loc -31 Dec; ~ 13 ind 13 loc Jan; ~ 16 ind 14 loc Feb.

**Herring x Great Black-backed Gull:** IBO 1 Feb (AGu).

### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** max 14 off Edgemere Dr., Greece 23 Dec; 8 near Genesee R mouth 4 Jan; 11 OB 16 Feb; highest each month.

**Common Loon:** max 5 CL 7 Dec, low, scattered small numbers thru.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 19 IBO 29 Dec; 13 IB 21 Jan; 7-9 Genesee R piers 9-16 Feb; highest each month.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 34 T Rush 21 Jan; 1st migr sev lakeshore sites 23 Feb.

**Northern Goshawk:** 1 ad Lake Ontario Prkwy, Hilton 26 Dec (MB), only rep.

**Bald Eagle:** 17 RCBC 15 Dec, CBC record high; 126 lines eBird many loc Dec; 265 lines eBird many loc Jan; max 20 IB – W 25 Feb; 297 lines eBird many loc Feb.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Wiley Rd, T Savannah, WAYN 21 Dec (DC), 23 Feb (AnM, DN); Conesus, LIVI 30 Jan - 1 Feb (SM).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** ~ 6 ind 6 loc 8-30 Dec; ~ 7 ind 6 loc Jan; ~ 13 ind 13 loc Feb.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 33 RCBC 15 Dec; 30 CHCBC 28 Dec; typical lower totals.

**Snowy Owl:** ~ 3 ind 3 loc 8-28 Dec; ~ 21 rep, 6+ ind 5+ loc 1-26 Jan; Genesee County Airport 5 Feb (MAI); Bovee Rd, T Riga, MONR 28 Feb (BriM).

**Barred Owl:** M (OW) 8, 25 Feb (JAd rep), likely same ind.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 13 DEC survey out of Avon 21 Jan; month max 7 Nations Rd IBA 14 Feb (FG); surveys started late this season.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** M (OW) 9, 23 Jan (JAd, *et al.*, ph); M (OW) 8, 19, 29 Feb (mob), early for so many in this roost and count area.

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

**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**WINTER 2019-20**



Townsend's Warbler, Philip B. Healey Beach, Massapequa, *Nassau*, 28 Dec 2019, © John Gluth.



Slaty-backed Gull, Goat Island, Niagara Falls SP, *Niagara*, 18 Dec 2019, © Josh Ketry.



Rough-legged Hawk, 12 Feb 2020, and Short-eared Owl, 24 Feb 2020, Fort Edwards Grasslands IBA, *Washington*, © Scott Stoner.



Painted Bunting, feeding on *Panicum*, Jones Beach SP, Nassau, here 10 Jan 2020, © Mike Zito. One of seven individuals found in Region 10 this winter. See article pp. 129-130.



"Tailless" Common Nighthawk, Stone Bridge Common Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, Suffolk, 22 Sep 2019, © Patrice Domeischel. See article pp. 120-124.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** T Chili, MONR 7 Dec; T Rush, MONR 15 Dec; T Victor, MONR 3 Jan (RH); Hemlock L west side, LIVI 5 Jan (DD); CL Inlet 24 Feb (KC); scarce in win.  
**Northern Flicker:** max 23 Northrup Crk area, Greece 15 Dec (DBA), high count for 1 site.  
**American Kestrel:** ~14 ind 13+ loc 3-28 Dec; ~16+ ind 17 loc Jan; ~21 ind 20 loc Feb.  
**Merlin:** ~13+ ind 11+ loc Dec; ~26+ ind 21+ loc Jan; ~30 ind 29 loc Feb.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** ~9+ ind 8 loc 7-24 Dec; ~11+ ind 10 loc Jan; ~12 ind 9 loc Feb.

#### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Northern Shrike:** ~ 10 ind 9 loc 3-28 Dec; ~ 4 ind 4 loc 9-29Jan; ~ 10 ind 7 loc Feb.  
**American Crow:** max 22000 SE Rochester 15 Dec, winter roost SE edge RCBC circle.  
**Fish Crow:** 3 OB P 29-31 DEC (sev obs); max 7 Summerville pier 16 Feb (RBA Field Trip).  
**Common Raven:** max 8 Lake Rd nr East Fork, Hamlin 19 Dec (DT), high count for loc.  
**Horned Lark:** max 140 Church Rd, Hamlin 7 Dec (KM, SR).  
**Tree Swallow:** 2 Buck Pd, Greece 5 Dec (JeB, MB); Buck Pd, Greece 13 Dec (DT); off Edgemere Dr., Greece 20 Jan (MB); unusual in this season.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 46 Beatty Pt 15 Dec (GL), during RCBC; 1131 lines eBird Jan; 1089 lines eBird Feb; illustrates many reports for common birds.  
**Winter Wren:** ~30 ind 19 loc 7-29 Dec; 22 ind 13 loc Jan; 12 ind 6 loc Feb; max 4 Ellison P, Penfield 9 Feb (JiM), many for date.  
**Carolina Wren:** max 43 CHCBC 28Dec, CBC record high count.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** DEP 26 Dec, 1, 4 Jan (MG, RB, NK, GL, BCar); Brown Rd, T Wolcott, WAYN 23 Jan (W&MR); scarce in win.  
**Eastern Bluebird:** total 90 CHCBC 28 Dec, high count; 20 HANA 12 Feb (MMD), many for loc & date.  
**Hermit Thrush:** total 3 ind 3 loc Dec; 6 ind 6 loc 2-26 Jan; Seneca P Zoo 26 Feb (DWi); HB 29 Feb (GL, RB); scarce in win.  
**American Robin:** max 200 MP 26 Jan, low max.  
**Gray Catbird:** 4 ind 4 loc 10-26 Dec; 3 ind 3 loc 3-21 Jan; DEP 4 Feb (MG); scarce in winter.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 112 S Conesus 16 Jan (KC), low max.

**Common Redpoll:** Pittsford 20 Jan (PSm), only report.  
**Pine Siskin:** 4 Badgerow P, Greece 29 Dec; Victor 8 Jan; Fairport 14 Feb; 2-4 T Greece 15-16 Feb; scarce this win.  
**Lapland Longspur:** max 5 Rush-Henrietta Townline Rd 6 Feb, scarce this season.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 800 Rush-Henrietta Townline Rd 15 Jan (SSH).

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** 1 m Pittsford 4-19 Dec, 1-31 Jan, 20-22+ Feb (DSt, ASt, RRe, ph); Burr Oak Tr, Hemlock-Canadice SF 3 Jan (CH); Garden St, Avon LIVI 28 Dec (LBe, RB).  
**American Tree Sparrow:** max 60 Mt. Morris, LIVI 23 Jan, low max.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** N Wolcott, WAYN 2, 5, 28 Jan, 15 Feb (W&MR); T Newark, WAYN 16-20 Jan (LCB); rare in winter.  
**Field Sparrow:** Nations Rd IBA 3 Dec; 1-2 Nunda-Dalton Rd, LIVI 4, 20, 26 Dec; 2-3 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 23, 31 Jan (BH); 4 TCEA 27 Jan (MW); 1-7 Rush-Henrietta Townline Rd 9-21 Feb (mob); rare in winter.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 1-2 Nations Rd IBA 3-4 Dec; 6 Jones Bridge & Perry Rd, T Leicester, LIVI 23 Jan, 12 Feb (StA, JGo); scarce & local in winter.  
**Fox Sparrow:** DEP 26 Dec (MG); Beechwood SP, WAYN 15 Jan (JWi, ph); rare in winter.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 280 lines eBird Jan, illustration of numbers wintering, about ½ vs. last year.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 63 lines in eBird Jan, illustration of numbers wintering, about ½ vs. last year.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 85 T Riga, MONR 2 Feb (DT).  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** 1 m & 1 f Rt 89 nr East Rd, T Savannah, WAYN 20-24 Feb (KGa, mob, phs).  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** no reports.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 250 Rt 89, T Savannah, WAYN 20 Feb (GD), low max.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 100 Olmstead Rd, T Savannah, WAYN 22 Feb (TL, DWal), low max.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** no reports.  
**Common Grackle:** max 16 T Penfield 15 Feb, very low all season.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** IB-W 10; 11 Jan (JaG, CGi, RRe, phs, LBe, ET; BCar, ph).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 14 NMWMA (AR) 8 Dec (JMcG); total 6 ind 4 loc 7, 18, 23 Jan.

**Northern Cardinal:** max 47 Fairport 14 Feb (MZo); 1358 line eBird Feb; many reports.

#### EXOTICS

**Chukar:** T Mendon, MONR 25 Feb (PMar), likely released bird.



## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

**Bill Ostrander**

80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905  
browncreeper9@gmail.com

In Ithaca, December had normal temperatures, but was snowier than normal. January was warmer and wetter, but less snowy than normal. February was a little warmer and snowier than normal. The average low temperature was 21.4° F, 0.1° below normal. Average high temperature was 36.1°, 0.3° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.28", 0.88" more than normal. Total snowfall was 16.3", 3.7" more than normal. There was at least 1" of snow cover on 17 days, with a maximum of 11" on 3 December.

In January, the average low temperature was 21.5°, 6.1° above normal. The average high temperature was 36.6°, 5.3° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.76", 0.68" more than normal. Total snowfall was 10.9", 6.7" less than normal. Snow cover of at least 1" was present on 18 days, with a maximum of 3" on six days.

In February, the average low temperature was 18.4°, 1.9° above normal. The average high temperature was 34.6°, 0.6° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.69", 0.71" more than normal. Total snowfall was 19.2", 5.0" more than normal. Snow cover of at least 1" was on the ground on 26 days, with a maximum depth of 11" on 8 February. Warm fronts passed through on 4, 10, 17, 23, and 27 February.

After the mild January, observers in Ithaca and Lansing reported seeing migrating Snow Geese on the first warm front in February. Maximum counts of all three of the Region's swan species were high and on Cayuga Lake. The high count of Mute Swans was in late December, Trumpeter Swans in mid-February and that of Tundra Swans in later February. Maximum counts of Canada Geese and many species of ducks came on the last day of the season. Unusual species of waterfowl included at least one Ross's Goose on Cayuga Lake, a Greater White-fronted Goose on Canandaigua Lake, a Brant or two in the Town of Lansing, a Tufted Duck on Cayuga Lake, a few Surf Scoters on Seneca Lake, a Red-necked Grebe or two on Cayuga Lake, an Eared Grebe on Seneca Lake, and a Red-throated Loon in the Owasco Lake Inlet and another on Cayuga Lake.



Maximum counts of Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves were both low. This may be due to the widespread use of a corn harvesting method that leaves little waste corn for wildlife. The first American Woodcock report was on 26 February. A Black-headed Gull at the south end of Cayuga Lake in February was new to the Region's winter list. Also new to the Region's winter list was a Black-crowned Night-Heron in Stewart Park in December. Keuks Lake hosted a new winter high count of Double-crested Cormorants.

Two Black Vultures surprised a birder staying at the Holiday Inn in Elmira in December. Two others made appearances in January at the Stevenson Road Compost Piles in Dryden. A new winter high count of Turkey Vultures was reported at the same location in early December. Coincidentally, the same count was reported at McGowan Woods in early February. A Golden Eagle spotted over Hammond Hill State Forest on 15 February was an early spring migrant.

Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Sampson State Park was a winter high count. Abundant acorns brought abundant Blue Jays to the Region and led to a Region high count of 60 at one location in the Town of Danby. On the other hand, maximum counts of Tufted Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, and American Robins were low. House Wren on the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count was another new species for the Region's winter list. A Marsh Wren was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in mid-December. Counts of two Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes were winter high counts for those species. Observers found Gray Catbirds and American Pipits at several locations.

Two species had high maximum counts of 5,000—European Starling and Snow Bunting. The only winter finches were a few Pine Siskins. Two Eastern Towhees were in the Region. A few Chipping Sparrows lingered. One in the Town of Groton was in the company of a rare Clay-colored Sparrow. A few Field and Savannah Sparrows also lingered. John Fitzpatrick's hike along Cascadilla Creek on New Year's Day not only turned up the House Wren mentioned above, but also high counts of Song and Swamp Sparrows.

The early arrival of numerous blackbirds in February led to winter high counts of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. Mixed in one blackbird flock were two Yellow-headed Blackbirds. A couple Eastern Meadowlarks lingered and a probable spring migrant arrived early in mid-February. A Baltimore Oriole was photographed in a Town of Danby yard.

Several Yellow-rumped Warblers lingered. Another new species to the Region's winter list was a Black-and-white Warbler photographed in Ithaca in mid-December.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Paul Anderson, Tom Auer, Joshua Ayers, Jessie Barry, Shawn Billerman, Wes Blauvelt, Kathi Borgmann, Kyle Brock, Annika Brown, Bill Brown, Matt Cain, Philip Careless, Ethan Chaffee, Larry Chen, Alex Clark, Jeremy Collison, Jon Corcoran, Jenna Curtis, Doug Daniels, Ian Davies, Jared Dawson, Adriaan Dokter, William Earley, Kevin Ebert, Jody Enck, John

Fitzpatrick, Deb Fyler, John Garrett, Jeff Gerbracht, Andrew Gipson, Suzanne Giffin, Kate Graham, Michael Gullo, Ken Haas, Ginny Halterman, Sam Heinrich, Tristan Herwood, Paul Heveran, Alec Hopping, Jack Hutchison, Nita Irby, Matthew Janson, Jacob Jensen, Luanne Johnson, Nick Kachala, Logan Kahle, Chad Kauffman, Kenneth Kemphues, Dave Kennedy, J Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Tim Lenz, Taylor Long, Benjamin Mack, Brian Marino, Patrick Marr, Patricia Martin, Martha Mayo, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Tracy McLellan, Phil McNeil, Matthew Medler, Eliot Miller, Ann Mitchell, Will Morris, Diane Morton, Jan Murphey, Kevin Murphy, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Tia Offner, Bill Ostrander, Amelia Otis, Melissa Penta, Cristobal Pizarro, Mike Powers, Matthew Press, Ronda Roaring, Paul Rodewald, Ignacio Rodriguez, Ken Rosenberg, Melissa Rowley, Wade Rowley, Livia Santana, Judith Saul, Kelly Schaeffer, Tom Schulenberg, Melissa Simon, Joshua Snodgrass, Sherwood Snyder, Reuben Stoltzfus, Michael Tetlow, Judith Thurber, Sarah Toner, Lee Ann van Leer, Brad Walker, David Wheeler, Diana Whiting, Chris Wood, Eric Woods, Suan Yong, Narciso Zapata.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**BLNA** – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CC** – Cascadilla Creek, TOMP; **CyGL** – Cayuga L; **FLRA** – Finger Lakes Regional Airport, SENE; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SSP** – Sampson SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP.

### WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** max 25,000 T Geneva SENE 15 Dec; arr 300 TLan 4 Feb (SK), early; 25,000 CyGL SP 24 Feb.

**Ross's Goose:** arr Sheldrake Pt SENE 12 Feb (DK), early.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** City Pier ONTA 30 Jan.

**Brant:** TLan 1-2 Feb; Ladoga P TOMP 2 Feb thru.

**Canada Goose:** max 8000 Frontenac P CAYU 22 Dec; 8000 T Ledyard CAYU 22 Dec; 8000 CyGL, T Seneca Falls SENE 29 Feb, low.

**Snow x Canada Goose:** T Varick SENE 22 Jan.

**Mute Swan:** max 56 CyGL SP 27 Dec (DK, ph), high.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 27 Mud Lock CAYU 15 Feb (CP, IR, CW), high.

**Tundra Swan:** max 3500 NE CyGL CAYU 23 Feb (JMc, LS), high.

**Northern Shoveler:** SenL SP 31 Dec; Mill Street Pd CHEM 16-28 Feb; 2 CyGL SENE 28 Feb.

**American Wigeon:** max 250 CyGL SENE 29 Feb (JMc, LS), high.

**Mallard x Northern Pintail:** Myers Pt TOMP 22-25 Jan.

**TUFTED DUCK (R3):** CyGL TOMP 11 Jan thru (mob).

**Redhead x Scaup:** CyGL TOMP 11-17 Jan.

**Surf Scoter:** 4 CyGL SENE 24 Dec; Willard Town P SENE 22 Jan; SSP 1 Feb; SenL SENE 15 Feb.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 4 CyGL TOMP 1 Jan, low.

**Red-necked Grebe:** CyGL TOMP 5 Dec; CyGL TOMP 51-11 Jan; CyGL TOMP 9 Feb; Dresden Overlook YATE 23 Feb.

**Eared Grebe:** Willard Town P SENE 13 Jan-9 Feb.

**Rock Pigeon:** max 280 T Milo YATE 2 Feb, low.

**Mourning Dove:** max 46 T Dix SCHU 28 Dec, low.

### RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**Sandhill Crane:** max 42 Montezuma NWR 16 Dec.

**American Woodcock:** arr TDan 26 Feb.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL (R3):** Cyl  
TOMP 9-22 Feb (mob, ph).  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 5000 Cyl SENE 29  
Feb (TLe), high.  
**Herring X Glaucous Gull:** SRCP 16 Feb.  
**Herring X Great Black-backed Gull:** StP 27-  
28 Feb.

### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** last Owasco L Inlet  
CAYU 21 Dec; East Shore P TOMP 21 Dec.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 34 Perry Pt  
YATE 15 Feb (TLe), high.  
**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON  
(R3):** StP 1-18 Dec (mob), ph.  
**Black Vulture:** 2 Elmira Holiday Inn CHEM  
30 Dec; 2 SRCP 11 & 23 Jan.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 64 SRCP 5 Dec (JMc);  
64 McGowan Woods TOMP 5 Feb (JeCo,  
DNU), high; arr T Romulus SENE 12 Feb.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr Hammond Hill State Forest  
TOMP 15 Feb (CW), early.  
**Northern Goshawk:** TDry 6 Dec; Dryden L  
TOMP 15 Feb.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Cornell University 8  
Dec.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** T Catlin CHEM 6  
Jan; TDry 7 Jan; Finger Lakes National Forest  
SCHU 1 Feb.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 3 SSP SENE  
10 Dec (LK, TLe, BeMa), high.

### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Northern Shrike:** last Seybolt Road Bait  
Ponds SENE 1 Feb.  
**Blue Jay:** max 60 TDan 8 Feb (RR), high.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 12 T Van Etten CHEM  
3-27 Dec; 12 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 15 Dec,  
low.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 13 CC 1 Jan;  
13 TDry 7 Jan, low.  
**HOUSE WREN (R3):** CC 1 Jan (JF!), rec.  
**Marsh Wren:** Montezuma NWR 16 Dec  
(JSn), ph.  
**Carolina Wren:** max 10 Ithaca 1 Jan (PA),  
high.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 2 SSP 10 Dec  
(LK, TLe); 2 Bolton Pt TOMP 1 Jan (KMc),  
high.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 2 T Van Etten CHEM 4  
Dec (JoCo), high.

**American Robin:** max 40 T Big Flats CHEM  
18 Jan; 40 Severne Pt YATE 24 Jan, low.  
**Gray Catbird:** BLNA 7-21 Dec; Ludovico  
Trail SENE 16 Dec-10 Jan; Dryden Rail Trail 1  
Jan.  
**European Starling:** max 5000 T Fayette  
TOMP 5 Jan (DK), high.  
**American Pipit:** max 4 StP 2 Dec; Elmira  
Dam CHEM 2 Dec; FLRA 20 Jan; TLAN 19  
Feb; T Caroline 23 Feb.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 6 T Southport CHEM 22  
Dec.  
**Lapland Longspur:** max 16 T Fayette SENE  
23 Jan.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 5000 T Fayette 21 Feb  
(MT), high.

### NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** BLNA 2-15 Dec (JMc,  
mob), rec; T Benton YATE 8 Dec thru; T  
Barrington YATE 8 Dec thru; T Torrey YATE  
13 Jan (BB).  
**American Tree Sparrow:** max 115 TDry 20  
Jan.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** Quatrano P CHEM 1 Jan;  
Horseheads CHEM 10-19 Jan; T Groton  
TOMP 16-22 Feb; TLAN 19 Feb.  
**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW(R3):** T  
Groton TOMP 16-22 Feb (mob!), ph.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 4 T Romulus SENE 4  
Feb (TLe, RS), high.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** T Tyre SENE 22 Jan  
(DK), ph; T Covert SENE 22 Jan (JSn!).  
**Song Sparrow:** max 46 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 7 CC (JF), high.  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 2 T Tyre SENE 20  
Feb (mob), ph.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** T Genoa CAYU 8 Dec  
(AO); T Ovid SENE 20 Jan (DiW), ph; arr T  
Ledyard CAYU 16 Feb (CW!), early.  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLE (R3):** TDan 9-17  
Jan (SS), ph.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 12,000 FLRA 29  
Feb (JMc, LS), high.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** BLNA 11 Dec (CW!); SenL  
SP 12 Dec (TL), ph.  
**Common Grackle:** max 2000 FLRA 29 Feb  
(JMc, LS), high.  
**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (R3):**  
Cass P TOMP 15 Dec (DNU), ph.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 5 Louis  
Agassiz Fuertes Bird Sanctuary TOMP 1 Jan.

## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

**Lance Verderame**

8 Elm Hollow Road, Livingston Manor, NY 12758  
flybynight9@hvc.rr.com

Weather data obtained from the Binghamton Station showed a high of 49° F on 10 and 23 December and a low of 6° on 6 December. The average temperature for the month of December was 27.8° which was 0.5° above normal. December precipitation was 3.83" which was 1.00" above normal. The high temperature for the month of January was 62° on 11 Jan and the low was 5° on 18 January. The average temperature for January was 28.4° which was 6.2° above normal. January precipitation was 2.77" which was 0.32" above normal. For the month of February the high temperature was 52° on 24 February and a low of -2° on 15 February. The average temperature was 27.9° which was 3.2° above normal. The precipitation for February was 3.40" which was 1.09" above normal.

