

The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. 71, NO. 2

JUNE 2021

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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:

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

- Join or renew online at nybirds.org/membership.
- Information for clubs and organizations is available on the website, or email president1@nybirds.org for membership information.
- Institutional subscriptions to *The Kingbird* are \$50 annually: subscriptions1@nybirds.org.
- 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.

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

October 2020-September 2021 Officers

President

Shirley Shaw
president1@nybirds.org

Vice-President

Greg Lawrence
glawrence21@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Anne Swaim
anneswaim@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Jane Dugan
mdugan@mansfield.edu

Directors (Term Expiration Dates)

Patricia Aitken	2021
Shane Blodgett	2022
Joseph Brin	2022
Brian Dugan	2021
Corey Finger	2022
Brendan Fogarty	2021
Lucretia Grosshans	2021
Patricia Riexinger	2022
Gerald Thurn	2022

© 2021 New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. All rights reserved.

Website: nybirds.org



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 71 No. 2

June 2021

pp. 101-208

CONTENTS

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2017	102
January Waterfowl Count 2021	
Bill Ostrander	121
Notes and Observations	
Fishing phoebes in East Hampton, NY	
Jane and Alfred Ross	125
Spotted Towhees in New York State	
Douglas J. Futuyma and Shaibal S. Mitra	126
Patch Birding: A case for patch birding	
Gary Kohlenberg	128
Highlights of the Season—Winter 2020-21	
Michael F. Cooper	129
Regional Reports	
Winter 2020-21	133
Photo Gallery	
Winter 2020-21	153
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions	207

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, © Douglas Howland.

Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Andrew Valley.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2017

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) evaluated 78 submissions involving 59 occurrences of New York State review species from 2017. Additionally, the Committee received one submission of a New York State review species from a previous year. Reports were received from 24 of the 62 counties. However, no reports were received from the pelagic zone. The names of the 58 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the names of the original finders are included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, several people have encouraged and/or helped observers to prepare and submit documentation. We offer sincere gratitude for their assistance to our cause.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>

On the NYSARC web pages, a list of species requested for review (The Review List) is provided, along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to three digital image files (maximum size 7 MB per photo). Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to the NYSARC Secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to:

Gary Chapin, 125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

HIGHLIGHTS

2017 saw the addition of two new species to the New York State checklist, Clark’s Grebe at Oswego and Inca Dove near Jamestown. Just as exciting was the first record of a Corn Crake since 1963 that was also the first sight record of a live bird, which occurred along the Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach on Long Island. Other great records from 2017 were the state’s third Anna’s Hummingbird, a Ross’s Gull in the Adirondacks, a Yellow-nosed Albatross seen from shore off Robert Moses State Park, and the state’s third Hammond’s Flycatcher, a well-watched bird at Central Park in New York City.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2017 annual meeting was held via Skype on 8 Sep 2019, seven months after the 2016 annual meeting. Note that the annual meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. At the 2017 annual meeting there were only two reports of birds seen in 2017 that had not been completed in earlier voting rounds and email discussion. In addition, eight records of the former Mew Gull (Short-billed/Common Gull), were revisited

regarding what was at the time subspecific identification. Following the completion of review and the subsequent split of Short-billed and Common Gulls (Chesser *et. al* 2021), these revisited records are published here in a special section later in this report (note that one 2017 record of Short-billed Gull is included in the main body of the report). Changes to the review list were also discussed, and it was decided that none were needed at this time. The “auto-accept” list for species submitted to eBird and accepted with a clear, identifiable photo under eBird review was discussed and finalized. What this means is that reports of species on this list that are submitted to eBird with a clear identifiable photo can be accepted by NYSARC without formal review. However, anyone on the Committee may request that any eBird record be formally reviewed, even if there is a clear photo.

Note: In the reports accepted, listed below, the range of dates for a record may not be known based only on the documents submitted to NYSARC. Accepted eBird reports may extend the known range of dates and if NYSARC also found these reports acceptable, the eBird range of dates are listed along with those from the NYSARC record submission.

2017 Reports Accepted

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2017-07-A One, Wallkill, **Ulster**, 6-7 Feb (Kenneth M. McDermott, ph Peter Schoenberger, Bruce Nott, Jr.). eBird 6-7 Feb

2017-16-A One, Kinderhook, **Columbia**, 8 Apr (Naomi Lloyd, ph N. Lloyd)

2017-43-A One, Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 11 Nov (Michael B. Burgess, ph M. Burgess). eBird 11 Nov

2017-46-A One, Deep Hollow Ranch, **Suffolk**, 28 Oct (Bruce Horwith, ph Paul D’Andrea)

2017-49-A One, Coxsackie, **Greene**, 6 Dec (Richard Guthrie). eBird 6 Dec

2017-50-A One, North Babylon, **Suffolk**, 4 Feb (Peter Morris, ph P. Morris). eBird 4, 5, 8, 11 Feb

Records of Pink-footed Goose in New York continue to grow rapidly. They provide evidence of how quickly a species can go from unreported to an expected annual migrant/visitor. The accumulating body of records shows that the majority of records are from Long Island, the goose migration hotspots near the Wallkill River in Orange and Ulster Counties, and Lake Champlain. Combined with a few other records along the Hudson River corridor, they indicate that Long Island and a roughly 50-mile strip of easternmost mainland New York are where this species is most likely to show up. All six of the records in 2017 fit into this pattern. The Wallkill bird was found by Bruce Nott, Jr. The others were all discovered by those listed above, who submitted written documentation to NYSARC.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2017-13-A Two, Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 18 Mar (Gary Chapin, ph Paul Osenbaugh). eBird 18 Mar

Found by Stacy Robinson, these two Barnacle Geese provided a first record for Clinton County. They were only seen on one day.

Clark’s Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

2017-09-A/G One, Oswego, **Oswego**, 22 Feb-1 Mar (Kevin McGann, Doug Daniels, Greg D. Dashnau, Brent Bomkamp, Dennis Anderson, Jr., Kenneth M. McDermott, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, D. Daniels, G. Dashnau, B. Bomkamp, D. Anderson, Bruce Nott, Jr., B. Purcell). eBird 22-28 Feb, 1, 4-6 Mar

Oswego Harbor has garnered many fine records over the years and has another one with this first state record Clark's Grebe. Found by Gregg Dashnau on 22 Feb, the grebe lingered until 6 Mar and was enjoyed by dozens, perhaps hundreds, including many of New York's birders wishing to add it to their state lists. Clark's Grebe's congener, Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*), has occurred about 30 times in the state since the first fully accepted record in 1978 and it had to be firmly ruled out in order for this record to be accepted. The two species are similar, somewhat variable, and they occasionally hybridize, creating identification challenges for birders and records committees alike. The visual appearance of this grebe was classic for this species, including these features: eye completely surrounded by white, bright orange-yellow bill, pale flanks, and narrow black stripe on the back of the neck (see Sibley 2014). The recorded call, on the other hand, was not, and there was disagreement about whether it was fine for Clark's, more like a Western, or intermediate between the two species. Experts familiar with the calls of both species differed in their opinions. In personal emails to a Committee member, Tony Leukering, Nathan Pieplow, and Steve Mlodinow all expressed strong reservations about two recordings of the Oswego Harbor grebe (eBird 2017a,b), which they considered to be much closer to Western Grebe vocalizations than to Clark's Grebe. However, Michael Hilchey, in a personal email to another Committee member, disagreed, indicating that vocalizations in the two species were quite varied and not conclusive for identification. The disagreement among the experts regarding the reliability of the recorded vocalizations for identification was enough for the Committee to place more weight on the appearance of the bird and accept the record.

The first fully accepted Western Grebe record in New York involved a bird at Tupper Lake in St. Lawrence County, found on 2 Jul 1978 and remaining in the area through early October (Bolsinger 2007). In 1985 the American Ornithological Union (AOU) split Western Grebe into the nominate "dark form" and the pale Clark's Grebe. After this, some people wondered if the Tupper Lake bird was actually a Clark's Grebe, mainly due to a photograph of the bird, taken by the late Tom Davis, and published in *The Kingbird* (see Delehanty 1978). The black and white reprint of the color photograph did not reproduce well and the grebe appeared to have a very pale bill and substantial white around the eye. The photo was published again in *The Kingbird*, this time in color, along with an article by Jeff Bolsinger, clarifying the record and the confusion surrounding the photo (see Bolsinger 2007). In this photograph, the features look quite different than in the black and white photo, and in all respects, the grebe appears to be a classic Western.

Clark's Grebe is an uncommon western North American species, regularly occurring from British Columbia east to Minnesota and south into Mexico. It is often found with Western Grebe, showing similar habits and habitat preferences (Sibley 2014). It remains extremely rare well east of the Mississippi River. Besides the Oswego record, eBird (Jun 2020) shows only four records in this area—from Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and Maine. Interestingly, Clark's Grebe made it into the top twenty list of species most likely to be added to the New York State checklist in 2010 (Gochfeld 2010) but did not receive a single vote in 2016 (Gochfeld 2016)!

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)

2017-53-A One, Lakewood, **Chautauqua**, 4-12 Dec (Thomas Simmons, ph T. Simmons). eBird 8, 9 Dec

For people who take an interest in trying to predict the next new species to occur in New York, few gave much consideration to Inca Dove. In the last two compilations of prognostications for New York (Gochfeld 2010 and Gochfeld 2016) only one person chose

this species. On 4 Dec, Tom Simmons noticed a much smaller dove than the typical Mourning Doves he sees in the neighborhood, attracted to seed spilled on the ground beneath his feeder. To his amazement, he identified the bird as an Inca Dove, not only a first for New York State but one of very few records north of Georgia in the East. Knowing how significant the sighting was, and concerned about the neighbors' reactions to the many birders it could attract, Simmons decided against an open invitation to birders to come and see the bird. Only a lucky few were allowed to view it over the course of its nine-day stay. Inca Dove is a straightforward identification in North America. Compared to others of its genus, such as Common Ground-Dove (*C. passerina*), it has a much longer tail with extensive white on the sides and scaly dorsal plumage. It is familiar to most birders who live in or visit the southwest, as the forlorn bird of "no hope" because of its distinctive call.

In eBird (Jun 2020), this is the first record in North America north and east of Maryland and Ohio, respectively. Since 2000, but particularly since 2010, records have exploded in the southeastern United States. Mueller (2020) shows the range being from southeastern California to western Louisiana and south into Central America as far as the middle of Costa Rica. eBird (Jun 2020) shows the species range extending through Costa Rica with recent records in northernmost Panama. eBird also nicely shows the recent range expansion through Louisiana, Mississippi, southern Alabama, and into the western panhandle of Florida, as well as a handful of recent records in Georgia. As of this writing, there are only a half dozen records in eBird north of Georgia and well east of the Mississippi River but with the surge going on elsewhere, that appears likely to greatly change very soon. Although the range extension of the Inca Dove is well documented, the factors responsible for it remain poorly understood (Mueller 2020).

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

2017-48-A One, Medina, **Orleans**, 20 Oct (Celeste Morien, ph C. Morien). eBird 20 Oct Having cleaned and put away her hummingbird feeders for the winter, Celeste Morien was not expecting any more of these little gems so late in the year. Her husband, Tom Morien, noticed an article that suggested you should keep the feeders up longer, just in case there is a lingering hummingbird in the neighborhood. So, out they came again. A week later, well after all the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds would likely have departed Western New York, Celeste suddenly had a dull hummer appear at her feeder. Understanding that Rufous Hummingbirds are known as vagrants during the fall in the Northeast, she studied the bird carefully but saw nothing to suggest that species and assumed that it must be just a late Ruby-throated. She completed her eBird checklist by including photos that she had taken. However, as soon as Jim Pawlicki saw the photos in the eBird checklist, he suspected that it was a female/immature Anna's Hummingbird. Subsequent study confirmed his initial thoughts. Word was put out to local birders who tried to see the bird that same day and the following but it was never seen again. This is only the third record in the state. The first was in Broome County in 1998 and the second in Sullivan County in 2007.

Corn Crane (*Crex crex*)

2017-37-A/C One, Cedar Beach, **Suffolk**, 7-8 Nov (Tim Healy, Anders Peltomaa, Ken Feustel, ph T. Healy, A. Peltomaa, K. Feustel). eBird 7-8 Nov

Even with high expectations for a late fall cold front that had come through, Corn Crane could not have been on the observers'—or any New Yorker's—minds on the morning of 7 Nov. The last of only six state records was in 1963, and the species has shown steep declines in much of its range since then (del Hoyo, *et al.* 1996). Thus, one can understand Ken and Sue Feustel's initial puzzlement and special care in teasing out the identification

of this bird, found foraging under the bushes along the Ocean Parkway, a busy commuter highway. Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra were summoned, and arrived within minutes to help with the identification. Phone calls back and forth from the cars confirmed something almost unimaginable—a juvenile Corn Crake. Its juvenile plumage differed in subtle ways from the depictions of breeding adults in field guides at hand, and the observers took care to search the internet for photos of juveniles. Ken describes how the experience unfolded in his entertaining article in *The Kingbird* (Feustel 2018).

A thorough examination of this species' occurrence in the Western Hemisphere, beginning with the first documented record, ca. 1833, appears in the same issue of *The Kingbird* (DeCandido and Allen 2018). This compilation shows that five of the six prior NYS records were from Long Island, and that four of five with known dates were from early November. Not only was this the first sight record of a living Corn Crake in New York, it is exceptional even at the hemispheric scale having been found by birders and observed by many. Indeed, hundreds of people were able to see this bird before its unfortunate demise; it was found dead on the morning of 9 Nov, having been hit by a car. The specimen resides at the American Museum of Natural History, Skin #841733, where it was confirmed to be a hatching year male. Feather samples were sent to the Smithsonian Institute for stable isotope analysis to try and determine its origin.

There are 180 eBird entries, many with stunning photos. As a matter of interest, it should be noted that the Feustels were already known rail magnets, having found not one but *three* Yellow Rails (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) on the Captree CBC over the years, all at Oak Beach Marsh, not far from where this bird was found.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2017-24-A One, Napeague, **Suffolk**, 14 May (Hannah Mirando, ph H. Mirando). eBird 14 May

2017-28-A One, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, **Genesee**, 23 May (Kayo J. Roy, ph K. Roy). eBird 8, 11, 12, 23, 26 May, 17, 20 Jun

2017-29-A One, Cupsogue Beach County Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Jun (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 24 Jun

2017 saw three records of Black-necked Stilt in the state, including one more from upstate, where the species is extremely rare. The downstate records were from Napeague, found by Hannah Mirando on 14 May, and Cupsogue Beach County Park, found by Brent Bomkamp and Brendan Fogarty on 24 Jun, both supported by clear photographs. The Iroquois NWR bird was found by Celeste Morien on 8 May and provided a first record for Genesee County and Kingbird Region One. Sightings of the latter were spread out over six weeks. eBird records show that the bird also spent time in the adjacent Tonawanda WMA.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

2017-18-A One, Timber Point County Park, **Suffolk**, 20, 21, 25 Apr (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 20, 21, 25 Apr

Brent Bomkamp nicely documented this lovely black Ruff that was found by Ken Feustel. Timber Point has become renowned for the many great shorebirds that have been discovered there and it seems that this species is rather fond of the place, with four records from there and the adjacent Heckscher SP in a span of only six years, from 2013 to 2018 (eBird Jun 2020).