Waterfowl were represented well in the period. Of note were the reports of Greater White-fronted Geese, Cackling Geese, Tundra Swans and the Trumpeter Swan reported by Jonathan Weeks. Gadwall and American Wigeon reports were scattered throughout the Region during the period. There were also several reports of White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck in Broome and Chenango Counties.

Cortland County lead the way with gull sightings this period as Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Greater Black-backed Gull were all reported there. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was also reported at the Broome County Landfill on 2 February.

There were some very interesting reports of raptors, including multiple reports of Northern Goshawk as well as many reports throughout the Region of Rough-legged Hawk. There were single reports of Short-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Region. One of the highlights of the period was a report of a Long-eared Owl that was heard on 15 January by Chris Wood in Cortland County.

It was nice to see multiple reports of Northern Shrike scattered over three different counties. Winter finches were virtually absent this winter with only a couple of reports of Common Redpoll coming out of Tioga and Otsego Counties and a few reports of Pine Siskin from Broome County. A Grasshopper Sparrow reported by Derek Green is a nice late record for this species.

The bird of the period for the Region undoubtedly goes to the **Varied Thrush** found in Candor, Tioga County. The eBird reports of this find show the bird was present from 2 January through 7 January and, fortunately, was seen by many observers.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis Anderson, Tom Auer, Marty Borko, Jodi Brodsky, Robert Buckert, Ted Buhl, Rick Bunting, Adrian Burke, Martin Cain, Gary Chapin, Jeremy Collison, Zac Cota, Sandy Covington, Jenna Curtis, Ian Davies, Renee DePrato, Michael DeWispelaere, John Earley, William Earley, Jody Enck, , Pete Fenner, John Garrett, Derek Green, David Harrison, Debi Hinman, Mark Hollenbeck, Micheal Hoose, James Hoteling, Jacob Jensen, Sarah Jones, M. Jordan, Nick Kachala, Allan Kresock, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Wes MacKenzie, Kevin McGann, Karen Miller, David Nicosia, Susan Owen, Ruth Pedersen, Bill Purcell, Stacey Rice, Deb Ruski, Mickey Ryan, Thomas Salo, Tracie Scott, Kelly Spencer, Shirley Stout, Michael Suchorsky, Suzanne Summers, Abbie Tamber, Patricia Thorpe, Lance Verderame, Matthew Voelker, Fred von Mechow, Dan Watkins, Drew Weber, Jonathan Weeks, Daniel Wenck, Susan Whitney, Glenn Wilson, Chris Wood, Matthew Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**Alk** – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **Bpd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChenL** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DelR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **FMt** – Franklin Mtn, T Davenport, DELA; **GrwP** – Greenwood CP, BROO; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd SF, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly); **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, L (SE), T Scott, CORT; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO, **ULCP** – Upper Lisle County P, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

### WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** BUNP 13 Dec (AB,GW); 20 Nichols, TIOG 17 Feb (MHoo); 75 CVSP 2 Feb (WK); 370 Grippen P, BROO 4 Feb (JH); 75 Vestal, BROO 23 Feb (MJ); 2 CVSP 28 Feb (WM).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Vestal, BROO 1 Feb (GW); SusRB 22 Feb (MJ); ChRB 23 Feb (JW, DN, SR).

**Cackling Goose:** Binghamton, BROO 15 Dec (GW); DelR 19 Jan (LV); 5 Deposit DELA 16 & 23 Feb (LV).

**Canada Goose:** 306 StPd 19 Jan (MY); 479 Deposit, DELA 23 Feb (LV).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Binghamton, BROO 4 Feb (JW).

**Tundra Swan:** 2 Tioga Ctr. TIOG 5 Jan (DG); max site 3 Chenango Ri, CHEN 9-11 Feb (MD, AT); 4 ULCP 6 Feb (GW).

**Wood Duck:** 3 Sherburne, CHEN 3 Dec (MD); Sherburne 19 Jan (MD,FvM); HCP 15 Feb - 19 Feb (DN,VL,JW); 2 CVSP 29 Feb (WK).

**Gadwall:** max site 6 CRes 8 Dec - 3 Feb (LV,GC,DHa,MR); BpD 12 Feb (DN,JW); 2 HCP 15 Feb (DN); max site 3 StPd 19-20 Feb (DG,JCo); HCP 22 Feb (SR).

**American Wigeon:** CRes 14 Dec (LV); BpD 3 Jan - 26 Jan (MD,WK,DN,GW,SR,RD); max site 8 HCP 26 Jan - 19 Feb (WK,JW,mob); 2 SusRB 14 Feb (MJ); 10 HCP 22 Feb (SR); 15 CG 25 Feb (MB).

**Mallard:** 272 DelR 14 Dec (LV); 306 Homer, CORT 1 Jan (JJ); 155 HCP 22 Jan (DN).

**American Black Duck:** 72 Walton, DELW 4 Jan (BP); 90 CRes 19 Jan (LV).

**Northern Pintail:** Portlanville, OTSE 14 Jan (SS); 3 Barton, TIOG 23 Feb (DW); 3 BpD 25 Feb (DW).

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 CRes 19 Jan (LV); 4 Owego Creek NT, TIOG 20 Jan (DG).

**Redhead:** 5 CanL 4 Dec (TB); max site 14 HCP 22 Jan - 25 Feb (JW & others); max site 6 OtsL 16-28 Feb (SS,mob).

**Ring-necked Duck:** 20 Allen Lk., OTSE 1 Dec (TB); 34 CRes 17 Jan (KMi).

**Greater Scaup:** ChRB 4 Jan (MR); SusRB 14 Jan (VL); SusRB 21 Jan (DN); ChRB 26 Jan (WK).

**Lesser Scaup:** 25 CanL 1 Dec (TB); 12 OtsL 8 Jan (TB); 2 SusRB 23 Jan (DN); 2 Sus RB 2 Feb (MJ).

**White-winged Scoter:** 2 ULCP 4 Dec (DW); Murphy Pits, BROO 4 & 5 Dec (DW,VL); Afton, CHEN 16 Jan (RBun).

**Long-tailed Duck:** max site 2 ChRB 14 Dec - 14 Feb (mob), CaHo 31 Jan (MB,GW); ChRB 15 Dec - 12 Jan (DG,mob).

**Bufflehead:** 22 OtsL 1 Dec (PF); 13 CRes 15 Dec (LV).

**Common Goldeneye:** 13 CRes 4 Jan (BP); 80 OtsL 5 Jan (DD); 17 Owego, TIOG 22 Feb (SO).

**Hooded Merganser:** 90 CanL 12 Dec (TB); 61 Port Crane, BROO 15 Dec (DG); 145 OtsL 10 Jan (TB).

**Common Merganser:** 200 OtsL 4 Dec (PF); 270 CanL 12 Dec (TB); 47 PRes 3 Jan (NK,RBuc).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 4 OtsL 3 Dec (PF).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Downsview DELW 15 Dec (LV); max site 7 MHL 2 Dec - 29 Feb (SC); Middlefield OTSE 2 Feb - 27 Feb (PT); ULCP 16 Feb (ID,JCu,JG,AS); 5 Homer CORT 6 Dec (DWe).

**Ruffed Grouse:** 6 Shaver Hill Rd. DELA 14 Feb (MS); 6 Pharsalia Woods SF CHEN 29 Feb (MC).

**Wild Turkey:** 70 Downsview DELA 5 Jan (LV); 127 Greene CHEN 10 Feb (AT).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** OtsL 1 Dec (PF); Murphy Pits BROO 5 Dec (VL); HCP 7 Jan - 25 Feb. (mob).

**Horned Grebe:** 3 Murphy Pits BROO 4 Dec (DW).

### RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**American Coot:** max 36 OtsL 1 Dec - 28 Feb (SS,mob).

**Killdeer:** Murphy Pits BROO 25 Feb (DW).

**Wilson's Snipe:** 2 Vestal BROO 2 Feb (SR,VL,MJ).

**Iceland Gull:** SkaL 2 Feb (CW).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** StPd 20 Dec (JCo); Broome County Landfill BROO 2 Feb (JW,RD,SR).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 3 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 4 Jan (KMc,DA,MV); 2 Cortland CORT 7 Jan (JEn); 5 StPd 19 Feb (JCo).

### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** DorP 1 Dec (JW); OtsL 4 Dec (PF); CannR 8 Dec (LV).

**Turkey Vulture:** 25 Edicott BROO 23 Feb (MJ); 7 Binghamton BROO 25 Feb (DW).

**Golden Eagle:** 4 FMHW 4 Dec (TS); 2 Ottaway Pd OTSE 28 Feb (PT).

**Northern Harrier:** 2 Hamden DELA 27 Feb (SW).

**Northern Goshawk:** Bainbridge CHEN 1 Dec (KS); North Norwich CHEN 6 Dec (DR); Masonville DELA 28 Dec (JB); Oxford CHEN 26 Jan (MD).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** FMHW 7 Dec (TS); Harold Mopore P BROO 12 Jan (WK); ULCP 24 Feb (DN).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** many records throughout Region.

**Long-eared Owl:** Flint Rd. CORT 15 Jan (CW).

**Short-eared Owl:** Waite's Corner TIOG 19 Jan (DW).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** PRes 7 Dec (LV).

**American Kestrel:** 15 Reports of single birds by mob throughout period.

**Merlin:** 2 Johnson City BROO 25 Feb (JH).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** FMHW 7 Dec (TS); StPd 20 Dec (JCo); max site 2 Binghamton BROO (mob) throughout period.

#### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Eastern Phoebe:** Smyrna 11 Dec & 19 Jan (MD,FvM); ULCP 2 Jan & 8 Feb. (DN); Cortland CORT 13 Jan (DG).  
**Northern Shrike:** Binghamton BROO 15 Dec (DN,GW); Glen Aubrey BROO 15 Dec (JW,DN); Sherburne CHEN 16 Dec (MD); Lisle BROO 27 Dec (AK); Whitney Point BROO 26 Jan VL); Cortland CORT 21 Feb (CW).  
**Fish Crow:** max 12 Binghamton throughout period (WK,mob).  
**Horned Lark:** 67 Deposit DELA 16 Feb (LV); 60 Sherburne CHEN 19 Feb (MD).  
**Winter Wren:** ULCP 24 Dec (GC); Cortland CORT 31 Dec (JJ); Cortland 4 Jan (CW); ULCP 11 Feb (DN); 2 Castle Creek Road BROO 15 Feb (SJ).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Cortland CORT 14 Dec (ID,TA); Afton CHEN 29 Jan (DH); CG 3 Feb (MB).  
**Hermit Thrush:** Binghamton 1 Jan - 2 Feb (DN); McCall Hill Rd. DELA 5 Jan (BP); StPd 31 Jan (JCo); Anson Rd. BROO 16 Feb (MJ).  
**VARIED THRUSH:** Candor TIOG eBird reports from 2 Jan -7 Jan. Mark Hollenbeck was noted as original finder of bird. Many other observers.  
**Gray Catbird:** CG 2 Feb-3 Feb (MB).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Johnson City BROO 11 Jan (MJ); Cortland CORT 21 Feb & 29 Feb (ZC,CW).  
**Common Redpoll:** 8 Stanto Hill TIOG 1 Jan (DG); 2 Fly Creek OTSE 31 Jan (DWen).  
**Pine Siskin:** Glen Aubrey BROO 14 Dec (DG); max site 3 18 Dec. Vestal BROO (TS).  
**Lapland Longspur:** Lisle 17 Feb (JW,DN,GW).  
**Snow Bunting:** 150+ Deposit DELA 16 Feb (LV); 150 Berkshire TIOG 26 Feb (GW).

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** Spencer TIOG 17 Dec - 27 Jan (JEa, WE).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** ULCP 22 Dec (DN); Lisle BROO 2 Jan, 20 Feb (SS); max site 2 Castle Creek 2 Dec - 29 Feb (JW); Lake Delaware DELA 7 Dec - 9 Dec (RP).  
**Field Sparrow:** Downsville DELA 14 Dec (LV); Vestal 15 Feb (MJ).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Greene CHEN 13 Dec (MD).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** Tri- Cities Airport BROO 20 Dec (GW).  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Owego TIOG 23 Dec (DG).  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** Vestal BROO 23 Feb (MJ).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** MHL 2 Dec-3 Dec (SC).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Endicott BROO 22 Dec-29 Dec. (MJ); Endicott 16 Feb-17 Feb (MJ,DN).  
**Indigo Bunting:** Bainbridge CHEN 17 Dec (RBun).



## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**David Wheeler**

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

Winter 2019-20 began with 7.3" of snow on the season's first day, but the month ended 9.2" below average with 23.5". The average high temperature of 37.9° F was 1.5° above normal. Both low and high average temperatures were more than 7° above average in January, leading to few water bodies freezing or remaining frozen. Snowfall was 17.8" below normal at only 16.2". The 11<sup>th</sup> produced a high of 67° and the month finished as the twelfth warmest on record. February's

average maximum was 1.6° above normal, but the daily average low was 3.6° higher than normal and snowfall a few inches above average. The overall warmer winter and occasional days in the 50s prevented all but the calmest, shallowest water from fully freezing. The Region's inland rivers never came close and Oswego Harbor quickly opened after any overnight freezing. Ditto for Onondaga Lake, which barely ever froze south of the marina.

Few Snow Geese were reported and only small numbers, with the max of 140 on 1 December and no migration evident yet at the end of the season. Tundra Swans found open water on Oneida Lake in January, while 105 on Onondaga Lake on 21 January was very unusual as the lake does not normally attract many even during migration. A count of 350 Mallards at Ditch Bank Road on 11 January is also noteworthy. Tim Kolb photographed a putative Mallard x Northern Pintail at Oswego Harbor. Dabbling ducks returned for the last week of February with good counts of Northern Pintail and American Wigeon for the date, seen mostly in the Montezuma area at the Loop Road floodland which now sports a new overlook. Onondaga lake again hosted large numbers of Redheads and Common Mergansers, while Woodman Pond had excellent counts of Ring-necked Duck early and late in the season. An adult male Harlequin duck continued from the prior season, while Mickey Scilingo found an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye on the Oswego River at Phoenix. Gregg Dashnau added a female at Oswego Harbor. All were long-staying. On 13 February David Wheeler found an adult male **Tufted Duck** on Little Sodus Bay at Fair Haven, keeping company with several hundred scaup. Viewing the near shore looking south from the state park boat launch, Wheeler noted it one of the most frustrating observing conditions imaginable due to trees overhanging the water's edge. Oswego yielded good numbers of Long-tailed Duck and White-winged Scoter with the lack of widespread freezing making an easy winter for waterfowl. 37 American Coot on Skaneateles Lake was a good count on 8 December.

As often happens in milder winters, few big gull concentrations emerged and winter specialties occurred in smaller numbers than possible during extensive cold spells. While lakewatching on 15 December at Derby Hill, David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne enjoyed the close flyby of a Black-legged Kittiwake. It was the only one of the entire lakewatch season, a sad commentary on the fragile state of this activity in the absence of favorable winds. During a big snowstorm on 19 January, Gregg Dashnau spotted a **Black-headed Gull** accompanying larger gulls on the ice near Marble Island in Baldwinsville. The bird was also seen from the Onondaga Lake marina intermittently for the next ten days. Good numbers of gulls attended the ice edge, which spread across the lake's one-mile width. Killdeer failed to make an early showing in February.

A single Golden Eagle was reported on 18 January by Larry Hall, while an early Red-shouldered Hawk passed Derby Hill on 23 February. It did not feel like a good winter to see Rough-leggeds and few lingered in the area. Disappointing reports from hotspots north of the Region implied the species may not have moved south into NY in any great number. Ditto for Snowy Owl, which was seen



occasionally from typical spots but absent from many others. A Short-eared Owl was reported from the town of Fairfield on 22 January. Red-headed Woodpeckers successfully overwintered at Fair Haven and Verona Beach after having been seen caching food in fall. Few Northern Shrikes lingered. As many Merlin were reported as Kestrel this winter, and nearly as many as Sharp-shinned Hawks, the first species almost unknown to the season as recently as the late 1990s but now as common as the other small hawks. The editor points out the potential for confusion as the falcon can be easily mistaken for the small accipiter when strafing feeders.

Presumed expansion of Fish Crow away from traditional areas has continued, mostly along waterways and in busy suburban areas. A pair seen repeatedly on Route 11 in North Syracuse seemed partial to the poles and trees around a Burger King, while a few miles north another occupies a similar niche. The editor has long surmised that when away from water the birds are drawn to locations with strong smells of food. Would increased sensitivity to crows in these areas confirm the theory? What will the forthcoming Breeding Bird Atlas show? As more are reported hopefully observers will continue their due diligence in separating from American Crow and Common Raven, especially when these are giving low, nasal, single-note calls. Raven continues to become “common”, with 16 reported from Little Moose Lake by Gary Lee on 17 December and 13 near Pulaski on 21 February. Reports were scattered about the Region both at typical locations and even more developed areas.

Lingering half-hardies such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Gray Catbird, and Hermit Thrush were represented no more than usual, perhaps surprising given the milder winter. The editor points out, however, that migrants have no more idea of the winter to come than do human observers. Overall it was a very poor year for winter finches. Purple Finch was reported from usual places in Herkimer and Madison Counties but absent from the Oneida and Lake Ontario plains. Redpoll and Pine Siskin were reported two and four times respectively, all less than a handful of birds. Larry Hall reported finding a White-winged Crossbill on 25 January in the town of Ohio, the only crossbill report, and Evening Grosbeak was missed altogether. Apparently food supplies north of the Region were adequate. 1000 Snow Buntings graced a field in Richland, but it was a poor year for Lapland Longspurs. Without a lot of snow cover, few field birds were forced into conspicuous manure spreads or onto rural road-sides ripped up by snowplowing.

Chipping Sparrows were more common than normal this winter at feeders, continuing from fall through virtually the entire winter season. Other lingering sparrows such as Eastern Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, Field, and White-crowned were reported in typical numbers. A single Fox Sparrow was seen on 8 December by Andrea Burke near Navarino in southwest Onondaga County. One of the season's great highlights was a **Lark Sparrow** found by Matt Brown at his feeders in Pulaski on 7 January. Brown documented the bird with excellent photos and kept the birding public apprised of its comings and goings, observing it was

frequently one of the last birds of the day still feeding. The bird continued throughout the period and was seen by many. How long would it remain into spring?

Rusty Blackbird was reported on 22 December and 16 February. In spite of the milder winter it was not a particularly early or vigorous arrival of Red-wings or Grackles, with maximum counts of only 100 and 300 occurring in late February. No more than the usual few appeared to winter in the Region. An Ovenbird was found by Gregg Dashnau on 4 December near Baldwinsville, record-late (by almost a month) if considered a fall migrant and a second Regional record for winter. Marge Rusk wrote in referring to the prior bird “at feeder in East Syracuse, 17 December 1972 – 25 January 1973. Ate mix of chopped suet, hamburger, other meats, chopped sunflower seed”. Last but not least, a female **Dickcissel** was found by Lisa Mather near Marcellus on 20 January. The bird was seen by many and continued through 24 February.

This season a total of 131 species and five hybrids were reported, which is three below the recent average for the Region and 13 less than last winter. Highlights of the season included: Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid), **Tufted Duck**, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid), Black-legged Kittiwake, **Black-headed Gull**, Golden Eagle, Short-eared Owl, White-winged Crossbill, **Lark Sparrow**, Ovenbird, and **Dickcissel**.

Winter 2019-20 produced 42,485 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.1. Reports were contributed by 392 people.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis Anderson, Sue Boettger, Carla Bregman, David Bohrer, Joseph Brin, Matthew Brown (MB), Ken Burdick, Andrea Burke (AB), Jerry Case, Richard Cohen, Karl Curtis, Gregg Dashnau (GD), Rose DeNeve, Deborah Dohne (DD), David Dubois, Sarah Dzielski, Kaye Fenlon, Elizabeth Frascatore, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara & Larry Hall, Tyler Hodges, Gene Huggins, Tim Kolb (TK), Renee Kittleman, Alison Kocek, Gary Lee (GL), Fred Leff, Jason Luscier (JL), Mary Magistro, Lisa Mather (LM), Jason Mauro, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Tom McKay, Gary Meyers, John Moore, David Nash, Kevin Pace, Scott Peterson, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Carter Riley, Linda Salter, Steve Schwab, Mickey Scilingo (MS), Ida Sheppard, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith (GS), Rick Stevens, Judy Thurber, Sasha Torman, Andrew VanNorstrand, Matt Voelker, Drew Weber, Tom Weickert, David Wheeler (DWh), Terry White, Robert Whitman (RW), Robert G. Williams III, Judy Wright.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ADK** – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland;

**Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego Ri, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest Co P; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **LOnt** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison Co Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Rd Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga L P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **Ppt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skane** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

#### **WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Snow Goose:** max SSSP 1 Dec; few reps.  
**Cackling Goose:** max 3 Fulton 9 Feb (DWh, DD).  
**Canada Goose:** 1000 WP 11 Dec; 1500 SkanL 2 Feb; 1740 GLSP 21 Jan; max 2300 Caz L.  
**Mute Swan:** 14 SSSP 28 Feb; 14 OLP 13 Dec; 98 FH 10 Jan, high counts this loc.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** 5 Fult 9 Feb; 10 Brew 23 Feb; 16 FH 10 Jan.  
**Tundra Swan:** 105 OLP 21 Jan, good count for loc; max 200 OneiL 3 Jan.  
**Wood Duck:** few singles thru; max 3 Middleport 18 Jan.  
**Northern Shoveler:** last & max 2 OLP 10 Dec; arr 2 OLP 16 Feb.  
**Gadwall:** small nums var locs thru; max 15 OLP 10 Dec.  
**American Wigeon:** Middleport 18 Jan; max 55 WP 3 Dec; last 2 OLP 10 Dec; arr mid-Feb var locs.  
**Mallard:** 350 DB 11 Jan, unusual loc for num; 350 WP 3 Dec; 370 OswH 23 Jan; max 400 Bville 22 Dec.

**American Black Duck:** max 34 OswH 19 Jan & OLP 24 Jan.

**Northern Pintail:** small nums thru, mostly OLP; arr & max est 350 Loop Rd MNWR 25 Feb, good num.

**Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid):** OswH 2 Feb (TK, ph).

**Green-winged Teal:** max 4 Eaton 10 Dec; several singles Dec & Jan; arr SSSP 26 Feb.

**Canvasback:** small nums var locs; 8 FH 23 Feb; max 49 OLP 25 Feb.

**Redhead:** 1240 SkanL 31 Jan; max est 2000 OLP 26 Jan & 1 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 45 OLP 1 Feb; max 560 WP 4 Dec.

**TUFTED DUCK:** ad m FH 13 – 25 Feb (DWh, ph, mob); 6<sup>th</sup> Reg rec.

**Greater Scaup:** max 400 OLP 1 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 300 OLP 26 Jan.

**Aythya sp:** est 2000 OLP 26 Jan.

**Harlequin Duck:** OswH thru, continuing from Nov.

**Surf Scoter:** FH 22 Jan, 14, 16 Feb; OswH 23 Jan; only reps.

**White-winged Scoter:** 140 FH 14 Feb; max est 400 OswH 9 Feb.

**Black Scoter:** small nums OswH thru; max 4 OswH 9 Feb.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 1070 OswH 17 Feb.  
**Bufflehead:** 48 SkanL 8 Feb; 50 OLP 22 Feb; 59 SSSP 28 Feb.  
**Common Goldeneye:** 315 FH 22 Feb; max 500 OLP 1 Feb.  
**BARROW'S GOLDFEY:** ad m Phoenix (MS, ph, mob) 9 – 15 Feb; f OswH 14 – 22 Feb (GD, ph, mob).  
**Hooded Merganser:** 38 Bville 21 Dec; 53 Otisco L 8 Dec; max 58 OLP 16 Dec.  
**Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid):** Port Ontario 2 Feb thru (MB, ph).  
**Common Merganser:** max 1800 OLP 1 Feb, good counts Jan - Feb OLP.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 182 New Haven, LOnt 20 Jan.  
**Ruddy Duck:** OnonL & IH 26 Jan thru.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** several dozen reps, small nums.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** several dozen reps, small nums.  
**Wild Turkey:** small flocks thru; max 71 DB 2 Jan.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** small nums thru, mostly OnonL; max 4 OnonL 16 Dec.  
**Horned Grebe:** only 6 reps, none in Jan; max 27 OswH 11 Feb.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** few reps thru, all OnonL & LOnt; max 2 OnonL 4 Dec.  
**Rock Pigeon:** flocks widespread.  
**Mourning Dove:** small flocks widespread; max 94 Dolge 3 Jan.

#### RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**American Coot:** 14 OLP 4 Dec; max 37 SkanL 8 Dec, good nums at loc thru.  
**Killdeer:** 2 OLP 4 Dec; OLP 10 Dec; only reps.  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** imm DH 15 Dec (DWh, DD, ph); only rep.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** small nums OnonL & OneiL thru 11 Dec.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL (R5):** Bville 19 – 24 Jan (GD, ph, mob); OnonL 24 Jan – 1 Feb (mob); 12<sup>th</sup> Reg rec, 3<sup>rd</sup> for winter.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 850 Bville 21 Jan.  
**Herring Gull:** 1000 MCL 2 Jan; 1200 OLP 1 Feb; max 1500 DB 12 Jan, good num for loc.  
**Iceland Gull:** 4 DB 2 Jan; 5 IH 20 Feb; max 8 MCL 2 Jan.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 2 DB 1 Jan, OnonL 12, 29 Feb.  
**Glaucous Gull:** 2 DB 11 Jan, OLP 12 Feb; max 3 MCL 2 Jan.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 73 MCL 3 Jan; max 80 IH 20 Feb.  
**Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid):** SSSP 7 – 8 Dec (MB).

#### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** max 5 OswH 15 Dec; low nums otherwise.  
**Common Loon:** max 5 OswH 12 Dec; 1-2 var locs thru.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 52 OnonL 14 Dec; 64 Bville 19 Jan.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 3 OLP 24 Jan; singles thru.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 19 Fayetteville, 11 Feb; most reps refer to same loc around Jamesville.  
**Golden Eagle:** Little Falls 18 Jan (BLH); only rep.  
**Northern Harrier:** max 2 DB 3 Dec; singles typ locs thru.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** singles thru.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 2 OLP 1 Feb; good num singles thru.  
**Northern Goshawk:** Erieville 30 Dec; only rep.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 23 OnonL 16 Feb; no huge concentrations.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** DH 23 Feb, early migrant (GS); only rep.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 6 DB 16 Dec; small nums widespread thru.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 2 DH 9 Jan & Richland 8 Jan; singles thru.  
**Eastern Screech-Owl:** singles small nums mostly southern part of Reg.  
**Great Horned Owl:** small nums thru.  
**Snowy Owl:** 1-2 typical locs thru.  
**Barred Owl:** singles thru.  
**Short-eared Owl:** Fairfield 22 Jan (BLH); only rep.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** no reps.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 3 DB 23 Feb; singles typ loc thru.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1-2 SVB, FH, Scriba thru; known nesters wintering.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 5 Fayetteville 11 Dec.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 5 reps thru, mostly Fayetteville area.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 8 Pulaski 15 Jan.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 4 Dolge 8 Feb.  
**Northern Flicker:** max 6 Oswego 10 Jan, good num. Singles thru.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** small nums thru.  
**American Kestrel:** few singles, var locs, thru.

**Merlin:** few singles thru, rep as often as Kestrel (!), *intro*.

**Peregrine Falcon:** singles thru, winterers & presumably some local nesters.

#### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Northern Shrike:** few singles, typ locs, thru.

**Blue Jay:** max 25 DB 2 Jan; typ nums thru.

**American Crow:** max 2000-5000 Syr thru, roost flights. Typ nums elsewhere.

**Fish Crow:** max 8 Bville 13 Jan; most reps OnonL & Bville, *intro*.

**Common Raven:** 13 Pulaski 21 Feb (MB); max 16 Little Moose L 17 Dec (GL);

**Horned Lark:** max 90 Manlius 25 Feb; best nums & most reps Feb.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** nums 20-50 rep over distance, else typ nums.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 9 Bville 15 Dec.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 11 Boyleston 2 Jan; very few away from typ upland locs.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 11 BLNC 5 Feb; typ nums.

**Brown Creeper:** 6 BLNC 5 Feb; max 7 Cicero 14 Dec; 1-2 thru, thinly distributed.

**Winter Wren:** max 2 Kirkville 23 Feb, others same day imply early migrants; singles Dec imply late migrants; 2-3 possible winters.

**Carolina Wren:** max 4 Sterling 23 Feb (RW), unusual loc; else typ nums/locs Syr.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 6 Pulaski 21 Feb; small nums thru.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 6 individuals rep, BLNC, Erie Canal, OLP, Carpenter's Brook; presumed winterers, various dates, early/late may be migrants.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 13 Pulaski 11 Feb; small groups widespread typ locs thru.

**Hermit Thrush:** LeMoyné woods 14 Dec (JL); only rep.

**American Robin:** 150 Sherrill 15 Feb, poss early mig; else small flocks widespread thru but not an exceptional winter for species.

**Gray Catbird:** Erie Canal 14 Dec; only rep.

**Northern Mockingbird:** singles/pairs typ loc, mostly around Syr.

**European Starling:** max est 2000 MCL 9 Jan.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 80 WP 25 Dec; 104 Oswego 18 Dec; max 110 Skan 29 Dec; small groups thru.

**House Sparrow:** typ nums thru.

**House Finch:** max 67 Fayetteville 21 Dec.

**Purple Finch:** max 6 several locs & dates; no real presence away from SH & other trad upland locs.

**Common Redpoll:** Pulaski 18 Feb; 2 near Norway HERK 7 Dec; only reps, no irruption.

**White-winged Crossbill:** T Ohio 25 Jan (BLH).

**Pine Siskin:** Fabius 17 Feb; 2 OF 3 Feb; 3 OakC 15 Jan; max 5 Waterville 4 Nov; only reps.

**American Goldfinch:** max 103 Dolge 9 Feb; best nums from upland locs.

**Lapland Longspur:** Warners 23 Jan; Fabius 11 Feb; max 2 Fabius 23 Feb; only reps.

**Snow Bunting:** max 1000 Pulaski 16 Jan (MB); flocks typ locs thru.

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** Oriskany 20 Jan – 17 Feb; Pompey 21 Jan; only reps.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 65 OLP 1 Feb.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Syr 29 Dec thru; Syr 9-10 Dec, 18 Jan; 1-3 Manlius 9 Dec thru; 2 other reps.

**Field Sparrow:** Const 8 Jan thru; OLP 12, 16 Dec; TR 14, 25 Dec; only reps.

**LARK SPARROW (R5):** Pulaski 7 Jan thru (MB, ph, mob), 3<sup>rd</sup> Reg rec, first for winter.

**Fox Sparrow:** Navarino 8 Dec (AB); only rep.

**Song Sparrow:** 13 OLP 14 Dec; max 15 OLC 31 Jan, good num; small nums thru.

**Swamp Sparrow:** OLP 10 Dec; TR 24 Jan; max 3 Warners 24 Jan; only reps.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 20 SFNS 13 Jan & OLP 11 Jan; small nums widespread thru.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 4 Bville 10 Dec; OLP 14 Dec; Jamesville 15 Feb; 2

Jamesville 11 Feb; Meridian 14-16 Feb; only reps.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 35 Canastota 20 Feb.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** few reps small nums thru; max 100 Manlius 25 Feb & 2 other locs late Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** singles, small flocks thru; max 35 DB 4 Feb.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 6 Camillus 22 Dec; only rep (AB)

**Common Grackle:** 30 Elbridge 9-12 Dec; few reps small nums thru; max 300 Syr 26 Feb.

**Ovenbird:** Bville 4 Dec (GD), presumed rec late migrant, 2<sup>nd</sup> winter rec for Reg, *intro*.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 3 Kirkville 14 Dec; Kirkville 29 Dec; 2 OSP 29 Dec; only reps.

**Northern Cardinal:** 18 Pulaski 29 Feb; max 19 Elbridge 18 Jan.

**DICKISSEL (R5):** fem 20 Jan – 24 Feb (LM, ph, mob); 5<sup>th</sup> winter rec for Reg.

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

**Jeffrey S. Bolsinger**

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

It was another mild winter, with mean temperatures in Watertown exceeding long-term averages for January and February by 8.2° and 3.4° F, respectively. Winter started out typically enough, as December's mean temperature of 26.2° was within 0.2° of normal, although frequent oscillations between unusual cold and mild typified the month. This roller coaster of warm and cold temperatures was the most distinctive feature of the winter, and I heard more than one complaint from people who couldn't get used to the cold because of the frequent warm spells. One particularly dramatic example came on 9 and 10 February, when the low temperature on the former night of -21° was followed by a low the next night of 32°, a 53° swing in 24 hours. Precipitation was slightly above normal for the winter, as December and February each saw about half an inch more precipitation than average, but January's total was 0.3 inch below normal.

Lacking any prolonged period of cold, most of the St. Lawrence River and nearshore Lake Ontario remained open all winter, so it seemed natural to expect abundant waterfowl, but duck numbers generally seemed rather low. Perhaps the most surprising waterfowl find of the year was a **Brant** Nick Leone spotted among a large Canada Goose flock at Cape Vincent in January, where at least one **Cackling Goose** was also present. The season's only **Barrow's Goldeneye** reports came from Fisher's Landing and nearby Grass Point State Park, where a male and female were seen through most of January. Four Wood Ducks was a good winter tally, and the 185 White-winged Scoters at Westcott Beach State Park on 14 December was a nice assemblage, but high counts for most other ducks were unimpressive.

Winter raptors were present in relatively good but not spectacular numbers in the usual northwest Jefferson County strongholds, and were generally scarce elsewhere. Buteo numbers seemed low in December but there was an apparent influx during the first half of January, which brought more Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks than have been seen in most recent winters. Snowy Owls were largely restricted to northwestern Jefferson County, where it was not unusual to see several in a day, and a handful of Short-eared Owls wintered on Point Peninsula. A rumor of two Gyrfalcons on Point Peninsula mid-winter was unfortunately not supported by any firm reports, and may have actually referred to sightings from nearby Ontario, birds that were close enough to Jefferson County that they certainly could have popped over the border a time or two.

Presumably one result of the mild winter was a robust list of half-hardies, including several species not seen in Region 6 most winters. Some of the more unusual wintering passerines included a Brown Thrasher on Wellesley Island, three reports totaling four Gray Catbirds, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak that

visited a feeder in Great Bend for most of the winter, joined by a Chipping Sparrow one day. On 2 January I observed Carolina, Winter, and Marsh Wrens in Jefferson County, a trifecta apparently unprecedented during winter in Region 6. Winter sightings of Marsh and especially Winter Wrens certainly seem to be increasing, as both were considered rare prior to 2000 but now are nearly annual in occurrence.

Although crossbills were present in the Adirondacks they were scarcely noted in Region 6 with only three reports, although one was of a female breaking off a small twig and flying off with it at Massawepie Mire on 8 December. Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll were similarly represented by just a handful of sightings, and there was only one report of an Evening Grosbeak heard over Fort Drum. Bohemian Waxwing went unreported as well.

For the season I received reports of 111 species, which is about two species below the most recent ten-year average. No true rarities were reported this winter, and what probably stood out most was the relatively good assortment of half-hardies that persisted throughout the winter. These birds were widely scattered, and a number of birders felt that overall it was a rather disappointing winter, especially considering the mild temperatures and presence of open water throughout the season.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Brian Berg, Jeff Bolsinger, Richard & Marion Brouse, Marshall Bruggeman, Carol Cady, Benjamin Dixon, Lindsey Duval, Lee Ellsworth, Jody Enck, Michael Greenwald, Nick Kachala, Steve Kelling, Tom Langen, Nick Leone, Irene Mazzocchi, Edwin McGrath III, Brian Miller, Daniel Miller, Steven Mix, Dylan Pettit, Barbara O'Neill, Fred Ossman, Mary Rand, Carole Raymonda, Ken Robinson, Mandi Roggie, Robert Scranton, Gerry Smith, Brian Sullivan, Ryan Walsh, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Chris Wood.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**BRB** – Black River Bay; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **FdP**—Fort de la Presentation, T Ogdensburg; **FL** – Fisher's Landing, T Alexandria; **GPSP**—Grass Point SP, T Alexandria; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LRUD**—Low's Ridge, Upper Dam trail, T Colton; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WI** – Wellesley I.

## **WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Snow Goose:** 5 reports between 2 Dec & 15 Feb with no clear pattern of movement; max 200 over KC 2 Dec.

**Brant:** CV 20 Jan (NL); rare in winter.

**Cackling Goose:** CV 20-24 Jan (NL, JB).

**Canada Goose:** max 6200 CV Town P 24 Jan.

**Mute Swan:** max 66 FL 24 Jan.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 16 SLR T Hammond 28 Dec.

**Tundra Swan:** max 27 BRB 14 Dec.

**Wood Duck:** 3 reports of 4 ind last T Antwerp 22 Jan.

**Gadwall:** max 9 StPt 2 Jan.

**Mallard:** max 360 Alcoa Ponds T Massena 22 Jan.

**American Black Duck:** max 11 PtPen 22 Jan & FdP16 Feb.

**Northern Pintail:** 2 PtPen 17-18 Jan; max 7 Little Sucker Brook P T Waddington 18 Jan; no other reports.

**Canvasback:** f StPt 2 Jan (JB) only report.

**Redhead:** max 502 GPSP 1 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 2 MP 14 Dec; SLR T Waddington 15 Dec; last T Henderson 7 Jan; only reports.

**Greater Scaup:** max 1780 StPt 2 Jan.

**Lesser Scaup:** 4 reports 1-2 last Henderson Bay 7 Jan.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 185 WBSP 14 Dec.

**Black Scoter:** WBSP 14 Dec & 2 Feb only reports

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 340 CV 24 Jan.

**Bufflehead:** max 25 multiple locations L Ontario shore.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 960 Chippewa Bay 28 Dec.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** m & f FL 3-24 Jan (RB, JB, BM).

**Hooded Merganser:** max 10 RMSP 1 Dec.

**Common Merganser:** max 735 SLR T Massena 22 Feb.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 110 StPt 2 Jan.

**Spruce Grouse:** MM 8 Dec only report.

**Horned Grebe:** singles WI 19 Dec & StPt 2 Jan only reports.

## **RAILS-TROPICBIRDS**

**Killdeer:** arr FD 26 Feb.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 175 SBSP 2 Jan (JB) high for winter.

**Herring Gull:** max 1600 HP 21 Dec.

**Iceland Gull:** several reports 2-4 HP thru; none elsewhere.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** SLR T Massena 21 Dec & nearby HP 15 Feb only reports.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 5 HP 5 Jan.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 1200 HP 15 Feb.

## **LOONS-PARAKEET**

**Common Loon:** last SLR T Massena 20 Jan.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** last SLR Waddington 15 Dec.

**Great Blue Heron:** last ULLWMA 4 Feb.

**Turkey Vulture:** arr T Wanakena 17 Feb (EM, early); only other report T Canton 28 Feb.

**Northern Harrier:** 22+ reports from NW JEFF none elsewhere.

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

**Cooper's Hawk:** 26 reports to ebird.

**Northern Goshawk:** FD 7 Jan.

**Bald Eagle:** many reports of up to 20/day.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** mostly 2-4/day but apparent influx early Jan when up to 16/day.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** many reports 1-6 NW JEFF; fewer St. Lawrence valley.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 5 reports NW JEFF none elsewhere.

**Snowy Owl:** many reports 1-4 NW JEFF thru; 1-2/day T Leray & T Philadelphia to 13 Feb; T Lowville 31 Jan & FdP 15 Feb only other reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** 1-2/day PtPen thru; T Clayton 15 Feb only other report.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** CV 20 Jan only report.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 30+ reports; still most common W JEFF but increasing elsewhere.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** LRUD 28 Dec; T Colton 1 Jan & 16 Feb; only reports.

**Northern Flicker:** max 4 PtPen 18 Jan; about 15 additional reports.

**American Kestrel:** 20+ locations NW JEFF; only 4 reported elsewhere.

**Merlin:** 5 reports seems low compared to recent years.

**GYRFALCON:** rumored presence PtPen Jan-Feb not backed up by any documentation; may refer to individuals in nearby Ontario.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 10+ reports from the vicinity of known nesting locations in Massena, Ogdensburg & Watertown; T Canton 16 Feb only other report.



## FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Northern Shrike:** about 20 reports better than previous year but still historically low.

**Canada Jay:** MM 8 Dec only report.

**Horned Lark:** max 9 T Philadelphia 17 Feb; only 7 other reports; low.

**Boreal Chickadee:** 3 near Wanakena T Fine 17 Feb only report.

**Tufted Titmouse:** reports from 18 locations, continuing to increase.

**Winter Wren:** SBSP 2 Jan; different locations FD 7 & 10 Jan of which one still present 25 Feb (JB); apparently increasing in winter.

**Marsh Wren:** 2 PRWMA 13 Dec (JB); Muskellunge Creek T Hounsfield 2 Jan (JB); rare in winter.

**Carolina Wren:** 3 reports.

**Eastern Bluebird:** reports from 11 locations about half in Canton-Potsdam area; max 9 T Potsdam 14 Dec.

**Hermit Thrush:** FD 8 Jan (JB) only report.

**American Robin:** max 193 StPt 6 Jan.

**Gray Catbird:** T Croghan 6 Dec (MR, photos!); 2 Muskellunge Creek T Hounsfield 14 Dec (JB, photos!); CV 2 Feb (SK); rare in winter.

**Brown Thrasher:** WI 26 Feb (BO, KR, photos!); rare in winter.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** no reports.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 98 FD 26 Feb.

**Evening Grosbeak:** only report one over FD 14 Jan.

**House Finch:** max 25 PtPen 18 Jan.

**Purple Finch:** max 19 LRUD 28 Dec.

**Common Redpoll:** 7 reports in the Canton-Potsdam area; none elsewhere.

**Red Crossbill:** 3 reports from Adirondacks including female carrying stick MM 8 Dec; 2 FD 21 Dec only report outside Adirondacks.

**Pine Siskin:** 2 T Lawrence 11 Jan; 5 SUNY-ESF Ranger School 17 Feb; only reports.

**American Goldfinch:** max 90 T Canton 19 Jan.

**Lapland Longspur:** T Ellisburg 2 Jan & 3 T Leray 8 Jan only reports.

**Snow Bunting:** max 360 T Leray 8 Jan.

## NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** T Watertown feeder thru (FO).

**Chipping Sparrow:** T Champion feeder 5 Dec (SM); last at Clarkson Univ feeder to 19 Dec (NK).

**Song Sparrow:** 21 reports.

**Swamp Sparrow:** FD 26 Feb only report.

**White-throated Sparrow:** reports from 22 locations; max 13 T Massena 15 Feb.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** many reports; max 28 T Hounsfield 14 Dec.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr FD & T Watertown 24 Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 3 T Potsdam 8 Dec only report.