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)

2017-03-A One, Manhattan Beach, **Kings**, 21 Jan (Jordan Spindel, ph J. Spindel)

This bird was found lying on the ground at Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn. It was picked up and taken to Wild Bird Fund, where it died shortly after. Jordan Spindel documented the bird for NYSARC with clear diagnostic photos. In pelagic areas offshore of New York, Common Murre is much more likely to be found than Thick-billed Murre (*U. lomvia*) but along the coast, the opposite is true, with many more occurrences of the latter. Indeed, eBird (Jan 2021) does not show any records of Common Murre for Brooklyn.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

2017-04-A/C One, Tupper Lake, **Franklin**, 28, 30 Jan (Thomas Williams, Brent Bomkamp, Bill Purcell, ph T. Williams, John Gluth, Taylor Sturm, B. Purcell). eBird 28 Jan-2 Feb

Ross's Gull has always been a highly sought after species for birders. The most recent in the state was a first basic individual at Tupper Lake in the Adirondack Mountains, during mid winter. The story of this bird's discovery is a good one and it was recounted by Joan Collins (2017). Carpenters, working on the home of birder, Jack Delehanty, would ice-fish in front of the abode. One of them, Mike Thibodeau, noticed a gull eating the walleye eggs which were used as bait and left out on the ice. He pointed it out to Delehanty, who took photos of the gull. Delehanty emailed his photos to local birder, Larry Master, who immediately recognized the bird as a Ross's Gull in first-winter plumage! Word was put out and throngs of birders descended upon the area. The gull moved to a more accessible area closer to NY Route 30 and most of the birders who tried for the gull were successful in seeing it. Incredibly, this is now the tenth accepted record for the state with the first being found in 1986 (Andrle, *et al.* 1987). Although Ross's Gull is a great rarity anywhere in New York, the Adirondack Mountains, where the exceptionally cold climate allows for limited open water, would be considered one of the least likely locations for this species to show up in mid winter.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2017-31-A One, Crab Meadow Beach, **Suffolk**, 18 Jun (Taylor Sturm, ph T. Sturm). eBird 18 Jun

2017-36-A One, Mount Sinai, **Suffolk**, 20 Sep (Aidan Perkins). eBird 20 Jun

Late on a summer day, Taylor Sturm found an adult Franklin's Gull at Crab Meadow, loafing on a sandbar with Laughing Gulls. This was a life-bird for Sturm so he studied it carefully and obtained some diagnostic photos, which rule out the superficially similar Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Birding his local patch, where he often sees Laughing Gulls, Aidan Perkins found a gull which he immediately realized was different. The bird's smaller size and puffier eye crescents made it stand out from the Laughing Gulls. He also noted white tips on the outer primaries when it was seen in flight, all of which helped him to identify the bird as a Franklin's Gull. Franklin's Gull is a review species for the downstate region only, mainly due to its semi-regular appearance on the Niagara River, negating the requirement for review in upstate regions.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)

2017-17-A One, Midland Beach, **Richmond**, 29 Mar (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 29 Mar

This adult Mew Gull of the North American race (now assigned full species status as Short-billed Gull: Chesser *et al.* 2021) was discovered by Richard Veit and was only seen on the one day. Documentation submitted by Brent Bomkamp included photographs and a thorough description of the bird, as a well a discussion of the pertinent details for

identifying the bird as this subspecies. Records of Mew Gull have been increasing in recent years, possibly due to an increased interest in gulls shown by birders. Nowhere has this been more apparent in the state than in New York City. For many years, the default assumption for the subspecies of Mew Gull in coastal areas was the nominate European race. However, keen gull-watchers have now documented multiple individuals of the North American race there.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

2017-15-A One, Goat Island, **Niagara**, 1 Jan (Christopher Kundl, ph C. Kundl, Dominic Sherony). eBird 1, 2, 6, 8, 14-17, 21, 22 Jan

The late Chris Kundl enjoyed studying large gulls and he visited Goat Island on the Niagara River, which is known for attracting many gulls, several times a week during the winter months. Although it was a life-bird for him, Chris knew what he had when he found this adult Slaty-backed Gull. The bird was enjoyed by many, as it often roosted in the shallow waters off Goat Island during the three weeks that it was in the area. Note that the eBird records for the 21 and 22 Jan dates listed above were on the upper Niagara River, near Goat Island, but on the Canadian side of the border. There were also eBird records on 9, 10, 13 Jan at Thorold, Ontario, about seven miles from Goat Island, that likely involved the same bird. In addition, Kundl helpfully pointed out in his report that sightings of a Slaty-backed Gull in Kitchener, Ontario on 28 Nov and 2 Dec 2016, about 75 miles from Goat Island, appeared to involve the same bird as well. And finally, a Slaty-backed Gull in Erie, Pennsylvania, off and on from 26 Jan to 6 Feb, shortly after the Niagara bird disappeared, may well have been this individual but photos were insufficient to be very confident of that. Landfills are known to be highly attractive to this species and there are large landfills in Niagara Falls, Thorold, Erie, and likely Kitchener, as well.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)

2017-34-A One, Great Gull Island, **Suffolk**, 2, 3, 5 Sep (Joseph DiCostanzo, ph J. DiCostanzo). eBird 2, 3, 5 Sep

First detected by its distinctive calls, Joe DiCostanzo found this bird among the breeding Common Terns during the annual summer tern banding study on Great Gull Island, the second such discovery in two summers and very likely the same individual. Eight others involved with the study viewed it during the three days it was present, and DiCostanzo and Stefan Passlick documented it with superb photos. As noted in the 2016 annual NYSARC report, presumably this same adult bird would be detected for several subsequent years, and was also documented in 2018 and 2019. In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic forced suspension of the project and as of this writing, it is unknown if the bird returned for a fifth summer. An interesting side note mentioned in DiCostanzo's submission was the presence of an adult Bridled Tern (perhaps this same individual) on Falkner Island, off Guilford, CT in late July 2017, also the site of a major Common and Roseate Tern colony, 28 miles to the west of Great Gull Island, inside Long Island Sound.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2017-58-A One, Democrat Point, **Suffolk**, 20 Jun (Shai Mitra). eBird 20 Jun

2017-59-A One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 15 Jun (Shai Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 15 Jun Shai Mitra was counting shearwater carcasses on Democrat Point when he picked out a first-summer Arctic Tern by its distinctive flight, described in great detail based on his extensive experience with the species. He was able to photograph the first-summer bird at Nickerson Beach, proving it distinct from at least one adult bird found and photographed

there on 7 and 9 Jun by several observers. This species' review status was updated by the Committee in September of 2017 to N (everywhere in the state) except Cupsogue County Park/Moriches Inlet, where it had established a pattern of regular occurrence over the past decade, albeit with considerable inter-year variation. These two reports submitted by Mitra, the Arctic Tern "guru", included an analysis of this variability. He noted that occurrence was notably high in 2012 and 2013, then very low from 2014-2016, despite the efforts of more and better-prepared observers, and that numbers of first-summer/ second calendar year (SY) birds have been especially variable from year to year. An uptick in 2017 was driven by SY birds, as illustrated by these two reports, multiple eBird reports from Cupsogue May through July, and eBird reports from Old Inlet in Bellport (2 SYs on 17 Jun) and Dune Road near Shinnecock Inlet (SY, also on 17 Jun: eBird Jan 2021).

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

2017-56-A One, Moriches Inlet Flats, **Suffolk**, 29 Jun, 1 Jul (Shai Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 29 Jun-1 Jul

The Moriches Inlet Flats, like other ocean inlets on Long Island where large flocks of terns regularly congregate, occasionally attract rare and uncommon terns. On 29 Jun, Shai Mitra found a second-year Sandwich Tern roosting among a large flock of mostly Common Terns, which also included Least, Roseate, Black, and Royal Terns. The bird continued until at least 1 Jul, when it was seen by many observers. Sandwich Tern has become a regular visitor to coastal Long Island, especially in June and July, and has since been removed from the review list for downstate. Upstate, of course, it remains an exceptionally rare vagrant and any reports from there should be carefully documented.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

2017-26-A One, Croton River at Hudson River, **Westchester**, 30 May (Anne Swaim, ph A. Swaim). eBird 30 May-1 Jun

Although a regular breeder on Long Island, it is very rare to see a Black Skimmer away from the coast in NY. Even records from Westchester County are quite scarce with most of the few occurrences there being during the summer months. This Westchester County bird was found by Anne Swaim where the Croton River empties into the Hudson River. The skimmer lingered for three days. This was actually the second record for this location, with the first occurring there on 30 Aug 1987 (Andrle, *et al.* 1987).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2017-30-A/B One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 6 May (Taylor Sturm, Peter Morris). eBird 6 May

While there are numerous records of Pacific Loon in the state, particularly in late fall and winter, the past 10 years have seen an increasing number of records of birds migrating along the coast in the spring (eBird Aug 2020, NYSARC online database Aug 2020). These birds have been found with groups of Common and Red-throated Loons. On 6 May, Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm found another Pacific Loon in this context, while seawatching from Robert Moses State Park—an adult in alternate plumage, flying east with Red-throated Loons.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*)

2017-22-A/B One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 6 May (Taylor Sturm, Peter Morris, video T. Sturm). eBird 6 May

Seawatching from Robert Moses SP under the right conditions always holds great potential, as proven once again by this amazing pick-up by Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm. Though veteran seawatcher Morris was the first to spy it, it was Sturm's swift reaction and consummate skill that succeeded in capturing digiscoped iPhone video as the bird flew by. Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra had just left the seawatch to explore further east when they were alerted to a Pacific Loon that had just passed the seawatch. This rarity (see above report) managed to hold bird-of-the-day distinction for less than five minutes, as another call followed that an albatross was heading east in its wake! Scrambling to the beach at Field 5, Lindsay and Mitra both managed to get on the loon, but the latter was denied the albatross as he went back for a second scope just before it flew by. Lindsay picked it up between deep troughs as it turned out to sea, getting a brief and very unsatisfying look at it. Back at the watch, the stunned Morris and Sturm relayed what detail they had seen to Lindsay and Mitra, and showed off the video, the end of which had captured Pete's classic, accented expletive as the bird disappeared behind the lifeguard shed.

The documentation for this record clearly shows that the bird was not a Black-browed Albatross (*T. melanophris*). The Committee also considered that this could have been a Gray-headed Albatross (*T. chrysostoma*), Northern Buller's Albatross (*T. platei*), or Southern Buller's Albatross (*T. bulleri*). With the complete lack of records of these latter three species in the north Atlantic, the Committee decided that the documentation was sufficient to accept the record. However, if the known distribution or vagrancy status of either of those species should change, this record may need to be re-examined.

There are quite a number of records of Yellow-nosed Albatross from the Western North Atlantic, as detailed in a comprehensive article by Phil Davis in *North American Birds* (2014). NYSARC has accepted two prior records of this species; in addition, the Committee accepted one report as *Thalassarche* sp. (NYSARC online database Jul 2020). There are a few other credible reports from the state as well, with varying levels of detail, collected by Davis (2014), and in an article in *The Kingbird* (Buckley and Schairer 2000).

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

2017-38-A One, East Meredith, **Delaware**, 2 Oct (Doug Amadon, ph D. Amadon). eBird 2 Oct

In rural Delaware County, Doug Amadon was driving past a beaver dam when something large and white caught his eye. He turned around and drove back to investigate. Standing atop the beaver dam was a juvenile Wood Stork and Amadon soon started snapping photographs. This is the first record accepted by NYSARC since 2011, with two eBird records from 2016 and 2017, both in Erie County, still to be reviewed.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

2017-27-A/B One, Nickerson Beach Park, **Nassau**, 17 Jun (Joshua Malbin, Shai Mitra ph J. Malbin, S. Mitra). eBird 17, 18 Jun

2017-42-A One, Lake Montauk, **Suffolk**, 4 Oct (Anders Peltomaa, ph A. Peltomaa). eBird 28 Sep–5 Nov

Until recently, this southern species has always been extremely rare in the state. However, records have been increasing considerably during the past decade or less. Many, and probably most of these sightings, are not associated with tropical storms. While inland sightings have gotten the most publicity, coastal records, such as the two discussed here, are increasing with even greater frequency. The Lake Montauk bird was reportedly discovered on 27 Sep by Peter Topping and it lingered until 5 Nov, providing an unusually long opportunity to reliably observe the species in New York. The booby at Nickerson

Beach was discovered by Joshua Malbin on 17 Jun and was only observed that day and early the next morning. Unfortunately, the bird was not well and apparently collapsed into the netting of a Piping Plover enclosure. Rehabilitators were unable to save the bird after retrieving it.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

2017-23-A One, Valley Stream State Park, **Nassau**, 28 Apr (Robert J. Berlingeri). eBird 28 Apr

2017-51-A Five, Town of Clinton, **Dutchess**, 15 Jul–1 Aug (Barbara Butler, ph Adrienne Popko)

2017 saw two more records of White Ibis in the state, as records of this southern wader continue to accumulate. The great majority of records in New York are from Long Island, as was the adult bird seen by Robert Berlingeri flying over Valley Stream State Park with a flock of Glossy Ibis on 28 Apr. The birds in Dutchess County furnished another rare inland record. The documentation provided by Barbara Butler included a helpful recounting of the story of these five juveniles. They were discovered by the owner of a cattle farm, Rebecca Osborne, on 15 Jul. The Waterman Bird Club was contacted on the 19th and Butler, along with Adrienne Popko, were able to visit the farm and document the ibises, which were using a manure pit on that day. Osborne reported that the five birds were seen again on 28 Jul, then only two on the 29th, and just one bird on 1 Aug, with no more sightings after that date. On 13, 16, and 17 Jul, up to five juvenile White Ibis were reported in Orange County (eBird Feb 2021). It would seem that these must be the same birds documented from Dutchess County but the overlapping dates of occurrence and the roughly 40 mile flight distance between the locations makes that less than certain. The latter reports will be reviewed by NYSARC in the near future.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2017-08-A Two, Robert Moses State Park, **St. Lawrence**, 11 Feb (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell)

2017-10-A/B One, Fort Covington Township, **Franklin**, 11, 19 Feb (Gary Chapin, Derek H. Rogers, ph G. Chapin, D. Rogers)

2017-11-A One, Keene, **Essex**, 4 Mar (Gary Chapin, ph G. Chapin)

A Great Gray Owl incursion into NYS starting in late Jan (as first reported in local newspapers) provided many birders with the opportunity to see and enjoy this wonderful owl, though numbers were not as extensive as the invasions in the winters of 1978-79 (64 owls estimated) or 1983-84 (46 owls estimated: Andrle 1998), or perhaps even 1995-96 (25 owls estimated: Regional reports in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 48, Nos. 2 & 3). The four reports accepted by NYSARC detailed birds in the three known areas of occurrence in NY, as this event was primarily limited to the very northern reaches of the state along the south side of the St. Lawrence River, plus one very cooperative individual a little farther south in Keene. Southern Ontario, Canada hosted many more owls but none were found in New York west of Massena. The natural barrier of Lake Ontario presumably kept more from visiting our state.

A review of the 433 accepted eBird reports for this event determined that an even 300 involved birds around Robert Moses State Park and Barnhart Island north of Massena between 9 Feb and 1 Apr; the number of owls involved was not determined, but birds seen consistently at various separate locations indicate that several were present in that area. There were also 12 reports of birds both east and west of Fort Covington, likely involving a few different birds, and discussions concerning the abundance of appropriate habitat for

Great Grays from the Massena area east to Fort Covington, including mostly inaccessible St. Regis Indian Reservation lands, suggested that many more owls were present than actually observed. One Great Gray, well south of the St. Lawrence lowlands, was the subject of 121 eBird reports, this accommodating bird staying along Lime Kiln Road in Keene, in the heart of the Adirondacks, from day of discovery on 2 Mar through 29 Mar.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2017-54-A One, Beekmantown, **Clinton**, 13, 16, 17 Dec (Bill Krueger, ph Tara Fuller, Amy T Bedard)

This beautiful light-morph Gyr Falcon was nicely photographed by Tara Fuller and Amy Bedard and documented for NYSARC by Bill Kreuger.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

2017-47-A One, Central Park, **New York**, 2 Dec (Richard Guthrie, ph R. Guthrie). eBird 26 Nov–12 Dec

The third record for New York, this Hammond's Flycatcher was seen by many at heavily-birded Central Park. The bird was discovered by Linda LaBella and identified from photos taken by Deborah Allen and Ryan Zucker. The first two records for the state were in Nassau and Westchester Counties in fall 2001 and fall 2006, respectively.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2017-39-A One, Wallkill River NWR, **Orange**, 21 Oct (Maria Loukeris, ph M. Loukeris). eBird 21 Oct

2017-55-A One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 8 Nov (Patricia Lindsay, ph P. Lindsay). eBird 8 Nov

Maria Loukeris was very fortunate to see the Say's Phoebe at Wallkill River NWR, as it was only in view for ten seconds. However, she was also well-prepared, as she managed nice documentary photographs of the flycatcher atop a snag. Pat Lindsay was similarly fortunate with a bird at Heckscher State Park. She had it for less than a minute but that was enough time for this experienced observer to easily identify the bird and snap a few soft photos to supplement her description. There has been a recent surge in records of this species in the state, with these two being the ninth and tenth in a span of only seven years.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

2017-57-A/B One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 17-19, 26 Dec (Patricia Lindsay, Shai Mitra, ph P. Lindsay, S. Mitra). eBird 17-26 Dec

Patricia Lindsay spied this bird flying into a juniper patch with a small group of American Robins during the morning of the Captree CBC. She got her companions on it and called Shai Mitra, who was covering the thickly vegetated pine grove just to the east. He reported having just seen a bluebird-like bird flying over him in company with robins, and giving an unfamiliar call! The count surely suffered a disruption in effort after word spread among the participants and territories were abandoned, at least temporarily, for the chase. Many others got to see it as well during its ten day stay, despite persistent cold and brutal winds during much of that time. On 26 Dec, Lindsay was surprised to see the bird in the parking lot at Robert Moses SP roughly a mile west, and snapped some photos. The bird was subsequently seen back at the junipers, but disappeared after that day.

Close examination of photos of this individual revealed molt limits in the greater coverts, proving conclusively that it was a hatching-year bird. Several of the innermost greater coverts had been replaced, and were slightly longer and fresher with a bluish tinge and broader, neater, buffy edges compared to the adjacent outer coverts, retained juvenile

feathers that were smaller and more heavily worn. This feature can be seen in many of the photos posted to eBird. Pyle (1997) explains that Mountain Bluebirds undergo their first pre-basic (now termed pre-formative) molt on the summer grounds prior to fall migration, and that replacement of the greater coverts is partial in hatching-year birds versus complete in after hatching-year birds.

Fifteen prior records, from 1974 to 2011, are documented in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (Chamberlaine 1998) and in accepted NYSARC reports (NYSARC 2020). Whereas most passerine vagrants show a decided affinity for the coast, only five of fifteen prior Mountain Bluebirds in the state have been reported from Long Island, whereas six have been from the Hudson Valley, in Greene, Dutchess, Orange, and Westchester Counties.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2017-01-A/B One, Southold, **Suffolk**, 6, 9 Jan (Aaron Virgin, Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 6-18, 21-23, 25, 31 Jan, 3, 4, 6-12, 14, 15, 17-21, 22-25, 27 Feb, 1, 3-6, 8-13, 16-18, 21, 23, 25, 27 Mar, 1-8 Apr

2017-52-A One, Tiffany Creek Preserve, **Nassau**, 20 Dec (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 20, 27-31 Dec 2017, 1-3, 9, 10, 14, 18, 20 Jan 2018

Townsend's Solitaire seems to have increased in the state, with 16 records accepted by NYSARC since the turn of the century and only three prior to that (NYSARC online database Aug 2020). Most records are during the winter months when they are found in areas with good sources of berries, especially juniper (Bowen 2020). Aaron Virgin discovered the Townsend's Solitaire in Southold on the North Fork of Long Island on 6 Jan, in an area with many Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), where it stayed until at least 8 Apr, when it was last reported to eBird. The bird was seen by many, including Brent Bomkamp, who photographed the bird on 9 Jan. The following winter, Bomkamp found his own Townsend's Solitaire at the Tiffany Creek Preserve, in Nassau County, where he observed it feeding on bittersweet (*Celastrus* sp.) berries. This individual continued until at least 20 Jan 2018.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

2017-45-A One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 28-29 Sep (Brent Bomkamp). eBird 28, 29 Sep

According to Dyer (1998), between 1964 and 1978, Lark Bunting was almost annual, a significant increase in status from the years prior to that. Since then, however, it has returned to its status of earlier years, which could be classified as a rare vagrant to New York. This Lark Bunting was discovered by Brent Bomkamp at Robert Moses State Park, where it was loosely associating with Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), and it was enjoyed by many over the course of its two-day visit. This record fits into a pattern of vagrancy for the species; of 25 records in New York mentioned by Dyer (1998), most are from Long Island in September. Of the nine records reviewed and accepted by NYSARC, five have been from Long Island, and six have been during the month of September (NYSARC online database Aug 2020). A similar pattern can be seen from a perusal of records from coastal New England and the mid-Atlantic states (eBird Aug 2020).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)

2017-40-A/C One, Pelham Bay Park, **Bronx**, 28 Oct (Jared Cole, Peter L. Reisfeld, Jeffrey Ritter, ph J. Cole, P. Reisfeld). eBird 28 Oct

This exciting rarity was discovered by Peter Reisfeld, Jared Cole, and four others who were birding at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. Unfortunately, the bird only stayed the one day.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

2017-25-A One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 24 May (Anders Peltomaa, ph A. Peltomaa). eBird 24-26 May

This Swainson's Warbler was heard singing and deftly identified, based solely on voice, by regular Prospect Park birder, Ed Crowne, in the Midwood section of the park on 24 May. Anders Peltomaa documented the bird for NYSARC. Over the course of three days, it entertained dozens of birders as it made its way around this dark woodland, typically staying hidden in the understory. However, most everyone who went to see the warbler did eventually lay eyes on it during its song-filled circuits. Many low-light photographs, some audio recordings, and at least one video, were taken during its stay, documenting the fourth record for Prospect Park, which has the highest bird list among New York City parks.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

2017-05-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 1 Jan (Peter Morris)

The western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, known as "Audubon's Warbler" or "Audubon's" Yellow rumped Warbler, is a very rare visitor to New York. It has in the past been considered a separate species from "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler, which of course, is a common to abundant migrant and winter visitant in eastern North America, as well as a breeder in northern parts, including New York. The two forms are relatively distinct by plumage and call. The Jones Beach warbler was discovered during the Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count (CBC) by Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm and, typically, it was closely associating with a group of "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers. There are only eight previously accepted records (NYSARC online database Aug 2020), with one of those also from coastal Nassau County, similarly found during the Southern Nassau County CBC.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2017-19-A One, Lakeview WMA, **Jefferson**, 2 May (Kevin McGann, ph K. McGann)

While Summer Tanager is a regular, though uncommon, spring migrant on Long Island and in the urban parks of New York City, it is much rarer upstate and particularly in the northern parts of the state (Salzman 1998). Kevin McGann found and photographed this female at Lakeview WMA along the Lake Ontario shore, a first record for Jefferson County. Less than two months later, a record of another individual in the county appeared in eBird (eBird Aug 2020), which the Committee will review at a later date.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2017-44-A One, Alley Pond Park, **Queens**, 12 Nov (Ed Becher). eBird 12-28 Nov, 7 Dec-3 Jan 2018

This Western Tanager was discovered by Eric Miller on 12 Nov and lingered at Alley Pond Park until 28 Nov (eBird Feb 2021). It was documented for NYSARC by Ed Becher. Photos in eBird show a female/immature male. A similar-looking Western Tanager was discovered and photographed at nearby Crocheron Park on 7 Dec and lingered until 3 Jan 2018 (eBird Feb 2021). It is believed to be the same individual.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2017-02-A One, Arden Beach, **Richmond**, 13 Jan (Maya Shikhman, ph M. Shikhman). eBird 13-27 Jan

Maya Shikhman found and photographed this female/immature male Painted Bunting on Staten Island. The bird stayed in the area for two weeks.

2017 Reports Accepted But Origins Unknown or Unnatural

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

2017-33-A One, Champlain, **Clinton**, 9, 13, 14, 22 Aug, 6 Sep (Bill Krueger, ph B. Krueger)

This report involved a bird seen over a four-week period during the summer at the Chazy Riverlands on Lake Champlain. The duck was sometimes seen with or near Mallards, which were slightly smaller. As the bird tipped up to feed, as a typical dabbling duck would, the observer could clearly see that it was unbanded. This fact and also that there are other records of Common Shelduck in the northeast, including three the same year—in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and New Brunswick (eBird Jul 2020)—lends credence to the possibility that this was a wild bird. Unfortunately, the photos provided were less than ideal, with much of the head and the bill not showing in any of them. While the photos, combined with the description, were highly suggestive of this species, a minority of Committee members were not convinced that an unusual aberrant plumage of a more common species, or even a domestic duck, could be firmly ruled out. Nevertheless, most of the Committee believed the identification to be correct. The question of origin was discussed at length and while NYSARC recognizes that a wild origin is possible for this species, it is too early to state with much confidence that a pattern of vagrancy has been established. A review of records in eBird shows a cluster of sightings around Montreal, Quebec, from 1993, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2010, and 2014, with several of those occurring during the summer (eBird Jul 2020). There may be additional sightings that do not appear on the eBird map, simply because the eBird reviewer marked them as Introduced/Exotic. In the not-too-distant future, eBird is expected to change the way it handles sightings of possible exotics so that more of these reports will show up on the map. This will make it easier to see if a pattern of vagrancy exists. The bird at Chazy Riverlands, which is not far south of Montreal, was apparently molting body feathers at the very least, as a brown breast band was observed to nearly completely disappear during the course of its stay. In addition, this species is increasing and its range has expanded, with breeding becoming more frequent in northwest Europe (Carboneras and Kirwan 2020). All of this lends support to the idea that a wild Common Shelduck could show up in the state, perhaps as a post-breeding molt migrant.

2016 Report Previously Accepted—Addendum

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2016-54-A One, Greece, **Monroe**, 13 Dec (Robert P. Yunick)

The Committee is grateful to Robert Spahn for adding some missing details to this previously accepted record (see D'Anna, *et al.* 2020). Spahn (pers. comm.) indicates that the hummer had been present since October, making for a very lengthy stay! It was last seen by the homeowners on 17 Dec, unfortunately just one day shy of being recorded on the Rochester Christmas Bird Count, although at least it was recorded for the count-week.

2012 Report Previously Accepted

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)

2012-77-B One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 6 Oct (Rob Jett, ph Heydi Lopes). eBird 6 Oct 2012

This report supplements the documentation for a previously accepted record. NYSARC appreciates receiving as much documentation as possible for a record, no matter how long after the sighting. See Wilson, *et al.* (2014) for a full account of this record.

2017 Reports Not Accepted

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2017-20-A One, Lake Ronkonkoma, **Suffolk**, 7 May

The description provided indicated that this was a largish diving bird with a long neck, slender body, and long, sharp, pale gray bill. The plumage was described as being medium to dark gray on top of the head and body with an off white lower head and neck. Since a Western Grebe has a yellowish bill and is bright white on the lower head and neck, the description is at odds with that species. It seemed likely to the reviewers that this was a loon or possibly even a cormorant, perhaps in a plumage that was unfamiliar to the observers.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2017-35-A One, National Gateway Park, **Richmond**, 13 Sep

This report was believed to be likely correct by some on the Committee, due to the long experience of the observer, but was voted down in the second round of review, based upon a very incomplete description that did not clearly rule out a Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*). During a five-minute view of the bird in flight with Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), the observer noted white in the primaries and a partial hood, concluding that this was an adult in basic plumage. White in the primaries can be a helpful distinction between adult Franklin's and Laughing Gulls but unfortunately, the pattern and extent of white was not clearly indicated. With so little other description to go on, the Committee decided that the record could not be supported.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*)

2017-12-A Two, Iron Pier Beach, **Suffolk**, 19 Mar

Although the observer of these two gulls was not an experienced birder, in her own words, she was clearly a keen observer, as she picked up on these two "four-year gulls" with dull yellow legs and knew that this was not typical of Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), which show pinkish legs. Her excellent photos showed at least one of the birds, which very much resembled an adult Herring Gull. The bird had a clean unstreaked head, which is not unusual in March, by which time many adults have lost the head streaking sported during the winter months. And indeed, her photos clearly showed that the bird had yellow legs. However, the bird differed from an adult Yellow-legged Gull in having a mantle that was no darker than the adjacent Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and primaries with less black. Committee members concluded that this was an example of a Herring Gull with yellow legs, which is occasionally seen in North America and more frequently observed in Europe. If the observer observed two such individuals, however, as she indicated, this would seem to be rather exceptional.