**Common Grackle:** 2 PtPen 20 Dec; Nicandri Nature Center 20 Jan; 6 T Parishville & 4 T Hammond 14 Feb; only reports.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** PtPen 7 Dec 7 18 Jan only reports.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** f at T Champion feeder thru 16 Feb (SM).



## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

**Bill Krueger**

40 Colligan Point Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

billkrueger@hotmail.com

Overall the winter season's weather was exceptionally mild. A deep, persistent polar low pressure system and the zonal flow of the arctic jet stream prevented the occultation that produces polar vortexes. As a result Region 7 enjoyed a winter without an extreme cold snap. This warm weather is the likely cause of half-hardies like E. Bluebird's overwintering, as well as January and/or February

sightings of C. Grackle and Chipping, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows not usually reported from these months. A late Hermit Thrush on 6 December should also be included here.

Temperatures in December for the northern third of Region 7 averaged 1-3° above normal, but the rest of the Region was near normal. Precipitation (liquid equivalent) ranged from 1-2" in the Champlain Valley to 4-5" in southern Hamilton County. On 17 December winter storm Finley dropped over 6" of snow in the Champlain Valley plus double that and more in the western portions of the Region. Just before the New Year winter storm Gage left 0.1" of ice in Plattsburgh, 0.3" in Saranac Lake and 0.5" in Ellenburg. January was the warmest on record. Franklin Co. and the northern part of Clinton Co. averaged 7-9° above normal, while the rest of Region 7 was 5-7° warmer than usual. Precipitation for the Region was +/-3" except for a pocket along the Clinton/Franklin County border where the totals were 4-5". Winter Storm Jacob on 18 January left 6-8" of snow in The Champlain Valley while up to 18" fell in the mountains. Temperatures in February moderated somewhat but still remained 1-3° above average throughout the Region except for a small area astride the Clinton/Franklin County line which was 3-5° higher than average. Rainfall totals of 3-4" in Clinton County and the southern halves of Essex and Hamilton Counties were separated by a by a drier band of 2-3". Snow from winter storm Kade totaled 14" in Plattsburgh and up to 20" in the southwest of Region 7.

Not only did Lake Champlain not freeze over entirely this year, but areas that normally would have frozen for the duration remained open. In the north this included Ausable Point and north of the Cumberland Head Ferry to Point au Roche. To the south Essex and Port Kent were mostly open, but Bulwagga Bay froze over and there was limited open water at the Champlain Bridge with a nice concentration of waterfowl. Overall the result was numerous mid-winter sightings of species like N. Pintail, Canvasback, Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and Double-crested Cormorant. Individually probably not so remarkable, but noteworthy taken all together.

The Winter Finch Forecast for 2019-2020 predicted that this would not be a flight year, noting that cone crops were abundant in Eastern Canada. In the event much of the forecast was born out. Hoary Redpolls were entirely absent, and there were only single reports of Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll. There was also only one report of Bohemian Waxwing and just two for Evening Grosbeak, a species of special concern in Canada.

A **Laughing Gull** in the Westport area, the highlight of the season, was a second for Essex County and only the third for Region 7. A first winter **King Eider** at Ausable Point was only the second record for Clinton County and the fifth for the Region. A **Tufted Duck** was found in two locations about 35 miles and more than seven weeks apart. No guess as to whether it was the same bird is hazarded. Also noteworthy was a **Great Cormorant**, first seen in November, that lingered into December. A **Golden Eagle** gave 2020 a welcome start with a sighting on 1 January.

## CONTRIBUTORS

A. Ackerley, Alan Belford, Brian Berg, Gary Chapin, Glen Chapman, Malinda Chapman, Larry Chen, Madison Cleveland, Joan Collins, Zac Cota, Eric Damour, Charlotte Demers, Jonathan Feinstein, Ellie George, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Dayna Lalonde, Chelsea Lawrence, Gary Lee, Anthony Macchiarola, Brian McAllister, Thom McClenahan, Kevin McGrath, Sean McHugh, Deborah Miller, Las Morgans, Nancy Olsen, Jim Osborn, Andy Retloff, Mark Robinson, Stacy Robinson, Derek Rogers (DRg), Carol Slatkin, Janet Stein, Melissa Steinberg, John & Pat Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak, Benjamin Walton.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**AHR** – Angier Hill Rd.; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BMR** – Blue Mt Rd.; **BP** – Burnum Pd; **BR** – Burdich Rd.; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **ChP** – Cheney Pd; **CMt** – Cascade Mt.; **CPd** – Connery Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DR** – Deer Ri; **DRd** – Delano Rd.; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **EC** – Essex Co; **ECBC** – Elizabethtown CBC; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **Es** – Essex; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **GR** – Giddings Rd.; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **Mal** – Malone; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; **MCR** – Mace Chasm Rd.; **Min** – Minerva; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MV** – Mountain View; **NE** – Newcomb; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PCBC** – Plattsburgh CBC; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Px** – Paradox; **ReR** – Reynolds Rd.; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLCBC** – Saranac L CBC; **SPB** – Sand Pd Bog; **SRM** – Saranac Ri mouth; **ST** – Stetson Rd.; **TA** – The Acres; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and Boat Launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **Waw** – Wawbeek; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WI** – Willsboro; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Wilsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

### WATERFOWL-LARIDS

**Snow Goose:** 8000 ReR 11 Jan (BK).  
**Cackling Goose:** Peru 15 Dec (DRg).  
**Canada Goose:** 164 HB 11 (SR).  
**Northern Pintail:** EC 1 Jan (SR); EAW 13 Feb (GL). late.  
**Canvasback:** CH 1 Dec (BK); 4 PK 9 Jan (SR).  
**Redhead:** 5 PK 9 Jan (SR).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 28 PK 9 Jan (SR).  
**TUFTED DUCK:** PH 5 Jan (M&SR); PK 25 Feb (ZC).  
**Greater Scaup:** 2500 WD 8 Jan (DRg).  
**Lesser Scaup:** 1200 WD 1 Jan (BMc).  
**KING EIDER:** AP 23-25 Feb (DL).  
**White-winged Scoter:** 2 SRM 12 Dec (GC, SR).

**Long-tailed Duck:** WD 1 Dec (BK).  
**Bufflehead:** 20 GR 2 Jan (GC).  
**Common Goldeneye:** 350 WD 1 Jan (BMc).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** WI 3 Dec (DRg); 7 WM 1 Feb (SR).  
**Hooded Merganser:** 21 WPt 5 Jan (GC).  
**Common Merganser:** 550 MB 9 Jan (SR).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** WPt 18 Jan (DRg); 3 PK 26 Feb (JO).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 WP 22 Feb (DRg).  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 8 BMR 5 Jan (BB).  
**Wild Turkey:** 24 Mal 17 Feb (BB).  
**Horned Grebe:** 15 PK 9 Jan (SR).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** WP 14 Dec (GC).  
**LAUGHING GULL:** HB 5 Feb (DRg).  
**Iceland Gull:** PCBC 15 Dec.

**Glaucous Gull:** WP 26 Dec (DRg); SRM 1 Feb (SR).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** 32 GBM 9 Jan (SR).

#### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** WP 3 Jan (TMc).  
**Common Loon:** AP 29 Dec (JS); EF 22 Feb (DM).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** WP 11 Jan (GC); WP 20 Jan J&PT).  
**GREAT CORMORANT:** HB 2 Dec (DRg), continuing.  
**Great Blue Heron:** PCBC 15 Dec.  
**Black Vulture:** 11 TI 2 Feb (LC).  
**Turkey Vulture:** 2 Px 28 Feb (EG).  
**GOLDEN EAGLE:** DRd 1 Jan (GC).  
**Northern Harrier:** TI 10 Jan (SR).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** CP 19 Dec (SR).  
**Cooper's Hawk:** Es 14 Feb (CS).  
**Northern Goshawk:** WM 7 Dec (DRg).  
**Bald Eagle:** 5 CH 15 Feb (SJ).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 3 WP 20 Feb (SR).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** PCBC 15 Dec.  
**Eastern Screech Owl:** WP 14 Dec (GC).  
**Great Horned Owl:** MV 15 Feb (JT).  
**Barred Owl:** 2 SL 2 Feb (JS).  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Waw 4 Jan (AR).  
**Belted Kingfisher:** AP 6 Jan (KMc); AP 26 Feb (BK), continuing.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** WM 7 Dec (DRg).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2 CB 19 Dec (SR).  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 4 Sbb 23 Feb (JC).  
**Northern Flicker:** WP 11 Jan (GC).  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 LCo 4 Jan (ED).  
**American Kestrel:** WP 25 Dec (BMc).  
**Merlin:** PH 28 Feb (SR).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** WP 22 Dec (DRg).

#### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Eastern Phoebe:** TA 17 Feb (MS).  
**Northern Shrike:** WP 14 Jan (DRg).  
**Canada Jay:** 4 BB 22 Dec (SMc).  
**Common Raven:** 22 EAW 6 Feb (GL).  
**Horned Lark:** 60 ST 9 Jan (SR).  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 3 CMT 24 Dec (BW).

**Tufted Titmouse:** PtR 15 Feb (NO).  
**Winter Wren:** PtR 15 Dec (AB).  
**Carolina Wren:** 2 WP 11 Jan (GC); CH 15 Feb (NO).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** AP 29 Dec (JS).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** PB 15 Dec (DRg).  
**Eastern Bluebird:** 5 WP 25 Jan (SR).  
**Hermit Thrush:** WM 6 Dec (DRg).  
**Northern Mockingbird:** PB 15 Dec (DRg).  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 25 SLCBC 28 Dec.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 75 MCR 26 Feb (SR).  
**Evening Grosbeak:** NE 24 Dec (SR); 4 NE 21 Jan (CD).  
**Pine Grosbeak:** 3 BB 1 Jan (AA).  
**Purple Finch:** 26 EAW 7 Feb (GL).  
**Common Redpoll:** 20 Min 31 Dec (JF).  
**Red Crossbill:** SPB 4 Jan (SR); 12 NE 23 Jan (MC).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 3 ChP 4 Jan (J&PT); 20 Sbb 1 Feb (CL).  
**American Goldfinch:** 40 EAW 7 Feb (GL).  
**Lapland Longspur:** 5 ST 9 Jan (SR).  
**Snow Bunting:** 120 WP 11 Feb (SR).

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**American Tree Sparrow:** 34 WRS 25 Feb (JO).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 2 TFBL 15 Jan (SR); 2 NE 9 Feb (AM).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** CP 5 Dec (GC).  
**Fox Sparrow:** BR 14 Feb (SR).  
**Song Sparrow:** MM 21 Jan (SR); Es 25 Feb (JO).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 11 CP 5 Dec (GC).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** BR 8 Dec (SR); TI 31 Jan -10 Feb (GCh).  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 17 AHR 27 Jan (SR); 12 DRd 24 Feb (SR).  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 50 DRd 24 Feb (SR).  
**Common Grackle:** LA 23 Jan (JO), late.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 PtR 15 Dec (AB); WPt 18 Jan (DRg).  
**Northern Cardinal:** 16 PtR 15 Dec (AB).



## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Tom Williams**

153A Consaul Rd., Albany, NY 12205

trwdsd@fastmail.fm

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	29.8°	28.5°	+1.3°	25.5°	25.0°	+0.5°
Jan	31.8°	22.6°	+9.2°	25.8°	18.0°	+7.8°
Feb	31.5°	25.9°	+5.6°	23.8°	21.3°	+2.5°

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	4.54"	2.93"	+1.61"	2.71"	3.05"	-0.34"
Jan	2.01"	2.59"	-0.58"	1.95"	2.86"	-0.91"
Feb	2.71"	2.20"	+0.51"	2.51"	2.08"	+0.43"

December 2019 featured near normal temperatures and precipitation in many of the Region 8 counties. In Albany, however, over 22 inches of snow fell in the first three days of the month. Despite that dire start, winter seemed to disappear thereafter, with well above normal temperatures and very little snowfall. January was over nine degrees above normal in Albany, and was actually the warmest of the three winter season months. February was more than five degrees above normal in the capital city. Only 17 inches of snow fell after 3 December, through to the end of February. In the northern half of the Region, Glens Falls recorded similar warmth overall, but with somewhat drier conditions.

Area water bodies experienced much less ice cover than in a normal winter, and this had an effect on waterfowl distribution, gull congregation and overwintering half-hardies. Waterfowl diversity was good, but concentrations of individuals was rare. Gulls spent more time at landfills and off-the-water roosting locations, resulting from unreliable and constantly shifting ice shelves. This complicated observing opportunities, as birders were often unable to casually scan loafing gull flocks for rarer individuals. Survivorship of lingering half-hardy species was presumably higher than normal. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found up and down the Hudson River corridor throughout the season. Hermit Thrush offered a similar profile. Yellow-rumped Warblers were especially numerous from Albany southward along the Hudson. Belted Kingfisher numbers were

extremely high throughout winter, demonstrating the easy availability of open water.

Northern Shrike reports were infrequent this winter. Analysis of mapped reports seem to indicate that many of them remained much farther north than normal, never reaching the Region. Similarly, winter field birds averaged farther north and in lower numbers. Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur flocks were primarily confined to the tier of counties north and west of Albany. Snow Buntings didn't arrive in much of the area until after mid-January.

Among unusual observations during the winter season were a male Black-throated Blue Warbler coming to a suet feeder at a home in Galway, Saratoga County on 2-3 December; a **Lark Sparrow** feeding at the roadside in Kinderhook, Columbia County on 4 December; a 9 January viewing of a Palm Warbler at a wastewater treatment facility at Dutchmen's Landing, Greene County; and a group of eight **Tundra Swans** resting along the edge of the Mohawk River at Schoharie Crossing State Historical Site in Montgomery County on 19 February.

Brian McKay observed and photographed a Greater White-fronted Goose in flight at Cossayuna Lake in Washington County on 29 December. A male Canvasback spent time at Saratoga Lake until it froze around New Year's Day, then apparently moved to the Ft. Miller area of the Hudson River where it was seen throughout January and February. Ron Harrower continues to thoroughly document the waterfowl at Saratoga Lake. He found five Redhead in a large *aythya* group on 3 December.

Iceland Gulls were observed from Fultonville in Montgomery County, the Cohoes-Crescent corridor of the Mohawk River in Albany County, and at a waste recycling location just south of the city of Albany. Glaucous Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted at Fultonville and Cohoes-Crescent.

Rich Guthrie reported a Snowy Owl perched on the antenna array of the U.S.S. Slater docked along the Hudson River in downtown Albany on 5 January. That was the only report of the species in the Region during the winter season. Short-eared Owls continue to winter in their strongholds in agricultural Montgomery County and the Ft. Edwards Grasslands in Washington County. As many as six birds were recorded on 12 February in Ft. Edward.

Thom McLenahan observed three Pine Grosbeaks eating ornamental crabapples along the road just west of the Global Foundries facility in Ballston Spa on 4 February. The report represented the most southerly record of the species in the northeastern United States this winter.

131 species were reported during the period.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings,

Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthal, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Marianne Friers, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, Julie Hart, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Ted Keyel, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Mack McCormack, Brian McKay, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Daniel Schlaepfer, Marshall Schmidt, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**APBP** – Albany Pine Bush Pres, 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 Pres, 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 Pres, 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 Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

### WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** max 231 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1 Dec.  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Cossayuna L WASH 29 Dec.  
**Mute Swan:** max 4 Nassau L RENS 28 Dec; Crescent Power Plant ALBA 2 Feb.  
**TUNDRA SWAN (R8):** 8 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 19 Feb, *intro*.  
**Wood Duck:** max 5 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Feb.  
**Gadwall:** max 3 Stanton Pd ALBA 15 Dec.  
**American Wigeon:** max 4 Galway L SARA 1 Dec.  
**American Black Duck:** max 81 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 21 Jan.  
**Northern Pintail:** max 7 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 19 Jan.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 6 Galway L SARA 1 Dec.

**Canvasback:** Fish Creek Marina SARA 6 Jan; Ft. Miller WASH 17 Feb.  
**Redhead:** 5 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 130 Copake L COLU 4 Dec.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 15 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 25 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 8 Waterford SARA 5 Dec.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** Bolton WARR 10 Dec; Stillwater SARA 13 Jan.  
**Bufflehead:** max 30 L George WARR 1 Jan.  
**Common Goldeneye:** max 112 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 80 Galway L SARA 1 Dec.  
**Common Merganser:** max 710 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1 Dec.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 2 Green Island ALBA 20 Jan.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 25 Copake L COLU 1 Dec.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 90 Hillsdale COLU 1 Feb; Copake COLU 27 Feb.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** Schaghticoke RENS 2 Jan; Saratoga L SARA 22 Jan; Ft. Miller WASH 20 Feb.  
**Horned Grebe:** 2 Great Sacandaga L FULT 1 Dec.  
**Mourning Dove:** max 68 Ft. Ann WASH 1 Jan.

### RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** Stuyvesant COLU 14 Dec.  
**American Coot:** Chatham COLU 16 Feb.  
**Killdeer:** arr W Coxsackie GREE 15 Feb, early.  
**American Woodcock:** arr 2 Ancram COLU 11 Feb, early.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** Ghent COLU 16 Dec, late.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 176 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 28 Feb.  
**Herring Gull:** max 794 Halfmoon SARA 4 Feb.  
**Iceland Gull:** max 2 Fultonville MONT 27 Jan.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Cohoes ALBA 2 Feb; 2 Fultonville MONT 17 Feb.  
**Glaucous Gull:** Cohoes-Crescent 1 Dec; 2 Fultonville MONT 15 Dec.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 200 Fultonville MONT 27 Jan.

### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** max 7 L George WARR 24 Jan.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** last L George WARR 23 Dec, late.  
**Great Cormorant:** 2 Catskill GREE 11 Jan.  
**American Bittern:** Ghent COLU 14 Dec, late.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 5 Kingsbury WASH 6 Dec, unusually high nos of overwintering birds in Hudson R Valley and E Mohawk R Valley loc.  
**Black Vulture:** max 62 Hudson COLU 16 Feb.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 64 Guilderland ALBA 23 Feb; more Jan sightings than usual.  
**Golden Eagle:** max 2 Copake COLU 12 Jan.  
**Northern Harrier:** max 7 Coxsackie GREE 26 Feb.

**Bald Eagle:** max 21 Germantown COLU 31 Dec.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** higher nos of overwintering birds.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 7 Sprakers MONT 19 Jan.  
**Snowy Owl:** USS Slater Museum ALBA 5 Jan, only report.  
**Barred Owl:** max 3 Ft Ann WASH 25 Dec.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 6 FtEG 12 Feb.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Austerlitz COLU 23 Dec; APBP 13 Jan; Loughberry L SARA 23 Feb.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** widespread throughout the Region all three months.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 10 Schodack I SP RENS 15 Dec.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 3 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Feb.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 9 Schaghticoke RENS 5 Jan.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 5 Ancram COLU 22 Dec; Nassau RENS 28 Dec; 5 Henry Hudson P ALBA 29 Dec; Saratoga Sprgs SARA 18 Feb.  
**Northern Flicker:** max 5 Stockport COLU 14 Dec; Henry Hudson P ALBA 25 Dec.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 4 Ft Ann WASH 1 Dec; Henry Hudson P ALBA 11 Dec; Nassau RENS 28 Dec.  
**American Kestrel:** max 2 W Ames MONT 15 Feb; Amsterdam MONT 24 Feb; Delmar ALBA 25 Feb.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** max 3 Green I ALBA 21 Jan.

### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Northern Shrike:** Whitehall WASH 9 Dec; FtEG 23 Dec; Canajoharie MONT 10 Feb; Robinson Pd COLU 15 Feb.  
**Blue Jay:** max 71 Schaghticoke RENS 13 Jan.  
**American Crow:** max 5000 Glens Falls WARR 22 Dec.  
**Fish Crow:** max 35 Cohoes ALBA 12 Jan.  
**Common Raven:** max 10 Lawson L SP ALBA 15 Dec.  
**Horned Lark:** max 300 Northumberland SARA 23 Jan.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 33 Grafton Lakes SP RENS 24 Feb.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 19 Mine Kill SP SCHO 24 Feb.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 14 Bolton WARR 3 Feb.



**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 16 Schaghticoke RENS 5 Jan.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 3 Northumberland SARA 4 Feb; Schodack Town P RENS 23 Feb.  
**Winter Wren:** max 4 FR 15 Dec.  
**Carolina Wren:** max 6 Schodack I SP RENS 15 Dec.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 12 Northumberland SARA 4 Feb.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 2 Niskayuna SCHE 22 Jan.  
**Eastern Bluebird:** max 18 Copake COLU 24 Dec.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 4 Copake COLU 22 Dec, high seasonal count.  
**Gray Catbird:** Stockport COLU 14 Dec; Bethlehem ALBA 15 Dec; Copake COLU 22 Dec; Hannacroix Creek Pres GREE 22 Dec; Albany ALBA 28 Dec.  
**Northern Mockingbird:** max 3 Coxsackie GREE 19 Dec.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 77 Ghent COLU 14 Dec.  
**American Pipit:** max 6 Livingston COLU 23 Jan.  
**Pine Grosbeak:** max 3 Ballston Spa SARA 4 Feb.  
**House Finch:** max 38 Hoosick RENS 31 Dec.  
**Purple Finch:** max 11 Bolton WARR 25 Jan.  
**Common Redpoll:** max 57 Ft Edward WASH 3 Feb.  
**Red Crossbill:** max 3 W. Fulton SCHO 7 Jan; Preston Hollow ALBA 5 Feb.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 2 West Kill Mt GREE 23 Feb.  
**Lapland Longspur:** max 4 Ft Edward WASH 27 Jan.

**Snow Bunting:** max 1000 Poestenkill RENS 18 Feb.

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** max 3 Copake COLU 22 Dec.  
**American Tree Sparrow:** max 56 Northumberland SARA 20 Feb.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 2 Ghent COLU 14 Dec; Colonie ALBA 21 Dec.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** max 3 Livingston COLU 1 Jan.  
**LARK SPARROW(R8):** Kinderhook COLU 4 Dec.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 9 Livingston COLU 22 Jan.  
**Fox Sparrow:** Guilderland ALBA 1 Dec; Ghent COLU 4 Dec.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 22 Livingston COLU 22 Dec.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Vale P SCHE 14 Dec, late.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 435 Copake COLU 22 Dec.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 3 E Greenbush RENS 28 Dec.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** Livingston COLU 6 Dec; Sharon Sprgs SCHO 26 Jan; Canajoharie MONT 11 Feb.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** Henry Hudson P ALBA 11 Jan, only report.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Galway SARA 2 Dec, late.  
**Palm Warbler:** Catskill GREE 9 Jan, late.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 15 Putnam WASH 15 Jan.



## REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

**John H. Haas**

98 North Shore Dr., Wurtsboro, NY 12790  
 vanhaas@citlink.net

Winter 2019 started with the first significant storm of the season on 1 December. It was followed by a series of storms all offering a wintery mix of precipitation. There was a low of 7° F on 8 December and again on 19 December, with a high of 54° on 23 December. The overall temperature was about average, coming in just 1° below normal. Precipitation was higher than average with 4.38", .85"

higher than normal. Much of the precipitation was in the form of rain, snow being restricted to higher elevations. January 2020 was extremely variable weather-wise. There was a high of 68° on 11 January and a low of 5° on 21 January. Temperatures were 6.7° above average. Once again, much of the precipitation fell as rain or freezing rain; snowfall was minimal. There was a total of 1.45" of precipitation, 1.63" below average. February was warmer than normal. As had become the norm this winter, though we had some snow, most weather events were in the form of rain. We had a total precipitation of 2.03", 0.63" below average. There was a high of 62° on 24 February and a low of 6° on 15 February, 3.7° above average.

On 3 December, Gail Benson and Tom Burke relocated the Greater White-fronted Goose on the Bowman Avenue Pond in Ryebrook where it had been seen in November. It was later seen at Edith G. Read Nature Sanctuary on 11 December. It moved around the area throughout most of the period. On 6 December Bruce Nott found two Greater White-fronted Geese in the Wallkill River area, both reported earlier in November. He located four Greater White-fronted Geese there on 12 February, these continuing for several days. On 26 January, Bruce Nott discovered that a huge flock of Snow Geese had arrived in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. Several additional birders arrived, as did more geese. Ultimately, 10,000 Snow Geese were recorded in the area over the next couple of weeks. On 5 February, Linda Scrima found a Ross's Goose in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. It was only seen one more time, on 9 February by Patrick Horan.

On 11 December Robert Lewis found three Cackling Geese at Tarrytown Lake Park, but they were not seen afterward. A Cackling Goose was found on 4 January on the Wallkill River during the Shawangunk/Minnewaska CBC and remained in the area at least through 17 January. Sightings increased as the season progressed.

On 14 December New Jersey birder Daniel Carola and friends were birding Sterling Forest and discovered a female King Eider on Sterling Lake. Fortunately, the bird continued through the following day and was observed by several local birders. This is only the second record of this species for Orange County, and one of only a few downstate inland records.

On 7 January Sean Camillieri spotted three Razorbills off the beach at Edith G. Read Nature Sanctuary. A max of four birds was seen over the next few weeks, the last reported on 11 February.

On 6 December, Matt Zeitler found three first winter Iceland Gulls on the Newburgh Waterfront. One was still present the following day, and one was seen at Croton Point Park on 9 December. These birds continued through January and turned up periodically throughout the season.

The first Golden Eagle report of the season came on 7 December at Storm King Mountain. This was the first of what would prove to be an exceptional winter period throughout the Region for this species, with birds still being reported through the end of February.

On 22 January, an immature **Gyr Falcon** was well photographed at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge. Though many sought it out, it was not seen after the initial sighting.

The winter season produced an unprecedented incursion of wintering Chipping Sparrows. This species was present in much of the state, turning up on Christmas Bird Counts across our Region.

Continuing on a regular basis from mid-November, a Yellow-breasted Chat at Marshlands Conservancy remained at least through 3 January and was one of the most cooperative chats I have seen reported.

On 7 January, the author observed a massive movement of blackbirds in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. Approximately 2,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 10,000 Common Grackles were present. Interestingly, the two species were in separate flocks several miles from each other. The grackles were well documented with photos. This is an early date for that kind of movement into the Black Dirt Region.

On 15 January, Melissa Fischer noticed an unusual green bird coming to her feeders in Dutchess County. She sought assistance to help identify the bird, which turned out to be a **Summer Tanager**. The bird remained throughout the entire period and was seen by many local birders. Summer Tanager is a rarity in the Region at any time of year, but especially so in winter.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Abend, Christine Alber, Janet Allison (JAl), Ajit Anthony, Liza Anthony, Kathleen Ashman, John Askildsen (JAs), Robert Authier, Dave Baker, Scott Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Amelia Batchelor (ABa), Alan Beebe (ABe), Gail Benson (GBen), Ginger Bernardin (GBer), Diane Bliss, Bob Bobowski (BBo), Michael Bochnik (MBo), Aaron Boone (ABoo), Arlene Borko (ABor), Marc Breslav (MBr), Brian Browne (BBr), Tom Burke, Deborah Busby, Barbara Butler, Sean Camillieri, Daniel Carola (DCa), John Cavalari (JCa), Gary Chapin, Courtney Check, Mark Chelemer (MCh), Dave Chernack (DCh), Judy Cinquina (JCi), John Clarke (JCl), Jim Clinton (JCli), Chris Cording, Matt Corsaro (MCo), Rebekah Creshkoff, T Dallas, Renee Davis, Patrick Dechon, Mark DeDea, Cynthia Ehlinger, Max Epstein, Laura Facchin, Michael Fargione, Jan Fitzpatrick, Gerald Fix, Mary Florin-Mcbride (MFMc), N Fontaine, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Nick Giordano, Ellis Gitlin, Graham Gorgas, Aiden Griffiths, Carole Griffiths, John Haas (JHaa), Richard Haimes, Martha Harbison, Jeanette Harijanto (JHar), Sebastian Harris, Nick Hawvermale, Valerie Heemstra, Yahvey Hoffman, Patrick Horan, Chris Hugosson, Susan Iannucci, Geoffrey Jagdfeld, Tait Johansson, Susan Joseph, Maha Katnani, Suzanne Kavic, Brian Kenny, Cynthia King (CKi), Mary Beth Kooper, Chris Kostek (CKo), Deborah Kral, Aimee LaBarr, Robert Lewis, Maria Loukeris, Lewis Loyola, Anthony Macchiarola (Ama), Barbara Mansell, Curt McDermott (CMc), Kenneth McDermott (KMcd), Doug

McEachern, Kevin McGrath (KMcG), Allison McInerney(AMc), Christopher Mignone (CMi), John Miller, Karen Miller (KMi), R Miller, Sandy Morrissey, Jon Mularczyk, Ethan Muller, Debora Mullins, Bruce Nott, Donna Nye, Matthew Papula (MPap), Gerhard Patsch, Mona Payton (MPay), T Peterson, Filipe Pimentel, Carena Pooth, Loren Quinby, Steve Rappaport, Jo Rasmussen, Kriss Replogle, Phil Ribolow, Morgan Rich, Charlie Roberto, Joe Rothstein, Steve Sachs (SSa), The Salmons (TS), Kathryn Schneider, Peter Schoenberger (PSc), Linda Scrima, Carlotta Shearson, Jarvis Shirky, Patrick Shure (PSh), Hillary Siener, Sean Sime (SSi), Robert Solomon (RSo), Rob Stone (RSt), Barbara Strobino (BSt), Steve Sulzer (SSu), Ann Swaim, Brandon Swayser (BSW), William Test (WTe), Wendy Tocci (WTo), Larry Trachtenberg, Dennis Trapnell, Debbie van Zyl, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent Lianna Walsh, Anthony Waring (AWa), Nelson Weber, Allan Welby (AWelb) , Alan Wells (AWell), Deb Weltsch, Lucy Wightman, Nelson Wilbury, Kathleen Williamson, Sandra Wright, Jim Yates, Matthew Zeitler.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**AP** – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mountain SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Pres, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MNSP** – Mills-Norrrie SP, DUTC; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, WEST; ORAN; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana Island Nature Pres, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RL** – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; **SSF** – Stewart State Forest, ORAN;

**TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **VFEP** – Vassar Farms and Ecological Pres, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR, ORAN.

#### **WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Snow Goose:** NCR 1 Dec (SW); 25 Maurice WEST 7 Dec (KB); 13 Southlands Foundation DUTC 8 Dec (MPay); 150 Montgomery ORAN 20 Dec (CMc); Phillisport Marsh SULL 26 Dec -19 Jan (JHaa, KMi, SB, mob); OCBDR 18 Jan (MZ, LS); Wurtsboro Ponds SULL 18-19 Jan (ABor); max 10,000 OCBDR 26 Jan- 2 Feb (BNo, LS, MZ, mob).

**Ross's Goose:** OCBDR 5,9 Feb (LS, PH), *intro*.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Bowman Ave Pd WEST 3-8 Dec (GBen, TB, BN, mob); River Glenn Rd ULST 6 Dec (BN); Wallkill R Route 208 ORAN 6 Dec (BN); EGR 11 Dec (GBen, TB); Rye Brook WEST 15 Dec (LW); EGR 18-30 Dec (TB, GBen, SK, SR, mob); OCBDR 29 Dec (LS, MZ), Bowman Ave Pd 1-6 Jan (EM, SK, LW, JHaa); Camel Farm ORAN 1 Jan (WTe); OCBDR 11-25 Jan (LS, KA); EGR 1-27 Jan (GBen, TB, RH, mob); 4 Amawalk Res WEST 24 Jan (SC, GBen, TB); Bowman Ave Pd 27 Jan -28 Feb (NG, PC, LV); max 4 OCBDR 28 Jan- 18 Feb (TB, GBen, BN, LS), *intro*.

**Cackling Goose:** Mashomack Pres Club DUTC 1 Dec (JAs); 3 Tarrytown L P WEST 11 Dec (RL); OCBDR 19 Dec (ML); Wallkill River Walk ULST 4 Jan (GBen, TB, CMc, PR); Rt 208 Wallkill ORAN 9 Jan (JHaa); Wallkill R Walk 17-18 Jan (JHaa, BNo, PSc, NW); Sharon Station Rd DUTC 18-30 Jan (BM, SJ, DCh); 2 Tibbits Brook P WEST 19 Jan (MBo); OCBDR 16 Feb (LS, BN, MCh); Sharon Station Rd 23 Feb (DvZ, KB), *intro*.

**Wood Duck:** max 23 Kensico Res WEST 1-4 Dec (NG); 6 Croton Falls Res WEST 5 Dec (SC); Walmart Creek SULL 8 Dec (JHaa); Catskill P ULST 8 Dec (MD); Winona L ORAN 8 Dec (BN); max 23 Kensico Res 1-28 Jan (NG); WL 18 Jan (KA, KMi).

**Northern Shoveler:** 2 Scarsdale Golf Club WEST 3-4 Dec (SM); 5 RLSP 7 Dec (BK); 16 Congers L Memorial P ROCK 7 Dec (BK); 5 BSWMA 12 Feb (JHaa, SB).

**American Black Duck:** 257 Rio Res SULL 20 Dec (JHaa).

**Northern Pintail:** Tarrytown L P WEST 1-17 Jan (CG, SK, SC); max 80 WRNWR 8-9 Feb (PH, TD); max 16 BSWMA 7-26 Feb (JHaa,

SB, KMi); CPP 8 Feb (GBen, TB, KB); max 6 RR 13-22 Feb (JHaa); 2 Stone Ridge Mill Pd ULST 22-23 Feb (FM, DF, RM).

**Canvasback:** max 219 MRCC 1-16 Dec (VH, BSt, CR, mob); CPP 6 Dec (AS); max 115 PP 1 Dec- 24 Feb (ME, KR, BK, GC, mob); max 24 Stoney Pt ROCK 11-13 Jan (ME, SB, KMi); Five Islands P WEST 19 Jan- 22 Feb (GBen, SC, MBo); BSWMA 7 Feb (JHaa).

**Redhead:** MRCC 6-8 Dec (SK, CR, SW); 2 Croton Falls Res 1 Jan (LW); Lake Mahopac PUTN 6-22 Jan (CR); max 4 RLSP 16-23 Feb (CC, JC, ME, mob); max 10 16-25 Feb (LS, KMi, BN, mob); 2 Brown's Pd ORAN 16-21 Feb (BN); EMLH 8-15 Feb (NW, PSc, WT, mob); RR 25-29 Feb (JHaa, KMi, SB).

**King Eider:** SFSP 14-15 Dec (DCa, MZ, LS, RSt, BN, JHaa, mob), *intro*.

**Surf Scoter:** 2 Forest Ave Rye WEST 11 Dec (SC); EGR 1-24 Jan (SK, AS, SC, mob).

**White-winged Scoter:** EGR 1-5 Dec (GBen, SC, BSt, SK); MRCC 3 Dec (VH).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Tarrytown Lakes P WEST 4-6 Dec (CC, CG); max 18 EGR 3-12 Dec (GBen, SC, CM, mob); 2 RR 28 Dec-15 Jan (JHaa, KMi, SB, ABor, mob); max 40 EGR 1-24 Jan (TB, GBen, SSi, SC, mob).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 53 EGR 2-6 Dec (GBen, TB, KMcG, mob); Washington L ORAN 5-12 Dec (BN); Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 12 Dec (KB); Croton Gorge P WEST 14 Dec (SK); 2 NCR 11 Jan (BSt, DvZ); 7 CPP 20 Jan (CR, AS); max 65 EGR 1-24 Jan (GBen, TB, mob).

**Horned Grebe:** max 2 EGR 7-12 Dec (CE, GBen, TB); Congers L Memorial P 10 Dec (RSo); RLSP 11 Dec (RS); Washington L 11 Dec (BN); max 17 EGR 1-24 Jan (GBen, TB, KMcG, mob); Kensico Res 23 Jan (NG).

**Red-necked Grebe:** EGR 18 Jan (SK).

#### **RAILS-TROPICBIRDS**

**American Coot:** max 186 NCR 1-3 Dec (CR, LT, SW); max 30 Sylvan L DUTC 1-5 Dec (CP); max 222 NCR 1-28 Jan (TS, SR, AS).

**Killdeer:** Fehr ULST 4 Dec (RM); max 2 EGR 1-24 Jan (SK, GBen, SSi, mob).

**Purple Sandpiper:** Forest Avenue Rye WEST 11 Dec (SC); max 3 Rye Town P 1 Jan (SK); EGR 4 Jan (SC); EGR 14-15 Jan (GBen, TB).

**American Woodcock:** Cranberry Mt WMA PUTN 14 Feb (CC); 3 Stoney Kill Farm EEC DUTC 20 Feb (CKo); Lagrangeville DUTC 22 Feb (AM).

**Wilson's Snipe:** 2 SGNWR 1 Jan (JClA, SB, BSw, JM).

**Razorbill:** max 4 EGR 7 Jan-11 Feb (SC, SK, AS, CG, JHar, AG, mob); Milton Pt WEST 20 Jan (GBen, TB).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Rhinecliff Landing P DUTC 11 Dec (DCh).

**Iceland Gull:** max 3 NW 6-21 Dec (MZ, JCa, BN, KMCD, mob); CPP 9 Dec (RL, AS, BSt. mob); NW 18 Dec (CMc); Westage Business Center Drive Fishkill DUTC 18-22 Dec (AMa); 2 Beacon Waterfront DUTC 21 Dec (AMa); NW 31 Dec (BN, KMCD); River Rd ULST 5 Jan (DT); NW 10-17 Jan (BN, LS, MZ, mob), *intro*.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** NW 8 Dec (DT).

### LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** EGR 3 Dec-24 Jan (GBen, TB, KA, KMi, mob); max 2 Milton Pt WEST 13-20 Jan (KMCG, GBen, TB).

**Common Loon:** max 4 Kensico Res 1-4 Dec (NG); 2 White Pd Multiple Use Area PUTN 2 Dec (MB); SFSP 14-15 Dec (MZ, BN, JHaa, mob); EGR 1 Dec – 24 Jan (GBen, SC, TB, SK, mob).

**Northern Gannet:** EGR 7 Dec (MBK, GBen, TB); EGR 15 Jan (TB, GBen, SC, KMCG).

**Great Cormorant:** max 5 NCR 1-11 Dec (SW); Rye Town P WEST 1 Dec (SW); max 4 EGR 5 Dec-24 Jan (GBen, TB, CE, mob); max 16 Tompkins Cove ROCK 7 Jan (LA); max 20 Peekskill WEST 2-24 Jan (DB, BN, CR, mob); max 2 NCR 1-23 Jan (AS, CR, TJ, mob).

**Great Egret:** MC 7 Dec (VH).

**Black-crowned Night-heron:** Titus Millpond WEST 7 Dec (AS, SR, mob); Playland L 12 Jan (RH).

**Golden Eagle:** Storm King SP ORAN 7 Dec (MZ, BN); Berkshire Rd DUTC 25 Dec (JAs); Storm King SP 28 Dec -17 Jan (KMi, CS, KMCD, mob); Shaughnessy Rd DUTC 28 Dec (AMa); Dover Plains DUTC 29 Dec (MR); Bruzgal Rd DUTC (AMa, MK); Dover Plains DUTC 11 Jan (GP); Wallkill View Farm ULST 15 Jan (GF); max 2 Sandhill Rd DUTC 17-18 Jan (EG, MK, SK, mob); max 2 Dover Plains 21-31 Jan (CP, MR); BSWMA 22 Jan (JHaa); Woodstock ULST 23 Jan (CKi); Berkshire Rd DUTC 24-29 Jan (BM); OCBDR 2-28 Feb (KMCD, MZ, BN, GP, mob); Robisch Hill Rd

SULL 5 Feb (JHaa); 2 Peter's Rd SULL 12 Feb (JHaa); Peter's Rd 15 Jan (PD, RD); WRNWR 17 Feb (GBen, TB); New Hampton ORAN 17 Feb (KA); Sandhill Rd (DK); LaGrangeville DUTC 27 Feb (GC); Clove Rd DUTC 29 Feb (RL).

**Northern Harrier:** max 3 OCBDR 1-21 Dec (MZ, LS, KA, mob); max 4 SGNWR 2-22 Dec (KMCD, MCo, JCa, mob); CPP 4-20 Dec (CR, AS, RL, mob); BSWMA 11-12 Dec (JHaa, SB); Hankins Rd SULL 22 Dec (JHaa).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** SGNWR 6 Dec (KMCD); max 2 OCBDR 5 Dec – 28 Feb (LS, KA, ABo, BN, mob); New Platz ULST 20-22 Feb (GF, CKi).

**Eastern Screech-owl:** Church St Poughquag DUTC 1 Jan (CP, DvZ); Kingston ULST 3 Dec (WTo); McKinsky Rd ULST 4 Jan (WTo); max 2 CPP 6 Jan- 8 Feb (SK, SR, GBen); Wurtsboro SULL 12 Dec (JHaa); max 2 BSWMA 28 Jan – 24 Feb (LV, KMi, DB, SBa).

**Great Horned Owl:** max 2 MC 2-13 Dec (GBen, TB); 2 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 4-7 Dec (JS); Hunt-Parker Sanctuary DUTC 12 Dec (TJ); 2 Dutchess P L 16 Dec (LF); Swan L SULL 18 Dec (NF); Ward Acres P 22 Dec (AS); max 2 BSWMA 2 Jan – 3 Feb (JHaa, SB, LV); max 2 Rio Res 2-9 Feb (NH, KMCD).

**Barred Owl:** Minnewaska Trail ULST 4-10 Dec (CK); 2 Warwick ORAN 9 Dec (JM); Ludlow Woods Rd DUTC 3 Dec (DK); Hunter Brook Rd WEST 14 Dec (SC). Widespread through Region entire period.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 7 SGNWR 5 Dec –29 Feb (KMCD, MCo, CK, mob); max 3 OCBDR 1 Jan – 29 Feb (LS, KMi, KA, mob).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Rose Hill Rd ULST 13 Dec (PSc); max 2 Callicoon SULL 22 Jan-22 Feb (RK); OCBDR 23 Jan (LS); Kripplebush ULST 10 Feb (PSc); Frost Valley ULST 12 Feb (GG); Fir Brook SULL 27 Feb (LV).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Martin Swedish Rd ULST 2 Dec (DB); VFEP 3 Dec (LL); max 4 Weston Rd ULST 1 Dec-24 Jan (ABe, DB, mob); max 5 VanNorstrand Rd ULST 1 Dec-24 Jan (DB, KS, mob); OMRLMSP 7 Jan – 26 Feb (MK, JC, BB, mob); max 4 MNSP 2 Jan – 26 Feb (AL, CP, EM, mob).

**Merlin:** Milan DUTC 1 Dec (SJ); MC 1 Dec (ME); Bowdoin CP DUTC 4 Dec (MK, SI, mob).

**GYRFALCON:** SGNWR 22 Jan (SSa, JY), *intro*.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Governer Cuomo Bridge ROCK 1 Dec (AWelb); EGR 2 Dec (GBen, TB); Kensico Res 4 Dec (NG).