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)

2017-14-A One, Iron Pier Beach, **Suffolk**, 19, 28 Mar

The excellent photos included with this report show a bird that resembles an adult Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) in terms of size, shape, and plumage. However, the legs on this individual were clearly yellow, though not bright yellow. Yellow legs are apparently

even more uncommon in Great Black-backed Gulls than they are in Herring Gulls. Seen at the same location and by the same observer who submitted 2017-12, Yellow-legged Gull, above, the Committee again could only conclude that this was a common species, Great Black-backed Gull, with an unusual leg color. This makes three adult gulls which typically have pinkish legs, showing yellow legs at this location around the same date, suggesting the possibility of an environmental factor as being the cause, though it cannot be ruled out that this was simply normal variation and that the observer was fortunate, or unlucky, depending on your viewpoint, to find all of these birds.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2017-41-A One, Camp Hero State Park, **Suffolk**, 12 Nov

This was a report of a Pacific Loon flying past over the ocean at Montauk, seen by two experienced observers. The report was relatively thorough and discussed how the two expected loons in the region, Common (*G. immer*) and Red-throated (*G. stellata*), differed from the bird that was observed. However, Committee members felt that this was a very difficult identification and especially so with a bird in flight. Although some on the Committee believed that this was a good record, others were concerned about the difficulty of correctly assessing subtle characters under these conditions. In the end the report did not generate enough support after two rounds of review.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2017-06-A One, Brasher Falls, **St. Lawrence**, 28 Jan

This Great Gray Owl submission came from St. Lawrence County, somewhat near where the species was photographed during the same winter. Unfortunately, there were no photographs submitted with this report and there was virtually no description provided, other than that the bird was large. The observers at first thought it was a Great Horned Owl but after looking it up in bird books, decided that it was this species. Although this is a distinctive species and this bird was seen during a winter when multiple Great Gray Owls were found in northern New York, without photos or even a description, the Committee had no option but to not accept the record.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

2017-32-A One, Pawling, **Dutchess**, 7 Aug

This bird was seen while hiking in a forest in Dutchess County during August. In researching afterwards the observer could not find any similar species of birds that are regular in New York State. Although the plumage pattern described was not at odds for a male of this species, the size and shape of the bird were not provided. In addition the forest habitat would not be typical for the species. Several Committee members concluded that the observer likely saw a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

2017-21-A One, Poughquag, **Dutchess**, 10 May

This was a report of an entirely blue bird that appeared at the observer's thistle (niger) feeder for a couple of minutes during May. The observer was familiar with Eastern Bluebird (*S. sialis*) and she indicated that this bird was slender in comparison but did not indicate the bird's relative size or its shape. A Mountain Bluebird would be unlikely to visit a niger feeder and Committee members believed that this was probably an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

Short-billed Gull and Common Gull

Recently, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) voted to split the Mew Gull, *Larus canus* (which formerly included subspecies *canus*, *heinei*, *kamtschatshensis*, and *brachyrhynchus*) into two species—a monotypic Short-billed Gull, *L. brachyrhynchus* and a polytypic Common Gull, *L. canus*, comprising the remaining three taxa (Chesser *et al.* 2021). Short-billed Gull breeds and winters in North America, whereas Common Gull breeds and winters in Europe and Asia. Both occur somewhat regularly in eastern North America and had occurred several times in New York before they were recognized as a separate species. Even before the split, NYSARC desired a better picture of the ratio of occurrence of the two forms (then subspecies), and decided to look at all previously accepted records of Mew Gull to see which, if any, could be identified to subspecies. While subspecies normally present significant identification challenges, the taxa in question are relatively well differentiated, and NYSARC's original reviews of several Mew Gull records had already been resolved to the subspecies level. The re-review thus focused on a set of eight records originally accepted as Mew Gulls, but not to subspecies, and was completed in 2019. Of these, six were accepted at the subspecies level, two involving *L. c. canus* and four involving *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. Following the split, the former two are now acceptable as Common Gull, and the latter four as Short-billed Gull. Of the three subspecies of Common Gull, the nominate race is, by far, the most likely to occur in the state but there are a few records of *L. c. kamtschatshensis* in the northeastern US and Canada (eBird Oct 2021), although not in New York. The other subspecies, *L. c. heinei*, is very similar to the nominate race, and there are no records in North America accepted in eBird as of Oct 2021.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

1992-30-A, one Robert Moses State Park, **St. Lawrence**, 27, 29 Dec 1992 (David Sibley)
1996-81-A/B, one Lewiston, **Niagara**, 17 Nov 1996 (Robert Curry, Richard Knapton)

Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*)

1986-27-A, one Robert Moses State Park, **St. Lawrence**, 4, 5 Oct 1986 (Ian Jones)
1992-56-A/B, one Lewiston, **Niagara**, 29 Nov, 4 Dec 1992 (Alan Wormington, Richard Knapton)
1996-68-A, one Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 10 Nov 1996 (Sharon Skelly, Brian Mongi)
1997-64-A, one Jamestown, **Chautauqua**, 21 Dec 1997 (Robert Sundell)

Common/Short-billed Gull (*Larus canus/brachyrhynchus*)

2008-64-A, one Lewiston, Niagara, 6 Dec 2008 (Willie D'Anna)
2009-4-A/B, one, Olcott, Niagara, 22 Feb 2009 (Jim Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna)
For both of these records, the observers attempted to make a subspecific identification but viewing conditions prevented a definitive conclusion.

CONTRIBUTORS

Doug Amadon, Dennis Anderson Jr., Edward Becher, Amy T. Bedard, Robert Berlingeri, Brent Bomkamp, Brenda Bull, Michael B. Burgess, Barbara Butler, Gary Chapin, Jared Cole, Paul D'Andrea, Doug Daniels, Greg D. Dashnau, Joseph DiConstanzo, Ann Drohosky, Becky Dullea, Ken Feustel, Howard Fischer, Tara Fuller, John Gluth, Richard

Guthrie, Linda Hassberg, Tim Healy, Bruce Horwith, Rob Jett, Don Jiskra, William Krueger, Chris Kundl, Patricia Lindsay, Naomi Lloyd, Heydi Lopes, Maria Loukeris, Joshua Malbin, Kenneth M. McDermott, Kevin McGann, Hannah Mirando, Shaibal S. Mitra, Celeste Morien, Peter Morris, Bruce Nott Jr., Paul Osenbaugh, Anders Peltomaa, Adrienne Popko, Bill Purcell, Peter L. Reisfeld, Jeffrey Ritter, Derek H. Rogers, Kayo J. Roy, Peter Schoenberger, Dominic Sherony, Maya Shikhman, Thomas Simmons, Jordan Spindel, Taylor Sturm, Anne Swaim, Aaron Virgin, Thomas Williams.

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee:

Willie D'Anna (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Shawn Billerman, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, James Pawlicki, Patricia Lindsay, Derek Rogers, Jay McGowan

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologist's Union. 1985. Thirty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologist's Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 102: 680- 686.
- Andrle, R. F., R. O. Paxton, F. G. Scheider, S. C. Sibley, B. Spencer. 1987. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee (1985 and 1986). *The Kingbird*. Vol. 37(4): 200-209.
- Bolsinger, J. S. 2007. Notes and observations: New York's first Western Grebe revisited. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 57(1): 14-15.
- Bowen, R. V. (2020). Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.towsol.01>
- Buckley, P.A. and G. Schairer. 2000. Yellow-nosed Albatross on Fire Island, LI, NY. *The Kingbird* Vol. 50(3): 223-231.
- Carboneras, C. and G. M. Kirwan. 2020. Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.comshe.01>
- Chamberlaine, L. B. 1998. Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). In *Bull's Birds of New York State* (E. Levine, Ed.) Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. p. 430.
- Chesser, R. T., S. M. Billerman, K. J. Burns, C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, B. E. Hernández-Baños, A. W. Kratter, I. J. Lovette, N. A. Mason, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., D. F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2021. *Check-list of North American Birds* (online). American Ornithological Society. <http://checklist.aou.org/taxa>
- Collins, J. 2017. A First Winter Ross's Gull Lands in Tupper Lake, NY! *New York Birders*. Jan 2017, p. 9.
- D'Anna, W., G. Chapin, T. W. Burke, D. Gochfeld, P. J. Lindsay, J. McGowan, J. Pawlicki, D. Rogers. 2020. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2016. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 70(3): 205-206.
- Davis P. 2014. Albatrosses in the western North Atlantic: A compendium of reports. *North American Birds*. Vol. 68(1): 4-39.
- DeCandido, R. and D. Allen. 2018. The Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) in New York State, with comments on its occurrence in the Western Hemisphere, 1833-2017. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 68(1): 4-10.

- Delehanty, C. 1978. Photographs of New York State Rarities: 29. Western Grebe. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 28(4): 208-209.
- del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. 1996. *Handbook of Birds of the World*. Vol. 3, p 174.
- Dyer, D. 1998. Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). In *Bull's Birds of New York State* (E. Levine, Ed.) Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. p. 510.
- eBird. 2017a. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S34854574>
- eBird. 2017b. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S34657265>
- eBird. 2020. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>
- Feustel, K. 2018. A Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) at Cedar Beach, Suffolk County, Long Island. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 68(1): 1-2.
- Gochfeld, D. 2010. Predictions of species to be added to the New York State checklist – v. 4.0. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 60(4): 301-310.
- Gochfeld, D. 2016. What's it gonna be? Predicting the next new additions to the avifauna of New York – a redux. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 66(1): 2-12.
- Mueller, A. J. 2020. Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.incdov.01>
- NYSARC online database. 2020. NYSARC Reports and Decisions. <https://nybirds.org/NYSARC/RecordsSummary.htm>
- Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds*. Part I, p. 390-391.
- Salzman, E. (1998). Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). In *Bull's Birds of New York State* (E. Levine, Ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. p. 498-499.
- Sibley, D. 2014. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Second edition. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.
- Wilson, A., G. Chapin, T. W. Burke, W. D'Anna, D. Gochfeld, A. Guthrie, D. F. Sherony, C. L. Wood, and J. Skelly. 2014. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2012. *The Kingbird*. Vol. 64(3):197.

=====



JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT 2021

Bill Ostrander

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

More than 353 volunteers went into the field 16-26 January 2021 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged 1,098.67 party-hours and counted 397,429 waterfowl. The methodology of the count is described by Swift (January waterfowl counts, 2005-2007, and some observations on long-term trends. *The Kingbird* 57:198-213; 2007).

Daily high temperatures in January leading up to and through the count period were generally above freezing throughout the state, but most lows were below freezing. In Islip, low temperatures stayed above 20° F. In Plattsburgh, low temperatures during the count period were often in the single digits. Consequently, moving water was generally open and still water was frozen in most of the state. There was virtually no snow in January anywhere in the state except some trace amounts in Buffalo.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2021 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 397,429, was 13,723 (4%) more than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and Tundra Swans compensated for the lower numbers of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and all other waterfowl.

Some species had higher counts than the 2001-2010 decade average: Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Eider, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Double-crested Cormorant. The counts of 5,487 Ring-necked Ducks and 3,335 Hooded Mergansers were the highest counts ever. Both are less hardy species that would have benefited from the warmer than normal conditions. The count of 6,386 American Black Ducks 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 2016. In 2021, the count was 2,186, the highest since the 2016 peak.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2021 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, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, 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 2022 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information is available online at:

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

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be: 15-23 January 2022 (target date Sunday, January 16); and 14-22 January 2023 (target date Sunday, January 17).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2021 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

=====



Table 1. Regional totals for the 2021 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Snow Goose	0	0	24,155	0	0	1	27	2	5	707	24,897
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gr. White-fr. Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	132	14,492	14,624
Cackling Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	10
Canada Goose	21,405	27,540	31,413	4,090	10,778	6,958	574	5,999	30,361	48,871	187,989
Mute Swan	14	557	21	0	90	79	0	2	369	940	2,072
Trumpeter Swan	0	10	6	0	17	0	0	0	0	2	35
Tundra Swan	75	66	1,623	0	264	158	0	0	0	0	2,186
swan species	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wood Duck	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	31	45
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	1	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	69	798	886
Gadwall	65	38	194	4	16	11	0	0	197	1,271	1,796
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Am. Wigeon	2	1	135	2	5	0	0	0	60	356	561
Mallard	2,593	3,051	4,309	1,485	2,239	2,091	882	1,316	4,805	6,599	29,370
Am. Black Duck	92	423	1,011	223	97	245	144	110	851	3,190	6,386
Mallard X Black Duck	2	7	4	0	1	2	0	0	6	42	64
Northern Pintail	1	4	43	0	2	0	0	2	4	35	91
Green-winged Teal	2	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	7	187	209
Canvasback	5,653	20	947	0	1	1	0	0	3	511	7,136
Redhead	453	13,261	20,570	0	1,509	1,001	0	0	0	24	36,818
Ring-necked Duck	17	1,031	2,773	54	33	10	1	2	1,176	390	5,487
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Greater Scaup	4,609	322	1,334	0	95	1,305	232	9	258	7,133	15,297

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser Scaup	20	71	11	0	100	2	310	0	26	2,297	2,837
scaup species	0	42	27	0	0	9	930	1	11	328	1,348
King Eider	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
Common Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,628	1,628
Harlequin Duck	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	530	532
White-winged Scoter	251	93	8	0	9	18	0	0	2	1,891	2,272
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	857	859
scoter species	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	669	727
Long-tailed Duck	494	1,217	16	0	488	903	2	1	147	2,116	5,384
Bufflehead	461	55	173	47	144	123	54	1	830	4,199	6,087
Com. Goldeneye	2,376	1,528	1,384	187	1,041	1,621	1,582	497	248	752	11,216
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Hooded Merganser	99	103	207	408	74	8	54	62	1,101	1,219	3,335
Com. Merganser	532	118	611	777	2,672	1,446	191	707	2,656	14	9,724
Red-br. Merganser	745	4,419	249	1	867	341	2	0	93	1,458	8,175
Ruddy Duck	9	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	35	4,605	4,654
Pied-billed Grebe	2	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	13	20	43
Horned Grebe	10	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	2	129	148
Red-necked Grebe	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6
Eared Grebe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Am. Coot	6	50	386	35	31	0	0	0	218	140	866
Red-throated Loon	60	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	193	266
Common Loon	1	5	7	0	2	5	8	0	25	284	337
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	10	33	7	0	7	5	0	0	0	271	333
Great Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	70	145
Other/Unidentified	201	0	0	0	3	55	0	0	149	100	508
TOTALS	40,264	54,094	91,704	7,317	20,590	16,401	4,999	8,712	43,963	109,385	397,429

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Fishing Phoebes in East Hampton, NY

One of the unexpected and happier benefits of a year spent working from home in East Hampton was the opportunity to observe some of our rarer winter birds on a regular basis. In addition to a Rufous Hummingbird, which appeared at our feeders in early December 2020 and remained until the end of January 2021, we had a pair of Baltimore Orioles which lingered through the winter, taking advantage of the hummingbird feeders when other food supplies dwindled. Our biggest surprise, however, was an intrepid Eastern Phoebe, which also remained well-fed through the winter by teaching itself how to fish!