**Monk Parakeet:** max 23 Aiello P/Titus Millpond, New Rochelle WEST 7 Dec-19 Jan (AS, SR, SK, mob).

#### FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

**Eastern Phoebe:** Chadwick L ORAN 9 Dec (BN); CIOES 8 Jan (MF); Phillippsport Rd SULL 11 Jan (PD); BSWMA 15 Jan – 2 Feb (NW, JHaa); Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary ULST 21 Jan (DWe); SHSR 23 Jan (KA, JD); Clinton Corners DUTC (JA1); WRNWR 8-9 Feb (TD, CH); SHSR 12 Feb (KA); WRNWR 16 Feb (MCh, BBo, CD).

**Northern Shrike:** Days Rd ORAN 21 Dec (JF); Kripplebush 31 Jan-2 Feb (PSc, WTo); Hanofee Rd SULL 31 Jan (JHaa); Aden Rd SULL 9 Feb (SSu); Aden Rd 18 Feb (SSu); Hanofee Rd 28-29 Feb (JHaa, KMi, GBen, TB).

**Horned Lark:** max 85 OCBDR 3-10 Dec (LS, MZ, mob); 8 Stringham P DUTC 3 Dec (AMa); 8 EGR 3 Dec (KMcG); max 20 CPP 3-4 Dec (YH, CR); max 40 Pine Plains DUTC 4-5 Dec (CP, DvZ, DK); max 300 OCBDR 1-7 Jan (BN, LS, MZ, mob); 11 Beechwoods SULL 12 Feb (JHaa).

**Hermit Thrush:** Ludlow Woods DUTC 2 Dec (DK); EGR 2-4 Dec (GBen, TB, KMcG); VFEP 3 Dec (LL); RSP 4 Dec (VH); BSWMA 5-23 Dec (SB, KMi, JHaa); DHCLP 5 Dec (JHaa).

**Gray Catbird:** CPP 7-12 Dec (KB, LT); 2 Teatoun L Reservation WEST 11 Dec (YH); max 5 Chalet on the Hudson PUTN 13-14 Dec (BN); Hurley Rail Trail ULST 13 Dec (MD); 2 MF 14 Dec (SR); 2 Georges Island P WEST 24-28 Jan (BN, CS, JHaa); Phillippsport Rd SULL 30 Jan (JHaa).

**Brown Thrasher:** Roscoe SULL 1 Dec (LV); Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 15-16 Dec (AWelb, MPap, ME); Lincoln Ave Rye WEST 15 Dec (AS); PP 2 Jan (KR); max 2 Georges Island P 24-28 Jan (BN, CS, JHaa).

**American Pipit:** 4 EGR 3 Dec (KMcG, SC, GBen); 6 CPP 4 Dec (CR); 9 BSWMA 18 Dec (SB, KMi).

**Purple Finch:** 13 Hankins Rd SULL 8 Dec (JHaa); 2 Ulster County Fairgrounds ULST 18 Dec (CK); 8 Ludlow Woods Rd DUTC 18 Jan (DK); max 6 Johnson ORAN 20-21 Dec (JR); 12 Frost Valley ULST 2 Feb (GG); 6 Skytop

Drive WEST 2 Feb (MF, MC); 2 Muhlig Rd SULL 10 Feb (JHaa).

**Lapland Longspur:** Catskill P ULST 8 Dec (MD); Esopus Creek DUTC (MA); max 2 Rockefeller Lane DUTC 8 Dec (AM, CP, BM, DvZ); Jessup Switch Rd ORAN 9 Dec (ABoo); 2 OCBDR 4 Jan (LS, MZ); OCBDR 18 Jan (EF, TF); Greig Farm DUTC 19 Jan (SR).

**Snow Bunting:** max 9 CPP 1-3 Dec (TS, YH, CR); 13 EGR 3 Dec (GBen, TB); 2 Pine Plains 4 Dec (CP, DvZ); max 7 OCBDR 7 Dec (MZ, LS, BT, KA); 6 Beechwoods SULL 8 Dec (RD, JHaa); 5 West Rd ULST (JCI); 2 Shokan ULST 18 Jan (JCI); max 2 Rockefeller Lane DUTC 20 Jan (CP, SK, BM); CPP 20 Jan (SK); 38 Bud Corners Rd DUTC 22 Jan (MK); 5 Grahmsville SULL 9 Feb (JHaa); 7 Sullivan County Community College SULL 13 Feb (JHaa).

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** max 2 MC 1 Dec -24 Jan (GBen, TB, ME, mob); EGR 3 Dec (KMcG); Tuxedo P 16 Dec ORAN (RA); Croton Gorge P 2 Jan (SK); 3 Burnt Meadows Rd ULST (WTo); Allen Rd DUTC 3 Jan (BM).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 8 LNP 1 Dec (JR); 2 Wappingers Falls DUTC 3 Dec (DvZ); Bowdoin CP DUTC 4 Dec (MK, SI, mob); Gibson Hill Rd 4 Dec (JS); 2 Putnam High School PUTN 5 Dec (AMa); 2 Round Hill Rd ORAN 9 Dec (ABoo); VFEP 13 Dec (AL); Copper Rock Rd ORAN 20-21 Dec (BN, SB); 8 LNP 31 Dec (JR); Croton Falls Res 3 Jan (SC); 6 LNP 17 Jan (JR); max 6 LNP 11 Jan – 9 Feb (JR, SK, MBo); LNP 15 Feb (JR), *intro*.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 OCBDR 3 Dec (LS); James Baird SP DUTC 4-9 Dec (CV, AMa); max 2 OCBDR 6-10 Dec (MZ, LS); WRNWR 1 Feb (CA); Westown P ORAN 22 Feb (MZ).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** EGR 2 Jan-5 Feb (AMc, DM, SK, mob).

**Fox Sparrow:** max 2 MC 1-4 Dec (GBen, TB, ME, KMcG); Locust Grove DUTC 1 Dec (TP); EGR 3 Dec (KMcG); Somers WEST 6 Dec (GJ); max 2 MC 1-24 Jan (GBen, BSt, mob); max 3 EGR 5-22 Jan (ME, SC, JCI).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 CPP 1 Jan (BBr); 9 Congers L Memorial P 2 Jan (DN); max 2 Glynwood Farm 3-4 Jan (LT, SR); max 10 OCBDR 7-23 Jan (JHaa, AA, LA, mob); max 6 Rockefeller Ln 20-26 Jan (SJ, BM, MK, DvZ); CPP 1 Feb (MH, DM, JF, JW).

**Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon):** Croton-on-Hudson WEST 16 Dec (CR).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** MC 1 Dec- 3 Jan (ME, GBen, TB, CE, mob), *intro*.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 3 CPP 4-14 Dec (CR); max 9 SGNWR 7-16 Dec (MR, FP, DT, PSh); SGNWR 4 Jan (GBen, TB, CM); SGNWR 4-11 Jan (GBen, TB, CMc, mob); CPP 11 Jan (TS); 3 CPP 27 Jan (AS, EG, KW, GB).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 2000 OCBDR 7 Jan (JHaa), *intro*.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 3 James Baird SP 4 Dec (CV); 4 DHCLP 5 Dec (JHaa); 6 CPP 6 Dec (LT); 2 SHSR 11 Dec (KA); 3 Briarcliff Manor WEST 11 Dec (YH); 2 Monhegan L WEST 13 Dec (CR); 10 CPP 1 Jan (BBr); max 40 Gate of Heaven Cemetery WEST 6-14 Jan (SM, BSt, TS); 4 TBWMA 12 Jan (SR); 15 DHCLP 10 Jan (JHaa); 10 Millbrook DUTC 26 Jan (DvZ,

BM); Berkshire Rd Dover 26 Jan (JAs); DHCLP 4 Feb (JHaa)

**Common Grackle:** 10,000 OCBDR 7 Jan (JHaa), *intro*.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** MC 3 Dec (GBen, TB).

**Nashville Warbler:** Yonkers WEST 22 Dec (MBo).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Doansburg Rd Brewster WEST 1 Jan (CMi); Butlerville Rd Somers WEST 23 Jan (CR).

**Northern Parula:** SS 8 Dec (LQ).

**Palm Warbler:** Hawthorne WEST 11 Dec (EM).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** MC 4 Dec (AWa).

**SUMMER TANAGER:** Myers Corners Rd DUTC 15 Jan – 29 Feb (CP, KB, DvZ, mob), *intro*.



## REGION 10 – MARINE

**Douglas J. Futuyma**

8 Walnut Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790

dfutuyma@gmail.com

If the winter of 2018-2019 was “exceptionally mild in Region 10,” as I noted last year, the winter of 2019-2020 was even more so. In 2018-2019, the deviation of the monthly mean temperature at Central Park was +2.6, -0.1, and +0.9 for December, January, and February respectively, whereas the parallel values for 2019-2020 were +0.8, +6.5, and +4.8. Precipitation was above average, overall, but snowfall was slight, amounting to a total of 4.8" in Central Park, with a maximum depth of one inch; no snow fell in February, in either Central Park or Islip. Low temperatures of 17° on 19 December, 16° on 22 January, and 13° on 15 February were registered at Islip, and slightly higher at Central Park. These freezes reduced numbers of fresh-water ducks on some CBCs and thereafter. For the second winter in a row, pelagic excursions were cancelled due to foul weather.

Regional birders enjoyed some attractive rarities this winter, starting with an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** on 1 December in Staten Island and another in Far Rockaway, Queens, on 8 December. **Brown Pelicans** were seen at four coastal sites in December, and an **American White Pelican** frequented ponds in Sayville (Suffolk) from 24 to 26 January. A **Pink-footed Goose** was recorded in Mattituck on 7 December, but not enjoyed because it was shot. The specimen is now in the



	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	38.3°	37.5°	+0.8°	36.8°	35.6°	+1.2°
Jan	39.1°	32.6°	+6.5°	37.3°	30.6°	+6.7°
Feb	40.1°	35.3°	+4.8°	38.2°	32.8°	+5.4°

	Central Park			Islip		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	7.09"	4.00"	+3.09"	8.01"	4.06"	+3.95"
Jan	1.93"	3.65"	+1.72"	2.19"	3.64"	-1.45"
Feb	2.54"	3.09"	-0.55"	3.38"	3.26"	+0.12"

AMNH. Other sightings included a **Rufous Hummingbird** on 16 December, single Yellow-headed Blackbirds near Riverhead (10 December to 15 January) and East Hampton (2 February), a **Summer Tanager** on the Orient Point CBC on 28 December, a Regionally rare **Golden Eagle** at the Riverhead sod fields on 15 December, and a **Sedge Wren** at the Arshamomaque Preserve on Long Island's North Fork, discovered on 25 December and enjoyed by many observers in early February. Rarer still were a **Western Grebe** at Point Lookout on 1 January, a **Townsend's Solitaire** in Three Mile Harbor from 9 to 21 February, and a **Varied Thrush** in Prospect Park from 30 December until at least 25 February. The northeast witnessed a remarkable influx of **Painted Buntings**, including at least seven in Region 10, in four counties. The individuals at Jones Beach State Park from 28 December to 22 January and at Brooklyn Bridge Park from 29 December to 23 February were seen by many observers. The rarest of the rare was undoubtedly a male **Townsend's Warbler**, discovered at an obscure neighborhood park on the Southern Nassau CBC on 28 December and seen over the course of five days. Wintering visitors from the north conspicuously did not include fringillid finches: three reports of single Purple Finches and a single reported Pine Siskin are the sum total (in eBird). Red-breasted Nuthatches were very sparse, in contrast to last winter's irruption. Only three Northern Shrikes were reported, all from Suffolk. One or two Lapland Longspurs were reported, some repeatedly, from three coastal sites. This northern visitor has declined in recent years, as has American Tree Sparrow, which approached or reached record low counts (including zero) in several CBCs. As I suggested last year, these species might tend to stay north of us as winter climate has changed. About eight Rough-legged Hawks were seen, including one that coursed along Ocean Parkway for two months. Five Snowy Owls were reported at coastal sites, and Short-eared Owls, likewise, were reported from five sites, repeatedly in two of these. There were only three records of the once much more abundant Long-eared Owl. On the other hand, Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from 17 sites in Suffolk

alone, including counts of 10 on the Montauk CBC and six on the Central Suffolk CBC; these high numbers surely result not from population increase, but from increased effort and skill. This also accounts for the all-time high count of 52 Eastern Screech-Owls on the Montauk CBC and 45 on the Smithtown CBC—a much more common species than meets the eye.

Among waterfowl, at least 11 Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in Bronx and Suffolk, a “Black” Brant was seen at Floyd Bennett Field, Barnacle Goose at three sites, and Cackling Goose was reported from 21 sites in four counties. Several interesting geese, thought to be hybrids, were photographed, including apparent hybrid Snow X Ross’s at two sites in Nassau (Brendan Fogarty, Michael McBrien), two Snow Goose X Brant in Brooklyn (Peter Paul, Joshua Malbin), and Greater White-fronted X Canada, including one at Hook Pond (Bruce Horwith, Christopher Gangemi) and two at a farm near Calverton (Brendan Fogarty), both in Suffolk. (Many waterfowl species, even in different genera, can form viable hybrids after as many as 10 million years of separation from their common ancestor (T. Price, *Speciation in Birds*, Roberts & Co., 2008).) Other than a single flyover at Heckscher SP, only a single pair of Tundra Swan was seen, wandering about the Hamptons from late December until mid-February. Single Blue-winged Teal were seen at three sites, and numbers of Eurasian Wigeon were about average. Although Canvasback in our Region has declined greatly in recent decades, fair numbers were seen at the World’s Fair Marina in Queens (115) and in Suffolk at Centerport (58), Eastport (42), Big Fresh Pond in North Sea (81), Agawam Lake (170), and Water Mill (381). At least three King Eider were seen, and Common Eider was again most abundant in the bay at Shinnecock Inlet, less so in its former Montauk stronghold. Surf and Black Scoters remained abundant in the Montauk area, the greatest numbers being reported from Culloden Point, a few miles to the west. The usual scattering of Harlequin Ducks on Long Island was complemented this winter by a long-staying immature male in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, a highly unusual site and habitat. It was a good winter for Barrow’s Goldeneye, reported from 10 sites, including Crab Meadow Beach in Northport, to which a male returned for a third winter.

Other than the Western Grebe, no exceptional species or numbers of loons or grebes were reported. Razorbills were seen from Staten Island to Montauk along the south shore, and along the north shore of LI as far west as Fort Salonga, in good numbers that nonetheless paled in comparison to 2018-2019. The Montauk CBC, for example, recorded a healthy 184, but far fewer than the 1,898 on the 2018 CBC. The most exceptional flight, with 603 tallied, was at Robert Moses SP on 15 December, in the midst of which the only **Common Murre** of the season was seen, as well as a **Thick-billed Murre**—one of eight this season. There were six reports of single Dovekies, from Jones Beach West End to Montauk, and there were two offshore reports, of 300 on 11 January in Suffolk waters, and “many” just east of New Jersey waters on 9 February. The most enviable alcid report was of two **Atlantic Puffins** at Montauk on 16 December, with single birds listed also in the two offshore reports. There were only a few reports of Black-legged

Kittiwakes, with a maximum of 37 at Montauk Point on 8 February. Black-headed Gulls were seen at about 12 sites; Bonaparte's Gull numbers were again generally low; the maximum was 267 in Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn, on 2 January, but the Montauk CBC recorded only two. A fair number of Laughing Gulls lingered into December, and one into January. Seven Glaucous Gulls were recorded, ranging from Staten Island to eastern Suffolk, while both Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at many sites. The most surprising larid was probably Black Skimmer, four of which lingered at Coney Island until 15 December. Among marine species, finally, are Northern Gannet, with a maximum of 2,500 estimated at Breezy Point Tip on 29 February, and a Northern Fulmar, observed well offshore.

Among shorebirds and marginally aquatic species, a Common Gallinule frequented Mill Pond, Bellmore (Nassau) throughout, where a Sandhill Crane was seen briefly on 5 December. Great Egrets were seen at many locations throughout the winter, but a Snowy Egret on 14 December in Staten Island was less expected. Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons lingered into December on Randall's Island in Manhattan and in Stony Brook, and American Bitterns were seen at Tobay in Nassau, Dam Pond in Orient, and Dune Road in central Suffolk. Some American Oystercatchers lingered into late February, and the usual overwintering shorebirds were complemented by two Semipalmated Plovers (in Bronx and Nassau), a Piping Plover on the Orient CBC, a Western Sandpiper at Jones Beach on 27 December, two Lesser Yellowlegs that day in Staten Island, and most surprisingly, an American Avocet at Jamaica Bay WR on 8 December.

Noteworthy land birds included several Red-headed Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpeckers at three sites in Staten Island, an all-time high count of 2,508 American Robins on the Montauk CBC, and a count of 540 Boat-tailed Grackles, notable for a relative newcomer to the New York avifauna. Rusty Blackbird numbers were unexceptional in most areas, but 44 in Shu Swamp (Nassau) were higher than usual, and the Bronx-Westchester CBC tallied an astonishing 195 in the west Bronx, the highest in 46 years. Common Raven was at least as abundant as last year; setting new high counts on the Montauk CBC (12) and Southern Nassau CBC (16). Maximal eBird counts for American and Fish Crows were 500 and 400 respectively, but Fish Crows greatly predominate at a roost at Hofstra University in Nassau, where there may be as many as 1,000 birds (B. Fogarty, pers. comm.).

Given the permissive weather, more than the usual numbers of lingering warm-weather species were to be expected. There were abundant records of Turkey Vultures; Black Vultures were seen at 20 sites in Staten Island, four in Manhattan, one in Bronx, four in Brooklyn, and three in Suffolk; and an Osprey was still in Prospect Park on 2 December. Tree Swallows persisted throughout the period at coastal sites, with a maximum of 100 at Breezy Point on 29 February. Other expected species included House and Marsh Wrens, Eastern Meadowlark (many), Field Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow, which is increasingly abundant in winter and set a record high count of 49 on the Montauk CBC. This count also

registered new highs for Swamp (90) and Song (882) Sparrows. Less expected species included two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Camp Hero SP on 14 December, Veery and Wood Thrush in Manhattan parks, two Lincoln's Sparrows in early December, single Grasshopper and Clay-colored Sparrows in Staten Island, a Seaside Sparrow in Suffolk, and at least seven Vesper Sparrows. Yellow-breasted Chats were more than usually abundant, with four on the Montauk CBC alone. Goodly numbers of Orange-crowned and Pine warblers (24 of the latter on the Montauk CBC!), were complemented by quite a few Common Yellowthroats and Nashville Warblers, several Ovenbirds and Black-and-white Warblers, Prairie and Wilson's Warblers, and the first winter record of American Redstart outside New York City.

Acknowledgments: I would like to extend appreciation to Bill Ostrander for his invaluable compilation of eBird data, and I thank Gail Benson, Tom Burke, Tom Fiore, Brendan Fogarty, Karen Fung, Patricia Lindsay, and Shai Mitra for information and advice.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Adamo, Patricia Aitken, Russ Alderson, Deborah Allen, Trevor Ambrico, Bob Anderson, Richard Aracil, Anya Auerbach, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh (ABk), David Barrett, Catherine Barron (CB), Rob Bate, Ed Becher, Bill Belford, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlinger (BBe), Luci Betti, Steve Biasetti, Sean Billerman, Magda Binion, Orhan Birol, Shane Blodgett, David Bohrer, Jill Bohrer, Brent Bomkamp, Christopher Braut, Sharon Brody, Brenda Bull, Samuel Burckhardt, Adrian Burke, Thomas W. Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace, Sean Camillieri, Chase Cammarota, Keith Cashman, Cesar Castillo, Stephen Chang, Anthony Ciancimino (AC), Douglas Cioffi, Anthony Collerton, Jeremy Collison, Mike Cooper, Kathleen Coyle, Jenna Curtis, August & Clay Davidson-Onsgard, Gail DeLalla, Louis DeMarco, Alice Deutsch, Joseph DiCostanzo, Liz DiNapoli, Patrice Domeischel, Alan Drogin, Jacob Drucker, Tim Dunn, Frank Durso, Mike Elfassy, Christopher Eliot, Linda Ewing, Mike Farina, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken Feustel, Suzy Feustel, Bert Filemyr, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, John Fitzgerald, Brendan Fogarty, Richard Fried, Karen Fung, Douglas Futuyma, John Gaglione, Ed Gaillard, Chris Gangemi, Barbara Garriel, Klemens Gasser, Regina Gelarde, Arie Gilbert, Joe Girgente, Joe Giunta, Vincent Glasser, John Gluth (JG), Doug Gochfeld, Menachem Goldstein, Rich Gostic, Isaac Grant, Tom Gray, Bob Grover, John Haas, Dawn Hannay, Tim Healy (TH), Nadine Henderson, Mike Higgiston, Jennifer Hoffman, Tim Hoffman, Adelia Honeywood, Patrick Horan, Kathleen Horn, Roger Horn, Bruce Horwith, Nancy Houlihan, Nathaniel Howard, Dennis Hrehowsik, Karolina Janik, Mark Janks, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Ed Johnson, Tom Johnson, Brian Kane, Danny Karlson, Roger Kaufmann, John Keane, Paul Keim, Gus Keri, HJ Kim, Matt Klein, Katie Kleinpeter, Mary Beth Kooper, Barbara LaGois, David

LaMagna, MaryLaura Lamont, Joseph Landesberg, Heather Lanza, Ryan Leimbach, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Wilson Macha, Joshua Malbin, Ryan Mandelbaum, Roberta Manion, Deborah Martin, Patricia Martin, Michael McBrien, Michael D. McBrien, Gerald McGee, Jay McGowan, Hugh McGuinness, Kaila McKiernan, Chris McVoy, Stacy & Kurt Meyerheinrich, Eric Miller, Stella Miller, Joel Milton, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra, Ursula Mitra, Lily Mleczko, Thomas Moran, Pete Morris, Deborra Mullins, Melissa Murgittroyd, Mia Murphy, Ernst Mutchnick, Farah Mutchnick, Stefan Mutchnick, Theodore Muth, Lisa Nasta, Mary Normandia, John O'Brien, Russ Ogden, Todd Olson, Nathan O'Reilly, Luke Ormand, Bill Ostrander, Patrick Palladino, Jennifer Palmer, Matthew Pannott, Daisy Paul, Peter Paul (PP), Robert Paxton, Richard Payne, Vinnie Pellegrino, Aidan Perkins, Stephane Perreault (SP), Felipe Pimentel, Sarah Plimpton, Peter Polshak, Peter Post, Tom Preston, Robert Proniewych, Catherine Quayle, Joan Quinlan, Glen Quinn, Jose Ramirez-Garofalo, Jay Rand, Mike Rath, RBA – NY Rare Bird Alert, Peter Reisfeld, Ian Resnick, Phil Ribolow, Jeff Ritter, Arturo Romua, Jane Ross, Jack Rothman, Barbara Rubinstein, Karen Rubinstein, Juan Salas, Chris Sayers, Lynne Scheibel, Mike Scheibel, Steve Schellenger, Lisa Schepcke, Jim Schickenrieder, Sy Schiff, Peter Scully, Maya Shikhman, Robert Shriber, Eileen Schwinn, John Sepenoski, Ryan Serio, Mike Shanley, John Shemilt, Maya Shikhman, Nadar Silad-Muth, Sean Sime (SS), Herb Smith, Nadir Souirgi, Jordan Spindell, Suzi Stewart, Miles Stokowski, Taylor J. Sturm, Harry Sullivan, Gautam Surya, Anne Swaim, Paul Sweet, Cathy Taldone, Robert Taylor, Nick Tepper, Ken Thompson, Cole Tiemann, Louis Tognan, Nancy Tognan, Kathleen Toomey, Kevin Topping, John Turner, Rosemary Valente, Richard Veit, Lance Verderame, Joe Viglietta, Aaron Virgin, Michael Waldron, Steve Walter, Bob Washburn, Joanna Watson, Drew Weber, Alicia Williams, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Tod Winston, Heather Wolf, Mark Wolfe, Marguerite Wolffsohn, Seth Ian Wollney, Paul Wolter, Janet Wooten, Byron Young, Mi Yu, Michael Yuan, Terence Zahner, Eric Zawatski, Qinyu Zhu, Michael Zito, Ryan Zucker, and the many others who have contributed sightings during this time.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**AMNH** – American Museum of Natural History; **BPdP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **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; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P (aka Drier Offerman P), KING; **DP** – Democrat Pt 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”); **FBB** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **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; **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; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **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; **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 MPB (KING); **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP (SUFF); **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON.