The bird was observed initially at the inlet of Georgica Cove where there is a parking area and a large drainage pipe that moves storm runoff from Cove Hollow Road into the pond. This somewhat constant flow of fresh water remains a feature of the Cove year round, and provides an active habitat for an abundance of very small fish (possibly rainwater killifish/mummichogs).

We had been watching the overwintering phoebe since mid-February, perching in a tree or on a branch above the Cove. It would fly in close to the muddy water near the drainage pipe, usually sitting on a phragmite or similar reedy plant, behavior that seemed appropriate for catching insects near the pond; but in February, of course, there were no insects. Observing our photos in early March, we were able to detect fish in the beak, which were promptly swallowed (photo, p. 156). We then followed the bird more closely over several days (and with other observers) and could see that it dipped into the muddy water (faster than we were able to catch in a photo), grab a fish and then return to the tree branch to eat it. The bird did not actually dive (as nearby kingfishers do) and of course did not snatch any fish in the air, as the fish don't emerge from the water.

The phoebe was first reported in eBird on 12 January. Though not observed by these authors, on 31 January, two Eastern Phoebes were seen together and reports of two appeared again on 20 and 21 February. One observer noted that both were fishing, though he never saw them doing it simultaneously. There were subsequent reports of one individual through 15 March.

A search of the literature reveals only two reports of this species catching fish, both in the Chicago area (Jung 1926: The season. Chicago region. *Bird-Lore* 28: 63-64; Binford 1957: Eastern Phoebes fishing. *Auk* 74: 264-265). The last reported evidence of an Eastern Phoebe fishing was in 1956, so you can imagine that there was quite a bit of excitement among the evolutionary biologists and ornithologists who began following the East Hampton birds. Over a few weeks we continued to observe one of the birds fishing quite successfully. We assume that by late March it resumed its regular diet of insects.

Jane and Alfred Ross, East Hampton, New York.

Spotted Towhees in New York State

A female Spotted Towhee at Baldwin Harbor Park, Nassau County, NY 2 Jan-26 Feb 2021 was the ninth record for NYS (but only the second since 1990) and the fourth for Long Island. Found during the Southern Nassau County CBC by compilers Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra (co-author of this note), this was, remarkably, *not* the first for that count: New York's first record was found by Robert H. Grant while scouting for this venerable CBC in late December 1956 and seen again on count day and later (but see below). Late fall 2020 to early spring 2021 was particularly good for Spotted Towhees in the Northeast, accounting for two in Ontario (of 34 total: Riley *et al.* 2021), one in Massachusetts (of 6 total), and Rhode Island's first, pending review (eBird 2021).

The Baldwin Spotted Towhee remained for more than a month (see photo, p. 156), presenting many birders their first opportunity to see this species in New York, in part because the last long-staying bird occurred in 1985, and in part because this taxon was considered "only a subspecies" at that time (in fact, from 1957 until 1995). While reviewing the prior records, we discovered several errors, inconsistencies, and gaps in the various published and online accounts, and we endeavored to collect and preserve the details as accurately as possible, in consultation with some of the original finders and observers. Our sources include the original *Kingbird* and *Field Notes/American Birds/North American Birds* accounts, Post (1965), Buckley (1998), species comments in eBird, and communication with Richard Guthrie, Dominic Sherony, and Jeanne Skelly. In cases of discrepancies and differences in level of detail among sources, we have depended on first-hand testimony and original reports over summaries.

One of these records concerns me (DJF) personally. As a 15-year-old birder in November 1957, I found and identified a female Spotted Towhee in a utility area of the Bronx Zoo. I reported it to Ted Peszell and other adult birders who frequented Bronx Park and confirmed the identification. Reports of rarities spread only by personal contact at that time, before the Internet and even an RBA telephone line, and so meetings of the Linnaean Society of New York usually began with reports of interesting sightings.

I don't recall whether Peszell or Charles Young reported the towhee at the meeting, but when the president asked for details, the vividly memorable answer came instead from the back of the room: "It *is* a Spotted Towhee, and I have it right here!" Paul Buckley had obtained permission to certify this record by collecting (i.e., shooting) the bird, which now resides in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH 707778). In his entry on this species in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (ed. E. Levine, 1998), Paul mistakenly attributed the discovery to Ted Peszell. His account reveals that he collected not only this bird, the second New York State record, but also the first, Grant's Jones Beach bird!

That specimen, also an immature female, is now at the New York State Museum in Albany (NYSM 19019). Although the sacrifice of this and the Bronx Zoo bird seems quite alien to present-day sensibilities, the preservation of the

specimens allowed for critical subspecific determination at a time when photographing wild birds was immensely more difficult than it is today. Buckley (1959) identified these specimens, and another from New Jersey, as the subspecies *arcticus*, which close study and digital photography continue to confirm as the source of most or all Northeastern records, including this year's bird at Baldwin.

Records of Spotted Towhees in New York State

Dates	Site	Observers	Sex	Kingbird
29 Dec ¹ 1956- 16 Feb 1957	Jones Beach SP, Nassau	Robert H. Grant	F	7: 36 15: 203
30 Nov– 23 Dec 1957	Bronx Zoo, Bronx	Douglas Futuyma	F	15: 203 ²
3 Dec 1964- 1 Feb 1965 ³	Bellport, Suffolk	Mrs. H Wegner, Dennis Puleston	M	15: 131 15: 203
“about 3 wks” Feb 1976	Chili, Monroe	Robert Coffee	M	26: 101-103
28 Nov 1982	Maspeth, Queens	Polgars, fide T. H. Davis	M	33: 80
late Dec 1984- Feb 1985	Greenville, Greene	Chris Ketcham, Richard Guthrie	M	35: 146
22 Dec 1990	ca. Conesus L Marine P, Livingston	Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly	M	41: 103-107
17 Nov 2019	Tift Nature Pres, Erie	Brad Felton	M	70: 22
2 Jan- 26 Feb 2021	Baldwin Harbor P, Nassau	Patricia Lindsay, Shaibal Mitra	F	this issue

¹ Post (1965) and Buckley (1998) give the date of discovery as 28 Dec.

² record not published in Region 10 Regional report but treated by Post (1965) and Buckley (1998).

³ Puleston reported that Mrs. Wegner had been seeing the bird for about three weeks previous to 3 Dec, when Puleston learned of it, and that it was last seen 24 Jan 1965 (Post 1965).

LITERATURE CITED

- Buckley, P.A. 1959. Recent specimens from southern New York and New Jersey affecting AOU Check-list status. *The Auk* 76: 517-520.
- Buckley, P.A. 1998. Spotted Towhee. In *Bull's Birds of New York State*. E. Levine, ed. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, N.Y. pp. 503-504.
- Post, P.W. 1965. Photographs of New York State rarities 3. Spotted Towhee. *The Kingbird* 15: 202-203.
- Riley, D.J., B.N. Charlton, M.V.A. Burrell, K.G.D. Burrell, A.C. Guercio, R.D. Martin, M.D. Read and A.P. Timpf. 2021. Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2020. *Ontario Birds* 39:66-95.

Douglas J. Futuyma, 8 Walnut Ave, Stony Brook, NY 11790.

douglas.futuyma@stonybrook.edu

Shaibal. S. Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island

shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu

PATCH BIRDING A CASE FOR PATCH BIRDING

Gary Kohlenberg
Ithaca, NY

My embrace of patch birding came late in my birding run. eBird advocated for this type of birding years ago, but I never learned to love it. As a newer birder it was enough to try and learn all the different species, their habits, and songs. The life checklist didn't seem large enough. Of course, many birds were elusive and their habitats a mystery. Consequently, I would chase the more unusual species wherever they were reported adding to the growing life list and gaining valuable experience with locally rare birds.

Soon, with a growing list of birds and birder friends under my belt, casual competition was the order of the day. The greater birding community encouraged this competition with the eBird Top 100, greatest number of checklists, our own local "David Cup", (largest number of species in the Cayuga Lake Basin per year). What birder/film fan can forget 2011's *The Big Year* immortalizing the yearlong chase for fame and glory?

At some point the change in my birding started, subtly. The rarer species became more of a quest for habitats that might lead to my own finds of good birds instead of burning fuel to chase others' discoveries. One migrant Cape May Warbler singing from a spruce tree, or a Red Crossbill, was greater satisfaction than several birds reported by others. Soon dozens of weekly eBird locations started to dwindle to a few selective migrant traps and local breeding locations. The drive to make my hundreds of eBird lists richer for science overtook the listing drive.

When the great pandemic hit, driving all over God's creation to see birds with its environmental cost seemed out of order. My local patch with its mix of water, woods, and shrubs provided a relaxing refuge from masks, crowds, and stress. Daily trips over the months and in any weather gave a glimpse into a world slowly in tune. Migrant birds appeared and were gone. Local birds sang, bred, raised families, and moved on. Raptors soared and kettled. Mammals grew used to seeing me. My fuel bill plummeted along with my driving time.

The most unexpected change was that the year list did not dwindle. One migrant Lincoln's Sparrow or Swainson's Thrush returned more happiness than I formally received from a greater number of previous examples. Arrival and departure dates started to make sense. How birds use their habitats and their preferences started to become clearer. I gained a greater sense of the carrying capacity of the habitat for numbers of individual birds. The birding became more intuitive with a sense of the natural order in this slice of the world. I could almost fill out a bird list before starting with abundance. A new bird or lingering bird was suddenly like a beacon in the habitat, the "look at me" sign hard to miss. I gained a feel for the breadth of migration. On those days when migrants are reported in

several areas, I can usually be sure that my patch will hold some copies of the new visitors.

I think as time goes on and climate change continues to impact every place, the value of these specific repeated bird lists will grow. eBird's ability to chart abundance, range, frequency, along with migration trends will become more refined. We can be a part of this effort by making regular visits to our patch. Yard list aficionados can adopt a patch to supplement their backyard.

Now that the pandemic is entering a new phase, with trips and groups returning, my desire to go back to usual, pre-pandemic, listing is gone. I find myself missing my patch with its shrubs, trees, and flowing water, wondering if there is something new today. The Mallards have young swimming in a line, the Veeries and Baltimore Orioles are now silent—but are they just invisible or have they moved on like the Red-winged Blackbirds?

I still chase the true rarities, lately Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork, but patch birding with 200+ checklists a year is here to stay. Listing will always be fun, and I can now add a more focused approach to my year birding. I encourage all birders to adopt a location to make your own. The benefits are real.

=====

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2020-21

Michael F. Cooper
mikec02@optonline.net

The mild weather of the fall continued into December and January. Every Region in the state enjoyed above average temperatures, and winter didn't really move into most areas until February. Early February saw a couple of significant snowfalls in scattered parts of the state.

The mild temperatures again favored "half-hardy" landbirds, and there were many individuals who lingered on from the autumn season. Additionally, open water provided feeding and sheltering locations for waterfowl and snow-free fields provided grazing areas for geese.

Region 1 reported a high count of 74 Cackling Geese at one location in Orleans County, mentioned as being a record high for the Region, but I would be surprised if there were many (or any) higher counts statewide. This species did put in a good showing elsewhere, with birds reported from seven Regions, and there were many other good counts. Greater White-fronted Goose was also widespread, with a high count of eight in Region 3. In Region 9, a Barnacle Goose with four hybrid young were continuing birds from the fall season, while a bird photographed in Region 3 was identified as a Barnacle X Cackling Goose hybrid. Where do the breeding ranges of these species overlap outside of captivity? Two

Regions hosted Pink-footed Geese this winter, one in Suffolk in Region 10, where almost regular now, and one in Region 5 which provided a first Hamilton County record.

Trumpeter and Tundra Swans were widely reported from all five westernmost Regions. A count of 75,000 Snow Geese in Region 7 far outnumbered tallies anywhere else. Comments about duck numbers ran from “typical” to “excellent”, but Region 2 editor Robert Spahn noted that 3/4s of their high waterfowl count consisted of Canada Goose and Redhead! Both Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal lingered in multiple upstate Regions. Regions 3 and 7 both recorded Tufted Duck. King Eiders were surprisingly well-represented this winter, with reports from five Regions and as many as 20 individuals from Region 10 alone. Barrow’s Goldeneye was also conspicuous this season, with reports from six Regions. Five in Region 6, nine at one location in Region 7, and at least 10 scattered across Region 10 were great counts.

Two reports of Spruce Grouse from Massawepie Mire in Region 6 were the only reports for the state. Three *selasphorous* hummingbirds seems like a pretty typical statewide number these days, and a White-winged Dove in Chautauqua provided a fourth record for Region 1.

Sandhill Cranes were found in five Regions, with a max count of 275 in the Region 3 section of the Montezuma NWR. Among the shorebirds, Killdeer was mentioned favorably by several Regional editors—for being present in good numbers, for overwintering birds, and for early return dates. Surprises included Spotted Sandpiper in Region 6 on 11 December and a Short-billed Dowitcher photographed in Region 10 on 5 December. Greater Yellowlegs lingered to early December in Region 3.

Two Razorbills at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Region 9 were surprising, especially for a year with an unremarkable coastal flight. Both murres were recorded in small numbers, but it was Dovekies that entertained many Region 10 birders this winter, putting on a better show than they have for some years. A decent variety of gulls was reported statewide, with the best being a Slaty-backed which drifted back and forth across the Canadian border with Region 1 through December and January. Region 1 also hosted a Sabine’s—a holdover from the fall. Nine Regions reported Iceland Gull, while eight reported Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed. Three different Mew Gulls (as of this writing, now recognized as two full species, Common, *Larus canus*, and Short-billed, *Larus brachyrhynchus*), were scattered around Region 10. Black Skimmers lingering at two Region 10 locations into January were extremely late.

A Great Cormorant was quite a rarity in Region 6, but a first record for Anhinga in Region 2 was even more shocking, especially for the date—mid-December. A Brown Pelican seen along the Hudson River in northern Manhattan (Region 10) was probably the same one seen on the same date at Yonkers in Region 9. Tricolored and Green Heron were both recorded in Region 10 into January.

Golden Eagles were reported from seven Regions, with John Haas in Region 9 noting “widespread reports”. A number of irruptive species seem to have decided that this fall and winter would be the year to put on a show, and Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owls both joined the party. They were widely reported and generally in good numbers. A western race *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk was photographed in Region 2, and the always exciting Gyrfalcon was reported in two Regions. By far the most spectacular raptor record statewide was the wonderful Ferruginous Hawk which lingered for more than a month in the Black Dirt farmland of Region 9. This first state record was enjoyed by many birders (is it safe to say many hundreds?) during its stay.

Back to owls for a minute, Barred, Short-eared, and Eastern Screech-Owls were all mentioned by several Regional editors as being present in decent numbers, with high counts of Short-eared at 25 and 24 in Regions 6 and 8, respectively, 62 Screech-Owls on the Rochester CBC in Region 2, and Barred Owl in Region 9 (“widespread reports throughout”) and Region 4 (“many reports”).

A Say’s Phoebe in Region 7 was an excellent find, but a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded at Braddock Bay in Region 2 is a record late date for the state. Also in Region 2, a Swainson’s Thrush was reported on 20 December—a Regional late record. Downstate, Region 10 logged Wood Thrush, Veery and Varied Thrush, the latter being the least surprising of the three.

Some open ground birds were recorded in excellent numbers. Horned Lark flocks were large and widespread, with maximum counts in Region 8 (700 at Copake) and Region 10 (500 at Bridgehampton). Likewise, Snow Buntings were plentiful after several down years. Counts of around 1,000 were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 8, with many in the 100s elsewhere.

Bob Yunick in Region 8 reported that a large Black-capped Chickadee irruption, which started back in late summer, continued to build through December and into January, and was accompanied by a smaller influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice. Bob’s observations, supported by banding data and seed consumption figures, are always interesting and worth a look.

As mentioned up top, the continuing mild weather encouraged many half-hardy landbirds to linger throughout the state. Some of those not previously mentioned included widespread Marsh Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, a variety of sparrows and Eastern Towhee. Four Regions reported Rose-breasted Grosbeak, including some multiples! Other rarities worth mentioning include the Summer Tanager photographed at a feeder in Region 2, male Painted Buntings in Regions 9 and 10, record late Blackburnian and Tennessee Warblers in Region 1, and a Blue-winged Warbler photographed in Region 3. A flock of 60 Rusty Blackbirds in mid-January in Region 8 and another count of 49 in Region 10 are probably related to mild fall and winter weather.

Other great sparrow finds included LeConte's in Regions 9 and 10, two "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrows photographed in Region 2, and two "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows in Region 9. Ipswich is a bird that is seldom found more than a few hundred yards from the coast.

By far the best of this lot, though, was the Spotted Towhee found on the Southern Nassau CBC in Region 10 by Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra. This bird lingered through the end of February, and although it stayed within the confines of a relatively small brushy patch, it remained incredibly difficult to find! Doug Futuyma's comments regarding this towhee and especially his story of his earlier Spotted Towhee sighting (in 1957!) provide a fascinating comparison of how birding was done then and now, although it may not be a tale for the faint hearted (p. 126; ph. p. 156)!

The finch irruption of the fall season continued into winter, albeit with smaller numbers for some species like Pine Siskin. That being said, siskins were recorded in all ten Regions, as were both crossbills and Common Redpoll. In fact, in most Regions the winter finch flight turned into The Redpoll Show, with flocks in the hundreds throughout the state and a couple of reports of flocks in the thousands in Regions 3 and 7. Incredibly, Hoaries were recorded in nine Regions, with multiple reports everywhere. Region 7 reports an "astonishing season" and "tremendous numbers" of Common Redpolls as well as *rostrata* Commons and *hornemanni* Hoaries. As Regional Editor Bill Krueger comments, "To put it in technical terms redpolls of all types were all over the place."

This winter season and the fall before it have really been exceptional for irruptive, or out of season, or just rare, birds. Once again, there were several real contenders for Bird of the Season. However, I think the clear choice for this season is the Ferruginous Hawk, a large, showy, spectacular bird that stayed for a prolonged period and provided great views to many admiring birders. On top of that, the Ferruginous Hawk has since been accepted as a first state record, one of just a handful of records for eastern North America (Willie D'Anna, pers. comm.).

Thanks for reading and be sure to have a look at the Regional reports. There's much more there that didn't get covered here, so please go and check out the details.



REGIONAL REPORTS—WINTER 2020-21

Much of the data in these Regional reports was sourced from eBird: eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relFeb-2021. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Feb 2021.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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

Joel Strong

1907 Hess Rd, Appleton, NY 14008
joelstrong78@yahoo.com

The winter season started off relatively mild in December and January with seasonably cold temperatures eventually settling in during February. December 2020 was mostly mild with a heavy snow event on the 26th, which dropped 18.4". The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 33.5° F, 3.4° above normal, with 4.96" of precipitation, 1.07" above average. Snowfall totaled 33.0", 5.6" above normal. The mild weather continued in January. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 29.4°, 4.5° above average. Precipitation was low with just 1.85", 1.33" below average and 10.2" of snowfall, 15.1" below normal. February brought colder temperatures, with four days dipping into single digits. The average temperature was 24.7°, 1.6° below normal. Rainfall was 2.06", 0.43" below normal and snowfall was 27.5", 10.2" above normal.

The mild winter weather in December and January resulted in waterfowl lingering longer than normal within the Region, taking advantage of the yet unfrozen ponds and shorelines. A new Regional winter maximum of 74 Cackling Geese was set, at the surprising date of 6 January, and this species put on a good showing in numerous counties throughout the winter season. Many of the Cackling Geese sighted in February, as well as numerous Greater White-fronted Geese, were likely "spring" arrivals. Greater White-fronted Geese have now made a good showing for three straight years in February. Two King Eiders continued into early December from the fall season along the Niagara River in Buffalo and an additional eider was found in mid-January at Fort Niagara SP. A reliable Harlequin Duck continued throughout December and January at its usual location at Niagara Falls SP. There were few reports of single Surf and Black Scoters during the season, while White-winged Scoters were numerous, with a healthy county of 340 at Fort Niagara SP in January. Fort Niagara SP also produced a beautiful drake Barrow's Goldeneye found by Joel Strong in February

that lingered in the area for at least five days. An Eared Grebe found by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor rounds out the waterfowl highlights for the winter season. This bird was observed over a five-day window, allowing numerous birders to enjoy this Regional rarity at fairly close range.

The fourth Regional record of **White-winged Dove** graced Carol Hardenburg's Portland yard from 4-13 December and was enjoyed by many. Astonishingly, this same yard also hosted White-winged Dove two previous times!

In the shorebird arena, Killdeer were reported in all three winter months and up to four Purple Sandpipers were observed at Buffalo Harbor throughout the winter, likely representing rare overwintering birds.

Gulls were plentiful along the Niagara River and the lakeshore, including the continuing Sabine's Gull from late November in Buffalo. Up to 750 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted along the Niagara River in Lewiston as well as up to five Little Gulls at the same location. Iceland Gulls made a nice showing, including a high count of 14 at Devil's Hole SP on the Niagara River. Glaucous Gulls were much less common with a high count of just two. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were regular at Niagara Falls SP, with up to 12 reported. Though still considered a great rarity for the Region, **Slaty-backed Gull** has recently come to be recorded nearly annually. First reported across the border in Canada on 19 December, presumably this same bird eventually made its way to Niagara Falls SP and was found by Chris Rockwell on 22 December. This on again-off again bird was last reported for the winter on 19 January.

Red-throated Loons were reported throughout the winter on Lake Ontario, with a large count of 50 by Peter Yoerg at Fort Niagara SP on 24 January. Black and Turkey Vultures continued at their known Lewiston roost site with as many as 8 and 35 reported, respectively. A Turkey Vulture was also reported in Chautauqua County on 1 January, a rare winter occurrence outside of the Niagara Gorge area.

Winter raptors were fairly abundant this season with numerous Rough-legged Hawk reports throughout the Region and an impressive count of 10 Northern Harriers at John White WMA on 17 January by Bruce Hoover. Conewango produced impressive counts of Short-eared Owls with up to 14 on 7 December, the highest count in recent years. Short-eared Owls were also found in more locations than regularly. There were eight Snowy Owl reports in December and just two January and three February reports. A rare Barn Owl was photographed on 12 January at the same location as the November pair in Fredonia. Just one Long-eared Owl was reported, and three Northern Saw-whet Owls were documented during the winter season. Surprisingly, there were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports, despite a few of this species typically overwintering in the Region in past years. The mild start to winter increased the frequency of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports, with several reported each month for perhaps the best winter season showing to date.

Northern Shrike was reported in good numbers throughout the winter. Small numbers of Fish Crow were found with regularity in the crow roost at Forest Lawn Cemetery and other credible reports came from elsewhere in Buffalo, consistent with recent winters. Common Raven is no longer an unusual find anywhere in the Region.

It was a good winter season for field bird sightings, especially in the late January and early February period. Maxima of 275 Horned Larks, 110 Lapland Longspurs, and 1060 Snow Buntings were recorded. The longspurs count by Willie D'Anna came after a snowy day that pushed many field birds to the roadsides.

The mild winter weather brought more sightings of the "half hardy" species than most winters, while climate and environmental change are influencing the winter ranges of many of the species that follow. Winter Wren was reported from eight locations in December and a few sightings beyond. Marsh Wren was documented from three Southern Tier locations in January, very unusual. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered to at least early December at Beaver Island SP. Ruby-crowned Kinglet is becoming less rare in winter, while three sightings beyond December is still good. Eastern Bluebird is now a regular winter occurrence, while this winter they were even more numerous and widespread. Four Hermit Thrush reports beyond December was impressive. Winter Gray Catbird sightings continue to increase. A Brown Thrasher made a rare winter appearance at Rebecca Bishop's feeders in Cassadaga in February. There were more Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow sightings this winter as well.

Warblers also got in on the mild weather with five species found this winter. Yellow-rumped Warbler is a regular wintering species, best found at Buckhorn Island SP where it overwinters. Shelley Seidman documented a Pine Warbler throughout the winter on the Buffalo waterfront. A Common Yellowthroat in early December is good but not especially rare, while the latest records of Tennessee Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler were surprising. Tony Dvorak photographed the Tennessee Warbler at Tiff Nature Preserve on 14 December while Dominic Sherony documented a Blackburnian Warbler at Niagara Falls SP, where it was also seen in November.

The finch frenzy documented in the Fall Season report continued into the winter months but with much less sizzle. Some Evening Grosbeaks settled into the highlands of the Southern Tier counties with few seen elsewhere. Common Redpoll was the only irruptive finch species that really stuck around the Region in winter. While there were some counts in the hundreds, the redpolls were not widespread. Unlike most big redpoll irruption years when they hit most birders' feeders at some point in the winter, sightings this winter were more often in weedy fields. There were four Hoary Redpoll reports as they were picked out among the more numerous Common Redpolls. Crossbills were the stars of the fall finch irruption, but it did not last, and they did not linger, with only two reports each for Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill. Some Pine Siskins were around

this winter, but they were not widespread; the maxima of 81 is a little deceiving, since there were only a few other reports in double digits.

Blackbirds returned in good numbers in late February. Eastern Meadowlarks were found at three locations in the winter season, including one photographed at a Cambria feeder 17 February. It is uncertain if this was an overwintering bird or an early arrival looking for nourishment.

Lastly, an “Oregon” Junco was photographed by Bethany Morrow at her feeders in Lockport in February.

CONTRIBUTORS

Frederic Beaudry, Chris Bertola, Brad Carlson, Willie D’Anna, Rebecca Bishop, Heather Desorcie, Scott Diedrich, Tony Dvorak, Andrew Gaerte, Carol Hardenburg, Bruce Hoover, Alec Humann, Jordan Juzdowski, Matt Kauffman, Josh Kearney (JKea), Josh Ketry (JKet), Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Megan Miller, Phil Mills, Joe Mitchell, Bethany Morrow, Matt Nusstein, Susan & Tom O’Donnell, Joseph Petre (JPe), Joshua Pollack (JPo), Betsy Potter, Gerry Rising, Bruce Robinson, Chris Rockwell (ChR), Claudia Rosen (CIR), Vicki Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Karl Schmidt, Shelley Seidman, Beverly Seyler, Debbie Sharon (DeS), Dominic Sherony (DoS), Rob Sielaff, Joel Strong, Peter Swiatowy, Gale VerHague, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **Bond L CP** – Bond L CP, NIAG; **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; **FMCSPP** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 3 Albion ORLE 8 Dec; 3 other Dec reports, four Jan reports, 1 each.
Greater White-fronted Goose: WTSP, Somerset NIAG 1 Jan; Bond L CP NIAG 12 Jan; Wilson NIAG, DH 14 Jan; Hamburg ERIE 16 Jan; Tonawanda NR ERIE 25 Jan, 1, 4, Feb; good showing.

Cackling Goose: 2 Dayton CATT 6, 14 Dec; 2 Oakfield GENE 6, 28 Dec; 4 Ridgeway ORLE 28 Dec; 10, 74 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Dec, 6 Jan (AH, WD!), Reg winter maxima; 7 Sheridan CHAU 8 Jan; 4 Wilson NIAG 27 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 28 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 2600 Lyndonville ORLE 6 Jan.

Mute Swan: max 5, 6 PB 5 Dec, 27 Jan; 4 other Dec reports 1 each; 3 other Jan reports 2 each; Celoron ChauL 2 Feb; 5 Olcott NIAG 14 Feb; 4 Waterport ORLE 28 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 7 INWR 4 Dec; 1, 2 Dayton CATT 20, 21 Dec, rare for county.

Tundra Swan: 117 Grand Island NR 16 Dec; 325 NF 27 Dec; 100 Chautauqua ChauL 28 Dec; 26 Prendergast Point ChauL 6 Jan; max 310, 423 BeSP 29 Jan, 20 Feb.

Wood Duck: five Dec reports; Unity I NR 1 Jan; Orchard Park ERIE 2 Jan; arr Silver Creek CHAU 23 Feb; BuSP 27 Feb.