#### **WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Snow Goose:** max 1300 JBWR 8 Dec (PP).  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** single birds in PBP 6 Dec (PH), VCP 25-27 Jan (K. Jarzik et al.), Half Hollow P, Melville NASS 12 Jan (MMcB), Schmitt's Farm Melville NASS 6-12 Dec (BF), and at least 7 sites in SUFF: Centerport 24 Dec (BBo), SMSP 30 Jan (KF & SF), Short's Pd 27 Jan – 8 Feb (F. Durso, K. Klein) and Riv area 7 Dec- 20 Jan (AColl et seq.).  
**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** shot by hunter, Mattituck area SUFF 7 Dec, brought to AMNH (P. Sweet).  
**Brant:** max 12,000 PL 28 Dec (ABk).  
**BLACK BRANT:** FBF 30 Jan (RBA).  
**Barnacle Goose:** Belmont L SP SUFF 3 Dec (SSM) to 23 Feb.; Riv area 15 Jan (B. Filemyr) – 20 Jan; perhaps same bird at Hulse Landing Rd, Calverton SUFF 23 Jan (A. Perkins).  
**Cackling Goose:** at 1 site in BRON, 6 in RICH, 2 in NASS, 11 in SUFF.  
**Canada Goose:** max 5000 Riv sod fields 19 Jan (PJL et al.).  
**Mute Swan:** max 142 Hayground Cove, Water Mill SUFF 10 Feb (A. Virgin).  
**Tundra Swan:** HSP 22 Dec (SF), 2 Sagaponack Pd 26 Jan-1 Feb (mob), 2 Hook Pd 21 Jan (KF & SF), 2 Water Mill 13 Feb (A. Virgin); probably same pair throughout.  
**Wood Duck:** max 41 BZ 19 Jan (L. Mleccko).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** Mill Pd P, Belmore, NASS 1-2 Jan (mob), 1 Mill Pd, Sayville SUFF 26

Jan (B. Belford), 1 Swan L, Patchogue and vicinity SUFF 5 Jan – 2 Feb (J. Watson et seq.).  
**Northern Shoveler:** max 617 CP 10 Jan (J. Wooten).  
**Gadwall:** max 268 Swan Pd SUFF 5 Jan (MMcB).  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** single birds Bush Terminal Piers P KING 5-25 Jan (ABk et seq.), Mill Pd P, Bellmore NASS 1 Jan (J. Schickenrieder), Cold Spring Harbor Lab NASS 18 Dec (BBo), Centerport 1-26 Jan (mob), Coopers Neck Pd, Southampton 15 Dec (T. Moran et al.).  
**American Wigeon:** max 100, Eastport L 11 Jan (E. Schwinn).  
**Mallard:** max 2000 Oregon Rd, Southold SUFF 13 Feb (C. Tiemann).  
**American Black Duck:** 2100 Zachs Bay NASS 28 Dec (S. Camillieri).  
**Northern Pintail:** 74 Zachs Bay NASS 28 Dec (S. Camillieri).  
**Green-winged Teal:** 51 Hendrix Creek KING 20 Feb (PP).  
**Canvasback:** max 381 Water Mill 23 Feb (PJL, SSM).  
**Redhead:** max 99 Avon L, Amityville SUFF 2 Jan (E Mu).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 150 PatchL 18 Dec (KF & SF).  
**Greater Scaup:** max 2200 Venetian Shores, Babylon SUFF 5 Jan (TD).  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 1083 World's Fair Marina QUEE 18 Jan (SP, M Klein).

**King Eider:** Kirk P, Mon 21 Dec (MMcB), Shinn 11 Jan – 22 Feb (C Gangemi), 2 Culloden Pt SUFF 9 Feb, 1 23 Feb (RBA), Orient Pt 7-24 Feb (JSep et seq.).  
**Common Eider:** max 5000 Shinn 29 Dec (J. Bohrer & D. Bohrer).  
**Harlequin Duck:** Sheepshead Bay KING 5-19 Jan (mob; unusual loc), 2-5 at PL-JBWE 12 Dec-29 Feb (mob), Shinn 2-20 Jan (mob), East Hampton 21 Dec (B. Kane, H. McGuinness), MP 6 Jan (KF & SF), 5 Orient Pt CP 20 Dec-29 Feb (mob).  
**Surf Scoter:** max 900 Culloden Pt SUFF 17 Feb (KF & SF).  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 850 BPT 7 Jan (DG, SS).  
**Black Scoter:** max 2100 Culloden Pt SUFF 17 Feb (KF & SF).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 1800 Montauk & Camp Hero SP 17 Feb (KF & SF).  
**Bufflehead:** max 300 World's Fair Marina QUEE 29 Dec (P Ribolow).  
**Common Goldeneye:** max 229 Callahan's Beach, Smithtown SUFF 14 Jan (BB0).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** single birds King's Pt NASS 22 Jan (MMcB); SUFF locs: CMB 3 Jan-2 Feb (TJS et seq), Orient Harbor 28 Jan (A. Virgin, N. Tepper), Sag Harbor Cove 27 Jan (F. Durso), Sammy's Beach 1-3 Feb (AColl), Gardiner's I 21 Dec (TJS), Fort Pond Bay 21 Dec – 12 Jan (CBC), L Montauk 17-24 Feb (R. Mandelbaum).  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 275 HLSP 28 Dec (C. Braut).  
**Common Merganser:** max 82 L. Ronkonkoma SUFF 27 Dec (M. Rath, D. LaMagna).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 391 Atlantic Beach (NASS) 21 Jan (A. Swaim).  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 675 Eastport L SUFF 18 Dec (KF & SF).  
**Northern Bobwhite:** 5 East Marion SUFF 1 Dec (JSep), 5 Camp Hero SP SUFF 22 Feb (K. Kleinpeter, B. LaGois). (Perhaps released stock.)  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Brookfield P 18 Feb RICH (AC), Oakwood Beach 23 Feb RICH (AC), Bush Terminal Piers P KING (H. Kim, B. Washburn); Fountain Ave Landfill KING (M. Yuan et al.); 12 sites in SUFF.  
**Wild Turkey:** 8 sites in RICH (max 46, S. I. University Hosp, 15 Jan, L. Ewing); >80 sites in SUFF, max 67 Southold 21 Jan (H. Lanza).  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 7 Twin Lakes Pres, Hempstead NASS 28 Dec (T. Preston, L. DeMarco).

**Horned Grebe:** max 100 Staten I RICH 27 Dec (M. Shanley).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** RICH 1 site, QUEE 3 sites, NASS 3 sites, SUFF 7 sites 1 Dec-8 Feb.  
**WESTERN GREBE:** PL 1 Jan (J. Drucker, mob).  
**Mourning Dove:** max 200 SCFED 13 Dec (G. Quinn).  
**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Southard's Pond P SUFF 16 Dec (C. Cammarota, PJL).

## RAILS-TROPICBIRDS

**Clapper Rail:** Springs SUFF 21 Dec (B. Kane, H. McGuinness).  
**Virginia Rail:** in SUFF, Makamah Pres 4 Dec (TJS), South Shore Nat Ctr 15 Dec (ABK), Springs (2 and 4 birds, 20-21 Dec, H. McGuinness et al.), Big Reed Pd 21 Dec (3, DF), Mon 21 Dec (DF), Fort Pond, Mon 4 Jan (SSM, PJL), Morton NWR 4 Feb (T. Hoffman, J. Hoffman), Arshamomaque Pres 25 Feb (KF).  
**Sora:** Halsey Neck Pd, Southampton SUFF 24 Jan (J. Shemilt).  
**Common Gallinule:** Mill Pond P, Bellmore NASS 7 Dec-26 Feb (BF, mob); 1 Water Mill 4 Jan (J. Haas).  
**American Coot:** max 90 BPdP QUEE 5 Dec (A. Williams).  
**Sandhill Crane:** Mill Pd P, Bellmore NASS 5 Dec (P Dom, DF, R. Proniewych).  
**American Avocet:** JBWR 6-8 Dec (DP, PP).  
**American Oystercatcher:** 5 Big Egg Marsh QUEE 10 Dec (N. Howard), JBWE 4 Dec-16 Feb; max 13, 16 Feb (T. Ambrico); 6 PL 22 Feb (S. Billerman), 2 OMNSA 27 Feb (M. Farina).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 98 PL 28 Dec (SA & MN).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** BPB 27 Dec – 11 Jan (P. Horan), 1 PL 3 Feb (K. Horn, R. Horn).  
**Piping Plover:** Cedar Point CP SUFF 28 Dec (Orient CBC).  
**Killdeer:** max 25 Wolfe's Pd P RICH 5 Feb (A. Romua).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 115 Gardiner's Bay, East Hampton 15 Jan (A. Farnsworth).  
**Red Knot:** max 9 NB 4 Jan (L. Verderame).  
**Sanderling:** max 550 Lily Pond, East Hampton 22 Jan (M. Scheibel).  
**Dunlin:** max 2500 JBWE 11 Jan (L. Verderame, J. Haas).  
**Purple Sandpiper:** in RICH (3 sites), KING (3, max 31 Veterans Memorial Pier 26 Dec, PP), QUEE (4), NASS (3, max 45 24 Dec, R. Leimbach), SUFF (7, max 16 Georgica Beach 22 Jan P. Aitken et al.).

**Western Sandpiper:** JBWE 27 Dec (J. Girgente et al.).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** SC, Captree CBC 15 Dec (B. Grover et al.).

**American Woodcock:** RICH 5 sites; NEWY 4 sites (incl 1 BRY, 3 Dec thru); KING 4 sites, count of 6 Bergen Beach 14 Dec (PP et al.); QUEE 4 sites, multiple dates at JBWR to 15 Feb; NASS 3 sites; SUFF 5 sites, last 29 Feb.

**Wilson's Snipe:** Hendrix Creek KING 7 Dec-6 Jan (J. Malbin et al.); 2 Spring Creek P QUEE 12 Dec; 2 FMC P 27 Dec; Xpressions Adult Store, Bohemia SUFF 15 Dec (TJS, BBo), Swan River Pres 5 Jan-15 Feb (mob); Georgica Cove Hollow, East Hampton 1 Dec-24 Feb, max 22 on 24 Jan (J. Ross, M. Binion), 5 other SUFF locs.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 Goethals Bridge Pd RICH 14 Dec (AC, CB).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 site in RICH, 3 in KING, 5 in QUEE, 9 in NASS, 8 in SUFF; max count 5 Stony Brook SUFF 3 Jan (PDom).

**Dovekie:** single birds JBWE 11 Jan (MZ); SPCP 14 Jan (A. Perkins), Shinn 12 Jan (PJL, SSM, KF, SF); Nap 10 Jan (M. Wolffsohn), Mon 21 Dec (CBC), MP 23 Dec; 300 offshore (39.8160, -72.7687) 11 Jan (C. Sayers), "many" offshore (32.9377, -73.0431) 9 Feb (J. Collison), *intro*.

**COMMON MURRE (from shore):** RMSP 15 Dec (SSM, PJL, PMo).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** PBP 26 Jan (RBA), JBSP 1 Feb (P. Martin), RMSP 15 Dec (SSM, PJL, PMo), Port Jefferson 25 Jan (A. Perkins), Ponquogue Beach 1 Feb (D. Picard), Georgica Beach 13 Dec (AColl), MP 2-24 Feb (AColl et seq.).

**Razorbill:** max 603 RMSP 15 Dec (PMo, PJL, SSM); *intro*.

**Black Guillemot:** MP 24 Feb (RBA).

**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 2 MP 16 Dec (H. McGuinness, P. Polshek, B. Kane); single birds offshore (39.8160, -72.7687) 11 Jan (C. Sayers), offshore (32.9377, -73.0431) 9 Feb (J. Collison).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** RMSP 18 Feb (KF), 3 MP 26 Dec (A. Perkins), MP 25 Jan (A. Perkins), 16 MP 9 Feb (SA), MP 17 Feb (AColl); max. 37 MP 8 Feb (PMo).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 267 GBy 2 Jan (ABk); other high counts 87 JBWE 29 Dec (BBo, TJS), 65 PL 2 Jan (KF & SF).

**Black-headed Gull:** 5 sites in KING, incl Sheepshead Bay 15 Jan - 29 Feb; in QUEE, BPT 31 Dec (PP), RP 7 Feb (SS), 29 Feb (D. Mullins); in NASS JBWE 28 Dec-15 Jan (TH),

Phillip Healy Beach 2 Jan (mob); in SUFF, Setauket area 25 Dec - 18 Jan (P. Scully et seq.), West Meadow Reserve, Setauket 10 Feb (L. Nasta); Sagaponack Pd 28 Jan (B. Bull), Georgica Cove Hollow 9 Feb (SSM, PJL).

**Laughing Gull:** singles at CIC KING 1-4 Dec (T. Preston, K. Toomey), GBy KING 13 Dec (DG, SS, SSM), Beach Channel QUEE 14 Dec (S. Blodgett), Rockaway Beach QUEE 4 Jan (R. Mandelbaum), Milburn Pd P NASS 6 Dec (3 birds, F. Pimentel), SMSP 27 Dec (M. Pannott), Hampton Bays 15 Dec (E. Schwinn), Shinn 15 Dec (B. Young).

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 4150 Brooklyn Bridge P KING 2 Jan (DGo).

**Herring Gull:** max 1000 Shinn 1 Jan (SSM, PJL).

**Iceland Gull:** mostly singletons in RICH (9 sites), NEWY (5 sites), KING (11 sites), QUEE (4 sites), NASS (5 sites), SUFF (18 sites).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** mostly singletons in RICH (7 sites), NEWY (2 sites), BRON (1 site), KING (2 sites), QUEE (7 sites), NASS (6 sites), SUFF (19 sites).

**Glaucous Gull:** CR RICH 28 Jan (AC); JBWR 12 Jan (R. Mandelbaum); Kings Pt NASS 22 Feb (MMcB); JBSP 1 Jan 9 (S. Billerman, M. B. Billerman); first winter Ponquogue Beach SUFF 4 Jan (M. Cooper et al.), band return showed this bird was born in Coats I, Nunavut; Shinnecock Canal SUFF 30 Jan (AColl); Shinn 25 Jan (P. Aitken, A. Perkins).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 395 Shinn 8 Feb (J. McGowan, D. Weber, J. Curtis).

**Black Skimmer:** 10 CIC 8 Dec (A. Honeywood, Q. Zhu), 4 15 Dec (R. Manion, D. Hrehowsik).

## LOONS-PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** max 172 Kirk P Mon 21 Dec (MMcB).

**Common Loon:** max 60 PL 18 Jan (S. Meyerheinrich).

**Northern Fulmar:** offshore (39.8779, -72.6511) 11 Jan (C. Sayers).

**Northern Gannet:** max. 2500 BPT 29 Feb (D. Mullins).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 85 Hunter's Pt QUEE 29 Jan (M. Murphy).

**Great Cormorant:** max 25 BPT 9 Feb (CF).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10):** Mill Pd, Sayville SUFF, later Sans Souci CP, 23-26 Jan (R. Kaufmann et seq.).

**Brown Pelican:** Ft. Wadsworth RICH 27 Dec (RBA), Battery P NEWY 10-11 Dec (R.



Danelle, L. Beausoleil); The Narrows KING 1 Dec (T. Preston), 2 Mon 14 Dec (AnW, RBA).  
**American Bittern:** Tobay NASS 28 Dec (S. Camillieri, M. Murgittroyd), Dam Pd, Orient SUFF 11 Feb (JSep), Ponquogue Br SUFF 28 Jan (G. Benson), 1-2 DR SUFF 3 Jan- 9 Feb (T. Moran et al.)  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 19 SC 25 Dec (EMu).  
**Great Egret:** in RICH (1 site), KING (1), QUEE (3), NASS (6), SUFF (22), thru.  
**Snowy Egret:** Neck Creek Pres RICH 14 Dec (CB, AC).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** all counties; max 33 Camman's Pd P NASS 3 Jan (J. Landesberg).  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** RI 6 Dec-16 Feb (D. Barrett), West Meadow Wetlands Reserve, Setauket SUFF 12-16 Dec (PDom).  
**Black Vulture:** mostly single birds, in RICH (20 sites), NEWY (4 Fort Tryon P 15 Dec, M. Waldron; 1 CP 17 Feb, K. Topping; 11 IHP 19 Jan, N. O'Reilly; 29 Feb, M. B. Kooper), BRON (1 VCP 26 Jan, K. Janik), KING (4 Dykes Beach P 19 Jan, T. Preston, L. DeMarco), SUFF (1 Patchogue 12 Jan, KF; 2 Dwarf Pine Barrens 8 Feb, SA & MN, 2 Riv 9 Feb, JG).  
**Turkey Vulture:** many reports throughout, max 32 Riv 6 Jan (K. Coyle, B. Young).  
**Osprey:** PP 2 Dec (SS).  
**GOLDEN EAGLE (R10):** Riv sod fields SUFF 15 Dec (AColl).  
**Northern Goshawk:** JBWR 9, 14 Dec (DGo), Quogue-Water Mill CBC 12 Jan (RBA).  
**Bald Eagle:** many reports throughout, max 5 Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 31 Jan (J. Quinlan).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** single birds Gilgo to JBSP NASS 5 Dec-21 Feb (mob), EPCAL 5 Jan (MMcB), 1 Feb (R Valente), Riv sod fields 19-24 Jan (S. Stewart, R. Valente), E. Moriches 12 Dec (S. Biasetti), DR 5 Dec (S. Biasetti), Orient Beach SP 30 Jan (N. Henderson), Mon 26 Dec (TH).  
**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 4 Avalon P Stony Brook SUFF 27 Dec (L. Betti et al.), 4 Caumsett SP 26 Jan (SF & KF); 52 Montauk CBC.  
**Great Horned Owl:** max 4 Setauket site SUFF 7 Dec (PDom).  
**Snowy Owl:** single birds JBWR 5 Jan (SS), BPI 10 Jan (J. Salas), Garden City NASS 2 Dec (K. Yoshida), NB and JBWE 22 Dec-28 Feb (mob), Shinn 3 Dec-29 Feb (mob, mostly east side).