Northern Shoveler: 105, 68, 28 BWWTP 5, 14 Dec, 8 Jan; 25, 2 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec, 2 Jan INWR 16 Jan; arr 3 Jamestown CHAU 25 Feb.

Gadwall: max 162. 10 Tift NP 1 Dec. 1 Jan; 22 INWR 6 Dec; 11, 25 NFSP 27 Dec, 25 Jan; 15 Chautauqua ChauL 17 Jan; 25 BuSP 23 Jan; arr 3 Fredonia CHAU 13 Feb.

American Wigeon: 11 NFSP 6 Dec; 3 Cuba L ALLE 12 Dec; 4 GHSP 2 Jan; arr FNSP 21 Feb; 11 DH 27 Feb.

Mallard: max 550 INWR 7 Dec; max 550 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec.

American Black Duck: max 50 INWR 8 Dec; 28, 22 Machias CATT 23 Dec, 16 Jan; 22 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec; 14 Lyndonville ORLE 9 Jan; 12 BuSP 17 Jan; 22 NFSP 14 Feb; 29 Lewiston NIAG 18 Feb.

Northern Pintail: 3 INWR 6 Dec; 4 Middleport NIAG 12 Dec; 3 New Albion CATT 23 Dec; WTSP 16 Jan; Wellsville 17, 24 Jan, 12 Feb; arr 10 BuffH 28 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: max 130 INWR 5 Dec; 7 Cuba L ALLE; 2 East Aurora ERIE 2 Jan; Allegheny Res CATT 10 Jan.

Canvasback: max 7000 NFSP 27 Dec; 3600 NF 2 Jan; 1400 BeSp 13 Feb; 250 DH 25 Feb.

Redhead: max 1000 Ellery ChauL 5 Dec; 400, 200 NF 27 Dec, 10 Jan; 600, 400 BuffH 18 Jan, 12 Feb; 152 DH 19 Jan; 525 Grand Island NR 27 Feb; 210 Celoron ChauL 28 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 25 Tift NP 8 Dec; max 49 BuffH 31 Dec; 20 Wheatfield NIAG 1 Jan; 15 Buffalo NR 15 Jan; 6 Barcelona CHAU 23 Jan; 10 BeSP 15 Feb; 10 Celoron ChauL 28 Feb.

Greater Scaup: 200 NF 27 Dec; max 300, 750, 4000 BuffH 28 Dec, 23 Jan, 25 Feb; 92, 250 DH 31 Dec, 27 Feb; 1500 NR 10 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 2500 Ellery ChauL 5 Dec; 50 BuffH 11 Jan; 40, 40 DH 18 Jan, 26 Feb; 50 BeSP 23 Jan.

King Eider: 2 Buffalo NR 4 Dec (KR), continuing from fall; FNSP 14 Jan (PY).

Harlequin Duck: FNSP 19, 31 Dec, 2, 9 Jan (WD & BP, PM); regular location.

Surf Scoter: FNSP 27 Dec, 30 Jan, 4 Feb; BuSP 2 Jan; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 100, 340 FNSP 9, 30 Jan.

Black Scoter: FNSP 2, 26 Dec; EvSP 13 Dec; LBSP 21 Dec; BuSP 2 Jan; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 150, 164, 175 PB 8 Dec, 19 Jan, 6 Feb; 200 BuffH 3 Jan; max 300 Lewiston NR 18 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 2500 Buffalo NR 5 Dec; 175 NFSP 26 Dec; 650 Buffalo NR 3 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: 320 Barcelona CHAU 11 Dec; 540, 900 Buffalo NR 20 Dec, 3 Jan; 825 Grand Island ERIE 17 Jan; 125 Point Chautauqua ChauL 17 Jan; max 1350 BuSP 4 Feb.

Barrow's Goldeneye: FNSP 17-19, 21 Feb (JS! mob), drake; good find.

Hooded Merganser: 61 Tift NP 1 Dec; max 91 Dayton CATT 12 Dec; 75 BeSP 1 Jan; 88 DH 9 Jan.

Common Merganser: 195 Cassadaga 11 Dec; 330 Cuba L ALLE 12 Dec; 200 DH 16 Jan; 150 Buffalo NR 26 Jan; 300 BeSP 17 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 600, 525 Buffalo NR 5, 20 Dec; 350 BuffH 5 Dec; 297 BeSP 17 Jan.

Ruddy Duck: 71 BWWTP 5 Dec; max 252 Ellery ChauL 7 Dec; 2 BeSP 14 Jan; 12 Celoron ChauL 16 Jan; CSWMA 1 Feb (BR); arr 3 Jamestown CHAU, DH, BeSP 28 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 76 Royalton NIAG 31 Jan (S&TO), good count.

Pied-billed Grebe: BuSP 14, 28 Jan, 4, 7 Feb; BeSP 20 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 23 Jan; arr FNSP 18 Feb; Jamestown CHAU 27 Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 26 DH 7 Dec; 10 FNSP 9 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 11 Wilson NIAG 19 Dec; 9 PB 21 Dec; BuffH 1 Jan; Yates ORLE 1 Jan.

Eared Grebe: DH 14, 16-18 Jan (GV ph!, mob), rare.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Portland CHAU 4-15 Dec (CH, mob), 4th Reg record.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: 4, 6 DH 14 Jan, 28 Feb; max 9 BuffH 31 Jan.

Sandhill Crane: max 21 INWR 4 Dec (PHess); Tonawanda NIAG 20 Dec; INWR 20,

24 Jan, 14 Feb; 2 Randolph CATT 24 Feb (KB).
Killdeer: Belfast ALLE 3 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 5 Jan; arr Machias CATT 24 Feb; max 9 Dayton CATT 27 Feb.
Purple Sandpiper: PB 8 Dec (BC); 4, 3, 3, 3 BuffH 25 Dec, 2, 17 Jan, 25 Feb (PY, mob); apparently overwintered.
Sabine's Gull: Buffalo ERIE 1-5 Dec (MK, mob), continued from late fall.
Bonaparte's Gull: 500, 750 Lewiston NR 16 Jan, 18 Feb; 600 DHSP 22 Jan.
Little Gull: max 5, 4, 3 Lewiston NR 6, 27 Dec, 18 Feb.
Iceland Gull: 7, 8 NFSP 27 Dec, 15 Jan; BuffH 27 Dec; DH 28 Dec; max 14, 14 DHSP 31 Dec, 18 Jan.
"THAYER'S" ICELAND GULL: DHSP 31 Dec, 17, 18, 22 Jan; 1-2 NFSP 2-31 Jan (mob); only locations with reports.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cuba L ALLE 12 Dec; max 12, 10, 11 NFSP 20 Dec, 4, 18 Jan; BuffH 28 Dec.
SLATY-BACKED GULL: NFSP 22 Dec – 19 Jan (ChR, mob), still rare but increased reports in recent years.
Glaucous Gull: max 1, 2, 2 NFSP 21 Dec, 2 Jan, 4 Feb; BuffH 28 Dec, 4 Feb; DHSP 31 Dec; BeSP 14 Jan.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 50 NFSP 27 Dec.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 24 Wilson NIAG 19 Dec; max 50 FNPS 24 Jan (PY); 2 GHSP 8 Feb.
Common Loon: BuSP 27 Dec; 3 FNPS 27 Dec; 4 DH 1 Jan; BuSP 1, 14 Jan; BuffH 6 Jan; Olcott NIAG 15 Feb, only report beyond early Jan.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 12 DH 13 Dec, 20 Jan; 6 BuffH 7 Jan; fewer around this winter.
Black Vulture: 7, 8, 6 Lewiston NIAG 27 Dec, 19 Jan, 18 Feb; regular winter location.
Turkey Vulture: 35, 21 Lewiston NIAG 14 Dec, 30 Jan; regular winter location; Pomfret CHAU 1 Jan (GV), rare for date.
Northern Harrier: max 10 JWWMA 17 Jan (BH).
Bald Eagle: 5 Franklinville CATT 12 Dec; 6 Allegheny Res CATT 13 Dec; 5 Dayton CATT 20 Dec; 5 Hume ALLE 27 Dec; max 7 Leon CATT 3 Jan; 6 Mayville CHAU 10 Jan; 5 Caneadea ALLE 17 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: five Dec reports; 2 Jamestown CHAU 5 Jan; 2 Darien GENE 24 Jan; reports from 19 locations in Jan; six reports Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Conewango CATT 2 Jan; 3 INWR 15 Jan; reports from 21 locations in Jan and 21 locations in Feb 1 each; 3 Somerset NIAG 28 Feb.
Barn Owl: Fredonia CHAU 12 Jan (GV ph!); same location as Nov reports.
Snowy Owl: eight Dec reports 1 each; 2 Ellery CHAU 1 Jan; 3 BuffH 2 Jan; Concord ERIE 12 Feb; Lyndonville NIAG 14 Feb; Hamburg ERIE 24 Feb.
Long-eared Owl: Tift P 18 Feb (AG), only report.
Short-eared Owl: 5 INWR 4 Dec; 2, 4 Shelby ORLE 4 Dec, 4 Feb; 14, 13, 9 Conewango CATT 7 Dec, 16 Jan, 6 Feb, highest Reg counts in years; 2 Dunkirk CHAU 11 Dec; 4, 5 Jamestown CHAU 22 Dec, 5 Jan; 2 NF 27 Dec; 4, 6, 5 Newstead ERIE 3, 27 Jan, 3 Feb; Granger ALLE 4 Feb; good showing.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 Pembroke GENE 28 Dec (GR); WTSP 1-30 Jan (CB, JKet, mob); only reports.
Red-headed Woodpecker: unusual with no reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: eight Dec reports, six Jan reports, five Feb reports 1 each; max 3 Alexander GENE 7 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: 16 Dec reports, 19 Jan reports, five Feb reports, 1 each.
Fish Crow: 1-3 Buffalo ERIE 4 Dec thru (SD); 3, 4, 1 FLC 3, 14 Jan, 5 Feb; becoming regular at these locations in winter.
Common Raven: increased number of reports.
Horned Lark: 50 Java WYOM 20 Dec; 65 Oakfield ORLE 29 Dec; 120 Alabama GENE 5 Jan; 185, 100 Bethany GENE 28 Jan, 2 Feb; max 275 Somerset NIAG 30 Jan.
Winter Wren: eight Dec reports 1-2 each; 2 FMCS 14 Jan; 2 BeSP 30 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.
Marsh Wren: North Harmony CHAU 11 Dec, 17 Jan (TL ph!); CSWMA 3 Jan (JM!); Ellicottville CATT 7 Jan (JKea ph!); good showing for winter.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: BeSP 4 Dec (DeS), late.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Dec reports 1 each; Hamburg ERIE 2 Jan (SB); NFSP 2, 31

Jan, 3 Feb (WD & BP, PY); Amherst ERIE 22 Feb.

Eastern Bluebird: max 22 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 4 Feb; well reported thru Reg.

Hermit Thrush: Machias CATT 20 Dec; Medina ORLE 28 Dec; Sturgeon Point ERIE 28 Jan; 2, 1 GHSP 30, 31 Jan (JJ, PM); Alfred ALLE 3 Feb (FB); Amherst ERIE 14 Feb (HD); good showing.

American Robin: 130 Medina ORLE 28 Dec; 115 LBSP 14 Jan; 100 BeSP 19 Jan; 300 Scio ALLE 7 Feb; max 550 Buffalo ERIE 15 Feb (JKet); 203 Orangeville WYOM 23 Feb.

Gray Catbird: 7 Dec reports, 4 Jan reports, six Feb reports 1 each; excellent showing.

Brown Thrasher: Cassadaga CHAU 9, 13 Feb (RB), rare winter report.

Bohemian Waxwing: no reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 360 Newfane NIAG 6 Jan; 125 Chautauqua CHAU 17 Jan; 150 Scio ALLE 7 Feb.

American Pipit: BufH 7 Dec (KR); only report.

Evening Grosbeak: 50 Mayville CHAU 3 Dec; 40, 65 Machias CATT 5 Dec, 12 Jan; 28, 10, 8 Andover ALLE 9 Dec, 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 33, 14 Alfred ALLE 14 Dec, 2 Feb; 18, 19 New Hudson ALLE 28 Dec, 24 Feb; 38 Gerry CHAU 31 Dec; 24 Rushford ALLE 8 Jan; 30 Gerry CHAU 19 Jan; 12 AISP 13 Feb; good showing; few away from Southern Tier.

Purple Finch: max 20 HBWMA 27 Dec; 12 Jamestown CHAU.

Common Redpoll: 200 Java WYOM 17 Dec; 300 Lewison NIAG 27 Dec; max 365, 451 Yates ORLE 29 Dec, 2 Jan; 260 Grove ALLE 29 Dec; 300 Holland ERIE 1 Jan; 250 Elba GENE 7 Jan; 225 Somerset NIAG 18 Feb; 250 Porter NIAG 22 Feb.

Hoary Redpoll: 2, 1 Yates ORLE 29, 31 Dec (AH, BC ph!); Carlton ORLE 6 Feb (GL); 2 Somerset NIAG 8 Feb (JS ph!); Porter NIAG 22 Feb (VR); good showing.

Red Crossbill: Buffalo ERIE 6 Dec (JPe); 3, 14 Caneadea ALLE 12 Dec, 28 Feb (KS); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: FMCSF 1 Jan (JKet); Holland ERIE 13 Jan (RS); only reports.

Pine Siskin: max 81, 61 East Aurora ERIE 2, 16 Dec; 24 Grand Island ERIE 5 Jan; 33 Newfane NIAG 10 Jan; 20, 23 Somerset NIAG 29, 31 Jan; 30 Attica WYOM 14 Feb.

American Goldfinch: max 127 Orangeville WYOM 26 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: 3 Wilson NIAG 19 Dec; 2 Olcott NIAG 19 Dec; 2 Dunkirk CHAU 2 Feb; max 110 Yates ORLE 9 Feb (WD); 2 Fredonia CHAU 12 Feb; 8 Porter NIAG 18 Feb; BufH 20 Feb (JKet); 3 Newstead ERIE 24 Feb; Clymer CHAU 26 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 100 Java WYOM 17 Dec; 125 Bethany GENE 27 Dec; 125 Pembroke GENE 28 Dec; 150, 200 Yates ORLE 31 Dec, 9 Feb; max 1060 Shelby ORLE 10 Jan; 500, 500 Wilson NIAG 30 Jan, 19 Feb; 500, 300 Somerset NIAG 31 Jan, 14 Feb; 204 Freedom CATT 10 Feb; 150 Attica WYOM 24 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: no reports.

Chipping Sparrow: four Dec reports; Wilson NIAG 17 Jan.