**Long-eared Owl:** CP 22 Dec (mob), JBWE 7 Dec (S. Jannazzo, S. Meyerheinrich et al.), *intro*.  
**Short-eared Owl:** SMNC 19-20 Feb (SBI), Edgemere Landfill QUEE 15 Dec (A. Auerbach et al.), 29 Feb (CF, L. Scheppeke), SPCP SUFF 3 Jan (K. Cashman, MMcB), DR 4 reports 24 Jan – 16 Feb, Deep Hollow Ranch, Mon 21 Dec (C. Gangemi, M. Stokowski).  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** BFB 18 Jan (T.Preston), 24 Feb (J Malbin); FT 24 Dec (P. Sweet et al.), 21 reports from 17 sites in SUFF, mostly on CBCs, e.g. 6 Central Suffolk CBC 27 Dec, 10 Montauk CBC 21 Dec.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 5 Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 29 Feb (PJJ, SSM).  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** CP 3 Dec-29 Feb, PBP 18 Dec-2 Feb (J. Rothman et seq.), FP 24 Dec-22 Feb (C. Hampton et seq.), Long Pd Greenbelt SUFF 2 Jan – 26 Feb (C. Gangemi).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 36 Shu Swamp Section, Northern Nassau CBC 21 Dec (BBE).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 5 CP 3 Dec (A. Burke).  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 27 CP 24 Jan (S. Chang).  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 11 Shu Swamp Section, N Nassau CBC 21 Dec (BBE).  
**Northern Flicker:** max 25 Eastport SUFF 27 Dec (S. Biasetti).  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** in RICH, Conference House P 1 Dec (AC), Bloomingdale P 13 Jan (AC), 2 High Rock P 2 Feb (AC).  
**American Kestrel:** in RICH (10 sites), NEWY (dense reports), BRON (8 sites, max 4 PBP 22 Dec, mob), KING (dense reports on coast), QUEE (ca. 35 sites), NASS (12), SUFF (23).  
**Merlin:** in RICH (9 sites), NEWY (15), BRON (2), KING (15), QUEE (15), NASS (ca. 28), SUFF (ca. 57).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** in RICH (ca. 15 sites), NEWY (dense reports throughout; max 5, E. 52 St 1 Jan, A. Farnsworth), BRON (12), KING (ca. 22), QUEE (ca. 30), NASS (ca. 30), SUFF (ca. 46).  
**Monk Parakeet:** 2 Hylan Blvd RICH 29 Feb (AC), 2 St. Nicholas Pl NEWY 15 Dec (J. Drucker), 24 GwC 28 Dec (C. Engel), 11 Avenue N KING 23 Feb (PP), 11 sites in QUEE, most near Hamilton Beach; clusters in southern NASS, Captree CBC, SUFF 15 Dec; max 54 North Woodmere P 28 Dec (SS).

## FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

### ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:

Conference House P RICH 1 Dec (AC, R. Veit), Far Rockaway QUEE 8-12 Dec (L. Scheppke et al.).

**Eastern Phoebe:** in RICH (4 sites, to 25 Feb, R. Veit), KING (4 sites, 1 Dec-29 Feb), QUEE (3 sites), NASS (8 sites, max 3 HLSP 28 Dec, J Giunta), SUFF (14 sites, overwintering Bayard Cutting Arboretum 15 Dec (ABk) to 29 Feb (SSM & PJL)).

**Northern Shrike:** HSP 13-14 Dec (JGs, mob); Hook Pd SUFF 23-26 Jan (J. Milton et seq.); Montauk CBC 21 Dec.

**Blue Jay:** max 61 Area 6, N Nassau CBC 21 Dec (SP, KF).

**American Crow:** max 500 Holy Rood Cem NASS 3 Feb (D. Cioffi).

**Fish Crow:** 400 Hempstead (NASS) 23 Jan (BF).

**Common Raven:** in RICH (ca. 18 sites), NEWY (ca. 22), BRON (9), KING (ca. 23), QUEE (ca. 25), NASS (ca. 48), SUFF (ca. 88); max 7 Wertheim NWR 27 Dec (SM & EM); high count of 12 on Montauk CB (*intro*).

**Horned Lark:** max 113 Hulse Landing Rd SUFF 29 Dec (PMo, TJS, BBo).

**Tree Swallow:** multiple sites in 5 counties, to 28 Feb RICH, 22 Feb KING, 29 Feb QUEE, 23 Feb NASS, 4 Feb SUFF; max 175 BPT 7 Dec (PP).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 57 southern sector Smithtown CBC 27 Dec (M. Rath, D. La Magna); unusually sparse in CP.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 50 Hidden Ponds Trail East Hampton 1 Dec (AColl); unusually sparse in CP, contrast to unusual abundance winter 2018-19.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** one or two birds in BRON (VCP, NYBG), KING (GwC, PP), QUEE (FP), NASS (5 sites), SUFF (13 sites), max 3 Nissequoque R SP 8 Dec (K. Coyle).

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 11 Area 6 N Nassau CBC 21 Dec (SP, KF).

**Brown Creeper:** max 9 southern sector Smithtown CBC 27 Dec (M. Rath, D. La Magna).

**House Wren:** single birds PP 14 Dec (K. McKiernan), FBF 14 Dec (R. Alderson), Cedar Creek P NASS 28 Dec (JG), Manhasset NASS 15 Dec (SP), Orient Pt SUFF (28 Dec (P. Polshek).

**Winter Wren:** max 10 Mass 28 Dec (S. Billerman).

**SEDGE WREN(R10):** Arshamomaque Pres SUFF 25 Dec, 1-8 Feb (JSep et seq, *intro*).

**Marsh Wren:** in RICH (4 sites, to 28 Feb), KING (SMNC 21 Dec H. Lopes), QUEE (FMCP 12 Jan CF, L. Scheppke), NASS (JBWE 28 Dec Bbo, TH), SUFF (12 sites, to 28 Feb Arshamomaque Pres J. Milton).

**Carolina Wren:** 37 Kings Park Psych Ctr, Smithtown SUFF 27 Dec (BBo).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 2 Camp Hero SP Suff 14 Dec (C. Gangemi).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 12 NYBG 11 Jan (J. Palmer).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 5 JBWR 14 Dec (DGo, R. Gochfeld).

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 18 Calverton Cem SUFF 18 Dec (E. Schwinn).

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:** Three Mile Harbor SUFF 10-21 Feb (B. Horwith et seq.).

**Veery:** BRY 14 Dec-18 Jan (F. Pimentel et seq.).

**Hermit Thrush:** max 17 Old Montauk Hwy SUFF 21 Dec (GB, TWB, A. Guthrie).

**Wood Thrush:** NEWY: Bella Abzug P 4-13 Dec (L. LaBella), Hudson Yards 5-11 Dec (S.Beal), CP 24 Jan-20 Feb (E. Yamaguchi, M. Wolfe), BRY 4 Dec ("Mike T").

**American Robin:** max 650 Pussey's Pd East Hampton SUFF 21 Dec (B. Kane, H. McGuinness).

**VARIED THRUSH:** PP 30 Dec-27 Feb (T. Muth, N. Silad-Muth et seq.).

**Gray Catbird:** max 8 BRY 16 Dec (T. Gray).

**Brown Thrasher:** in RICH 3 sites, NEWY 3, BRON 3, KING 2, QUEE 6, NASS 7, SUFF 20.

**Northern Mockingbird:** max 29 JBSP 28 Dec (BBE).

**European Starling:** max 1400 IHP 15 Dec (D. Karlson).

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 70 Hook Pd SUFF 29 Dec (J. O'Brien).

**House Sparrow:** ax 400 CP 23 Dec (eBird).

**American Pipit:** mostly singletons in RICH (Wolfe's Pd P 7 Dec, AC; Freshkills P 14 Dec, JRG; Graham Blvd 5 Jan, AC); NEWY (4, RI 12 Dec, Anon.); KING (4, SMNC 13 Dec, HL; 5 FBF 14 Dec, R. Alderson; 16 Shirley Chisholm P 12 Dec, J. Malbin); QUEE (Bayswater P 8 Dec, L. Scheppke); NASS (JBSP 28 Dec, PMo, TJS; JBWE 22 Feb, TH); SUFF (Shinn 8 Dec, S. Biasetti; 5 Gardiner's 1 15 Jan, A. Farnsworth; 1 Orient Pt 1 Dec, JSep).

**House Finch:** max 123 BPT 13 Jan (ABk).

**Purple Finch:** Bayswater P QUEE 8 Dec (L. Schepke, E. Becher); Sag Harbor SUFF 27 Dec (H. Sullivan); Theodore Roosevelt CP SUFF 14 Dec (F. Durso), *intro*.

**Pine Siskin:** West Babylon SUFF 15 Feb (R. Gelarde).

**American Goldfinch:** max 40 DP 15 Dec (P.J.L., SSM), 40 Hillside Ave RICH 25 Feb (H. Fischer).

**Lapland Longspur:** BPT 14 Dec (P.J.L., SSM, W. Macha), RP 14 Dec (P. Sweet et al.), 7 Feb (SS); 1-2 NB 18 Dec-28 Feb, 1 JBWE 2-19 Jan (E. Becher), *intro*.

**Snow Bunting:** max 240 Moriches Inlet/Westhampton Dunes (S Stewart, C. Taldone).

### NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS:

**Eastern Towhee:** max 11 Caumsett SP SUFF 14 Dec (SF).

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 40 GKP 19 Jan (M. Shanley), *intro*.

**Chipping Sparrow:** RICH (6 sites), BRON (3), NEWY (ca. 8), KING (9), QUEE (10), NASS (ca. 22), SUFF (ca. 38); max 44 Quail Hill, East Hampton SUFF 21 Dec (H. McGuinness, B. Kane, P. Polshak), *intro*.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** GKP 19 Jan (M. Shanley), Moravian Cem RICH 2-17 Feb (AC, M. Shikhman).

**Field Sparrow:** max 34 Manhasset NASS 15 Dec (SP).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1-2 RI 8-20 Jan (F. Pimentel et al.); PP 22 Dec (M. Elfassy); 2 SCFED 13 Dec (G. Quinn)-19 Feb; 2 HP 17 Dec (V. Glasser); Fire Island Wilderness East SUFF 3 Dec (B. Bull); Northville SUFF 4 Jan (A. Virgin).

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 60 Freshkills RICH 14 Dec (JR-G).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Mt Loretto RICH 7 Dec (S. Wolney, H. Smith); Freshkills P 14 Dec (JR-G).

**Seaside Sparrow:** DR 14 Jan (KF & SF).

**Fox Sparrow:** max 15 Spring Creek P QUEE 14 Dec (J. Malbin, C. Eliot).

**Song Sparrow:** max 147 Manhasset NASS 10 Jan (SP).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Bella Abzug P NEWY 4-5 Dec (L. LaBella, T. Gray); Brooklyn Bridge P KING 13-14 Dec (H. Wolf, K. Toomey).

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 44 JBWR 14 Dec (DGo, R. Gochfeld).

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 333 BZ 14 Dec (T. Olson, G. Surya).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 11 Riv sod fields (Reeves Ave) 24 Jan (MN & SA).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 129 NYIT 21 Dec (L. DiNapoli).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** single birds in RICH: 1 CR 17 Feb (AC); 1 GKP 16 Feb (C. Barron); KING: PP 19 Dec (A. Duvall); QUEE JBWR 22 Feb (E. Chapman); NASS: 1 Dec – 1 Jan Mill Pond P, Bellmore (TH et seq.); SUFF: Ketcham's Creek 14 Jan (EM), Ft. Salonga 26 Jan (N. Tepper), William Floyd Estate 27 Dec (K. Kleinpeter), Quail Hill, East Hampton 21 Dec (B. Pfeiffer et al.), Gardiner's 1 21 Dec (TJS), MP 21 Dec (A. Guthrie; one of 4 on CBC), 17 Feb (R. Mandelbaum).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Lewin's Farm, Riv 10 Dec -10 Feb (B. Bull et seq.), also Reeves Ave area 15 Jan (A. Perkins); Stephen Hands Path, East Hampton 2 Feb (AColl).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** in RICH (1 site), KING (3), QUEE (1 site, max 7 Edgemere Landfill 29 Feb, L. Schepke & CF), NASS (3 sites), SUFF (19 sites, max 19 EPCAL 12 Dec, B. Young).

**Baltimore Oriole:** single birds in NASS in Plainview 19 Dec (S. Brody), North Baldwin 2 Feb (D. Carter), and undisclosed feeders 19 Jan (2 birds) and 16 Feb; in SUFF at Cedar Beach 21-27 Dec (N. Henderson), Georgica Cove Hollow 25 Jan (J. Rand).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 3000 East Hampton 10 Feb (P.J.L., SSM).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 2500 Lewin's Farm, Riv (SUFF) 11 Dec (DF).

**Rusty Blackbird:** all counties, noteworthy counts of 44 Shu Swamp NASS 19 Jan (EM), 22 St John's Pond Sanctuary SUFF 21 Dec (J. Taylor, R. Taylor), 195 west Bronx 22 Dec, *intro*.

**Common Grackle:** max 5000 Willowbrook P RICH 5 Dec (SSM), 5000 Northville SUFF 15 Feb (ML Lamont).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** in RICH (6 sites, max 47 Tyson's Cove 5 Jan, AC); NEWY (1 CP 29 Dec-18 Feb, mob (unusual loc.); QUEE (9 sites, max 540 Charles Memorial P 15 Dec, R. Serio); NASS (8 sites, max 100 JBSP 20 Dec, V. Glasser); SUFF (6 sites, >100 Captree SP 20 Jan, V. Glasser).

**Ovenbird:** single birds Bella Abzug P NEWY 4-13 Dec (L. LaBella), BRY 2-10 Dec (T. Gray), CP 8 Dec (M. Janks), Brooklyn Br P KING (H. Wolf), Spring Creek P QUEE 14 Dec (M. Yu).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Wagner College RICH 16 Dec (H. Fischer); Canarsie Beach P KING 9-14 Dec (DGo et al.); HSP 8 Dec (SF).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** in RICH 4 sites, to 18 Feb; NEWY 2 (Dec); KING 3 (to 19 Feb); QUEE 7 (to 3 Feb); NASS 5 (to 16 Feb); SUFF 17 (to 29 Feb).

**Nashville Warbler:** Swindler's Cove P NEWY 18 Dec (T. Gray); 2 Ft. Washington P NEWY 15 Dec (T. Gray, M. Waldron); Morningside P NEWY 15 Dec (J. Drucker); RI 4 Jan (J. Keane); CVP KING 1 Feb (Alex Wilson); Hendrix Creek P 5 Dec (DGo), 29 Jan (DGo, T. Johnson); Lofts Pd P NASS 28 Dec (P JL, SSM); Tobay Beach P NASS 2- Dec (LN).

**Common Yellowthroat:** single birds BRY 3-6 Dec (M. Wolfe), Hudson R Greenway NEWY 11 Dec (A. Auerbach), VCP 22 Dec (N. O'Reilly, G. McGee), 18 Jan (M. Bochnik); FT 23 Feb (G. Lam), Manhasset NASS 15 Dec – 2 Jan (SP), Quogue Wetlands Pres SUFF 31 Jan (R. Ogden), South Fork Natural History Museum 7 Jan (A. Virgin), 24 Feb (S. Biasetti), Shelter I. 29 Dec (S. Stewart).

**American Redstart:** Captree SP 8 Dec, 15 Dec (MMcB), *intro*.

**Palm Warbler:** one or two birds at 1 site in RICH, 3 in KING (to 25 Feb, SMNC, G. Keri), 3 in QUEE (to 26 Feb, FMCP, CF), 3 in NASS, 20 in SUFF (to 21 Feb, Water Mill, C. Gangemi; max 5 SCFEC 11 Jan, MMcB).

**Pine Warbler:** in RICH (4 sites, to 20 Jan CLP, CB); NEWY (2 sites, Dec); BRON (2 sites, Dec); KING (3 sites, to 29 Feb FBF, T. Preston); QUEE (4 sites, max 4 27 Feb Cross I Pkwy, J. Fitzgerald, 4 29 Feb FMCP, J. Keane); NASS (6 sites, max 6, 21 Dec Whitney Pd P, J. Wilson-Pines); SUFF (29 sites, to 16 Feb Paumanok Trail, M. Scheibel; max 5 21 Dec Hither Hills SP, A. Perkins); max 11 Manhasset NASS 31 Dec (SP).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 131 FBF 19 Dec (R. Alderson).

**Prairie Warbler:** Mon 21 Dec 9 (MMcB, MDMcB), Cedar Point CP 28-29 Dec (C. Gangemi).

**TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** Philip B. Healey Beach, Massapequa, NASS 28 Dec-1 Jan (J. Gluth et seq.), *intro*.

**Wilson's Warbler:** PP 4 Dec-18 Jan (S. Burckhardt et seq.).

**Summer Tanager:** Sag Harbor 28 Dec (Orient Pt CBC; at feeder “apparently here for a month”).

**Northern Cardinal:** max 55 Quail Hill East Hampton SUFF 21 Dec (B. Kane, P. Polshek, H. McGuinness).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** CR 16 Feb (AC); Brooklyn Bridge P KING 28 Dec-23 Feb (H. Wolf, C. Quayle, mob); Canarsie Beach P 16 Feb (PP); JBSP 28 Dec-22 Jan (PMo, TJS, mob); Amityville SUFF 21 Dec (J. Gobetz, feeder); DR 1 Jan (T. Moran); East Lake Dr, Mon 21 Dec (TH et seq), *intro*.



## REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

## 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; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; 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; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

**POSSIBLE:** H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

**PROBABLE:** S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

**CONFIRMED:** PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

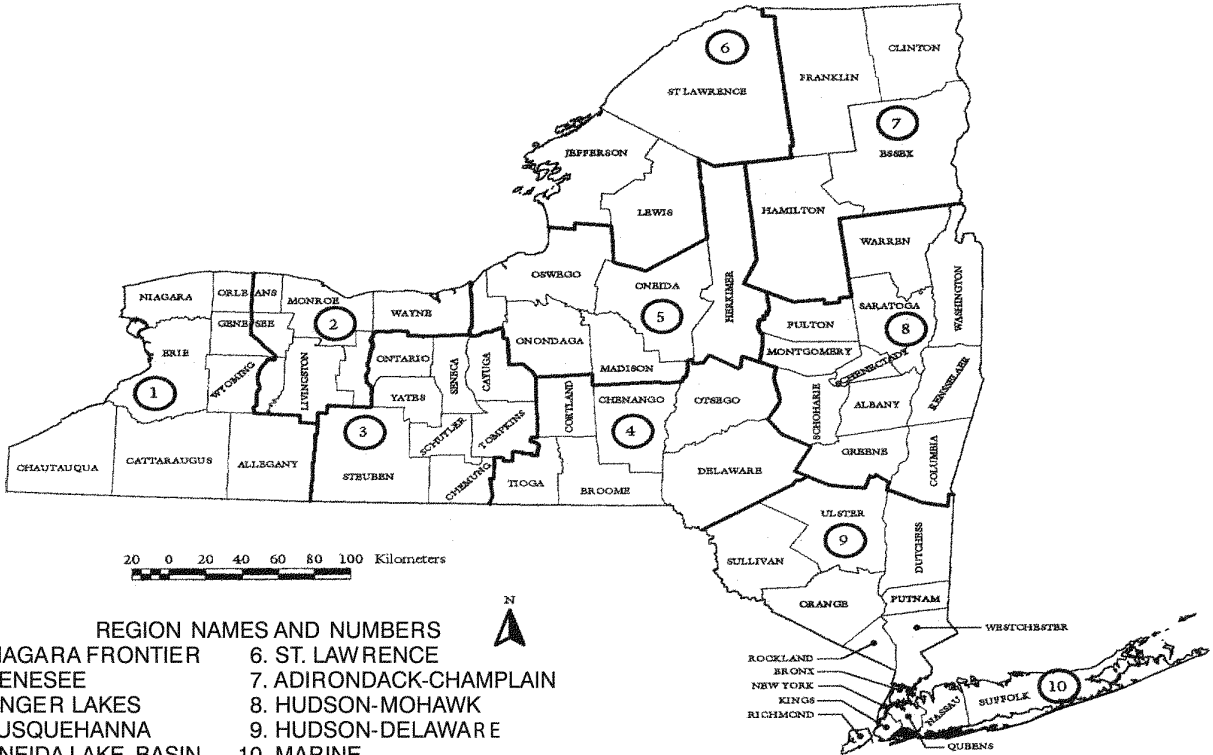
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

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.



- REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS**
- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. NIAGARA FRONTIER  | 6. ST. LAWRENCE         |
| 2. GENESEE           | 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN |
| 3. FINGER LAKES      | 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK        |
| 4. SUSQUEHANNA       | 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE      |
| 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN | 10. MARINE              |

**Editor of *The Kingbird***

Shaibal S. Mitra—Biology Dept., College of Staten Island  
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314—shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu

**Editor of *New York Birders***

Joan Collins—joancollins@adironackavianexpeditions.com

***Appointed Committees***

**Archives:**

Linda Clark Benedict—lbenedict48@gmail.com

**Awards:**

William Ostrander—browncreeper9@gmail.com

**Bylaws:**

Robert Spahn, Chair—rspahn@prodigy.net

**Conservation:**

Andrew Mason, Chair—AndyMason@earthling.net

**Finance:**

Andrew Mason, Chair—AndyMason@earthling.net

**New York State Avian Records:**

Willie D'Anna, Chair—nysarc44@nybirds.org

***Send reports to:***

Gary Chapin, Secretary for NYSARC  
125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883; nysarc44@nybirds.org

**New York State Young Birders Club:**

Emily Van Gelder, Rosanne Vinson, Co-Chairs—bigbird@nysyoungbirders.org

**Publications:**

Vacant

**Marketing and Publicity:**

Brian Dugan—bldtraveler14871@yahoo.com

**Research:**

Greg Lawrence, Chair—research1@nybirds.org

**Waterfowl Count:**

William Ostrander—browncreeper9@gmail.com

**Web Site and Information Services:**

Carena Pooth—carena@prodigy.net

***Elected Committees***

**Nominating:**

Bob Adamo (Chair), Michael DeSha, Lucretia Grosshans

**Auditing:**

Stephen Chang (Chair), Thomas W. Burke, Peter Capainolo