Field Sparrow: Krull CP 11 Dec; RWNP 13 Dec; Wethersfield WYOM 1-31 Jan; Portland CHAU 20 Jan, 1, 4 Feb; Sheridan CHAU 26 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 19 Feb; good showing.

Savannah Sparrow: Caneadea ALLE 12 Dec; 2, 1 Silver Creek CHAU 26 Dec, 15 Feb (JPO); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 4 Feb (GV); Somerset NIAG 4, 15 Feb (JS); Shelby ORLE 15 Feb (MN, CIR); good winter showing.

Fox Sparrow: five Dec reports 1 each; Tift NP 24 Feb (MM).

Swamp Sparrow: 3 Tift NP 27 Dec; Stockton CHAU 29 Dec; 2 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec; Jan reports from 4 locations 2-3 each; Feb reports from 5 locations 1 each.

White-crowned Sparrow: 3, 4, 5 Portland CHAU 7 Dec, 19 Jan, 21 Feb; max 17, 5, 10 Porter NIAG 26 Dec, 1 Jan, 19 Feb; 3 Bethany GENE 27 Dec; 6, 8 Carlton ORLE 27 Jan, 12 Feb.

Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco: Lockport NIAG 6 Feb (BM ph!), rare.

Eastern Meadowlark: North Harmony CHAU 5 Dec, 6 Jan; Farmersville CATT 20 Dec; Cambria NIAG 17 Feb (PS); only reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: six Dec reports 6-10 each; 6 Tonawanda ERIE 1 Jan; 8 Grand Island ERIE 1 Jan; 14, 35, 55 BuSP 1, 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 9 Machias CATT 10 Jan; arr late Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 79, 67 Grand Island ERIE 29 Dec, 20 Jan; 24 Oakfield ORLE 10 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 West Seneca ERIE 9 Dec; Machias CATT 10 Jan; Hume ALLE 22 Jan; only reports.

Common Grackle: 2 Pomfret CHAU 11 Dec; 2 BuSP 19 Dec – 6 Feb; Fredonia CHAU 25

Dec; Stockton CHAU 2 Jan; 2 Shelby ORLE
31 Jan; arr late Feb.

Tennessee Warbler: Tift NP 14 Dec (TD
ph!), record late.

Common Yellowthroat: North Harmony
CHAU 11 Dec (TL), late.

Blackburnian Warbler: NFSP 6 Dec (WD,
BP, DoS ph!), record late.

Pine Warbler: BuffH 1 Dec thru (SS), apparent
successful overwintering.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 14, 15, 12 BuSP 22
Dec, 11 Jan, 10 Feb (AH); 4 other Dec reports
1-4 each.



REGION 2—GENESEE

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580

rspahn@prodigy.net

The winter of 2020-21 was generally quiet, warm, and lacking in significant snowfall. It began with a quiet December, with only nuisance snows. Three days topped 50° F and there were only two cool periods, 6-8 and 15-19 December. Temperatures averaged 32.9°, 2.9° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.31", 0.50" below normal, with 10.5" of snowfall, 11.3" below normal and a maximum single snowfall of only 2.7". January continued as a typical, quiet, winter month, with most of the first three weeks warm, then winter weather setting in as a cold air mass arrived on the 17th and cold and lake effect snow followed to month's end. The high of 43° on 15 January was the lowest January high since 2003. Temperatures averaged 27.9°, 3.2° above normal. Precipitation totaled 1.97", 0.44" below normal, and snowfall totaled 21.9", 6.3" below normal. Light snow fell on 23 days and heavy on only two days. Lake Ontario remained generally ice-free other than some near-shore ice. February finally brought the deepest cold of the winter in the second and third weeks. The period 5-22 February completely below freezing was the longest such stretch since 2015, yet no records were set. Temperature averaged 23.9°, 2.5° below normal. There were four short cold intrusions toward month's end. Precipitation totaled 2.23", 0.56" above normal, with snowfall 21.6", 0.28" above normal, and snowfall totaled 29.9", 8.4" above normal. The heaviest snowfalls were on 16 and 19-20 February. A warmup began on the 24th and led to some rainfall at the end of the month.

Looking at the general picture, we again are confronted with several impacting factors, some of whose effects are not immediately obvious. It was generally warm through much of January, many new birders were still more active due to the NY Breeding Bird Atlas, and COVID restrictions were loosening. We also had many lingering species from the warm late fall and continuing winter finches. So birders were out and species counts were up. The eBird downloads for December and January were both nearly double the prior year's numbers at 24,222 and 35,061, respectively. With a cold February and only very little start to spring

movement by month's end, the download was 35,616, up about 50%, though observer numbers were nearly double at > 617. Species for the month and year-to-date ran well above their ten-year averages, for the former at: December – 147 (vs. 132.0); January – 138 (126.7), the highest since 2006 and near record high; and February – 134 (119.9), again near record high.

All of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were affected, some by varied weather issues, precipitation and/or wind. Still species counts were at or above average, even in the face of weather issues, waterfowl hunting season open, COVID restrictions, and no countdown gatherings. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC (19 December) tallied 74 species (76 with count-week species added), with new high counts for Bald Eagle (12), Blue Jay (317), and American Crow (2801). The Rochester CBC (20 December) counted 95 (108) species, with new highs for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3) and Hermit Thrush (14); tied highs for N. Saw-whet Owl (1) and Common Raven (4); a second time count-week Black-legged Kittiwake; and a new species—**Swainson's Thrush**—and a new count-week species—Pine Warbler. The Conesus-Hemlock (Little Lakes) CBC (26 December) logged 83 (83) species, with new highs for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Tufted Titmouse (147), White-crowned Sparrow (11), and Dark-eyed Junco (434). All in all a good CBC season.

Moving on to more specifics, as usual we start with waterfowl. Again this season, all really expected species were reported in each month, with numbers generally poor to modest and good peak counts typically only on one or a very few dates for any species. In December we had high counts of Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, and Redhead plus the usual too many Mute Swans. The other swans were low in December this year. Long-tailed Duck numbers were good along the Lake Ontario shore, but down from recent highs. Redhead and Ring-necked Duck were high at their usual Finger Lakes sites. Lingering merganser numbers were down, as were grebes, though Brad Carlson did note a good count of 118 Red-necked Grebes on 14 December off Hamlin Beach State Park, high historically but down for recent years. The January State Waterfowl Count (WFC) provides a good comparison point. As usual, winter arrived on the eve of the official count date (17 January), and snow, cold, and wind persisted through the week of alternate dates. Still, counters managed to find decent dates to cover their sections. Surprisingly, on the days with the best visibility out over Lake Ontario, there were almost no waterfowl to be seen way out. The WFC total of 54,094 individuals was the third highest since 1973, BUT $\frac{3}{4}$ of that total was Canada Goose and Redhead. 34 species was a good number for the count. Another interesting observation was on the effect of count timing details. At one site in Mendon Ponds Park, counts of Canada Goose varied from 8000 to 4000 to 0 with less than one hour changes in when observers counted on the same day. Finally, in February the waterfowl picture changed little other than with all of the lakes, bays and ponds mostly frozen, birds moved about to the patches of open water and very few new arrivals were noted. Detection of new arrivals was made difficult by the larger numbers overwintering. Rarer species included King Eider,

Harlequin Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye, with several of the last species appearing near the mouth of the Genesee River. Loons and grebes continued very scarce.

Catching loose ends between the waterfowl and shorebirds, we find a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** at a feeder near Sodus, Wayne County in December and a Sora seen and photographed in Mendon Ponds Park at the usual Virginia Rail site, with Virginia Rail not found there until February this season. American Coot numbers were poor through the season. Lingering Sandhill Crane numbers continue to increase, with 138 in the Region into December in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), good numbers into January, and two there in February. There were even more in nearby parts of Region 3. Up to nine individuals were seen well into winter in the area north of the village of Honeoye and west into the Town of Livonia, Livingston County.

Shorebirds were scarce, with only Killdeer reports from the Braddock Bay barrier island and in February also on fields west of Rochester, Purple Sandpiper at Point Breeze, Orleans County, and Wilson's Snipe at two locations in January.

Wandering through the gulls and terns and on to waders, we find gull numbers generally down a bit from recent winters, with a mostly open water at first then everything frozen through most of February, so very limited ice edges where the birds typically rest. But there is always something of interest. An immature Black-legged Kittiwake showed up in Irondequoit Bay 18-19 December and again at several locations in January; likely the same individual, rare here in winter. An adult Little Gull was found at Turning Point Park on the Genesee River about 2.1 miles inland from Lake Ontario on 18 December, then seen later that day headed out near the river mouth. Bonaparte's Gull lingered to late January followed by a single report in early February. The usual winter visitors—Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls—were seen through the season though in lower numbers than in many recent winters. A rare Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid was reported and photographed at a couple of locations in January, and a Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid was seen at Sodus Point by Tim Lenz on 13 February.

The Bird of the Season was an **Anhinga** found and photographed on Black Creek in Churchville Park, Monroe County on 13 December by Pam Inzinna and seen there by hordes of birders through the 18th. This was the first Regional record. Wrapping up, a Great Egret at Turning Point Park on 3 January was record late for our Region. Double-crested Cormorant number peaked at 34 at a single site in early January, then dropped to 1-2 through the rest of the season.

Among the raptors, all expected species were reported in all months, with numbers generally unremarkable. There were no Black Vulture or Northern Goshawks reports and only three Red-shouldered Hawks in December and January and two in February. Golden Eagles at the Honeoye Inlet WMA in December and near Fairport in February were rare finds. Bald Eagle was good all season and will be listed as lines in the eBird download each month. The Cooper's Hawk:Sharp-shinned Hawk ratio was typical of this Region in winter at from 5:1

in December to 3.5:1 in February. Another nice find was a *calurus* Red-tailed hawk found by David Tetlow near Spencerport on 14 December and seen 14-16 January by Andy Guthrie and Greg Lawrence. Rough-legged Hawk increased from few in December to about 17 locations in February. In the late February warming, Dominic Sherony did a brief hawk watch at Braddock Bay on 26 February and noted 10 raptors of five species passing. The official count will begin on 1 March, with David Brown returning as primary counter.

Moving to nocturnal raptors, it was interesting, personally, to start late on the Rochester CBC due to light rain mixed with snow and breezy and to have 1-3 Eastern Screech-Owls reply to my imitations at seven of eight stops between 6:00 and 7:10 AM. Snowy Owls were scarce, with about three, one, and five reported in the season's months, respectively. Short-eared Owl counts on the regular bi-weekly DEC surveys out of the Avon office remained very good through the season. There were both Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owls found in the Owl Woods roost area each month, with Jim Adams reporting a total of 10 N. Saw-whet Owls tallied in February, the second highest February total since he has been summarizing the counts. There was also a continuing presence of a Barred Owl there, later taken advantage of by photographers and others needing a refresher on their birding ethics. Another N. Saw-whet Owl was also added to the Rochester CBC from Frisbee Hill by Robert Buckert and Jules Wagner. There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports for the season. But Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a good indicator of lingering half hardies, with ~ 40 in December, 29 in January, and still ~ 28 in February, when typically they have dropped to < 5 and often to zero. The three regular falcons were reported in good numbers all season, increasing through the months.

On to the passerines, we can connect the topics with Northern Shrike at 8-9 individuals each month, fairly low. Beyond that, species variety was good through the months, with essentially all expected species reported, half hardies particularly good, and winter finches present all season. At the top of the list is a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** banded at the state record late date of 11 December at BBBO. Photographs, recordings, and a feather for DNA analysis (still not completed) were gathered. In December, we also had record late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and **Swainson's Thrush**. The half hardy list of about 26 species included many in very good numbers, some persisting into February with good counts. The list of such lingering passerines not yet mentioned, with interesting February numbers in parentheses includes: Winter Wren (14); Marsh Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Thrush (16); Gray Catbird (5); Brown Thrasher; Eastern Towhee; Chipping (3), Field, Vesper, Savannah (12), Fox (max 3), White-throated (many), and White-crowned (many) Sparrows; Rusty Blackbird, Orange-crowned Warbler; Common Yellowthroat; Pine Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler (2); and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. With the full complement of winter finches were Hoary Redpolls at nine different sites. In addition, in January very high number of records were reported for Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and both nuthatches. There were only a few reports of Bohemian Waxwing at one site in

early December. Specific note was also made of good numbers of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. With the deep cold in February, the only new passerine species added was American Pipit. Interestingly, a surprise that persisted through the season was very low numbers for all of the blackbird species, especially Common Grackle. Other rarities included: two very rare **White-crowned “Gambel’s” Sparrows** found and photographed on Gloria Drive in Penfield on 8 February by Eunice Thein and Candy Giles and seen subsequently by a few others; a **Summer Tanager** photographed at a feeder in the Town of Greece on 16 January by Kenneth Carl; and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Chris and Helen Haller’s feeder in Bushnell’s Basin, Monroe County on 6 February.

A very interesting season, with many reports and great variety. Of special note were the Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird, Anhinga, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson’s Thrush, White-crowned “Gambel’s” Sparrow, and Summer Tanager. All but the thrush were documented with photographs.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kate Ackerman, Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Richard Ashworth, Diane Baillargeon, Cynthia Barlow, Ted Barnett, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Douglas Bassett, Will Baxter-Bray, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Chris Bertola, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown (BB-HW official hawk watcher), Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Kenneth Carl, Brad Carlson, Douglas Carpenter (DC), Donna Carter, Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Tom Cerdillo, Gary Chapin, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Peter Debes, Deborah Dohne, Gordon Dutter, Sarah Dzielski, Diane Egan, Joe Fell, Debra Florio, Annabelle Foos, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janice George, Jessica George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, Bill Gillette, Fiona Gilroy, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, David Griffin, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Jeff Gutterman, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Peter Harrity, Greg Hartenstein, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, William Heckman, Diane Henderson, Christina Hoh, Andrew Holt, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Alec Humann, IBA Monitoring, Bella Inigo-Payne, Pam Inzinna, Nancy Jameson, Alyssa Johnson, Jill Johnson, Nathan Johnson, Jordan Juzdowski, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Jacob Kearney, Hayden Keene, Kenneth Kemphues, David Kennedy, Bernie Kester, Josh Ketry, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Coby Klein, Gary Klue, Elijah Krueger, Hans Kunze, Karl Kunze, Michael Laird, Tom Lathrop, Chris

Lajewski, Greg Lawrence (GL), Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Bill Maier, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Matthew Medler, Steve Melcher, Janet Miles, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Mark Miller, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Judy Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Frank Morlock, Brian Morse, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Carl Mrozek, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Matt Nusstein, Dave Odell, Tom & Susan O'Donnell, Michael Palermo, Gary Palmer, Pat Parslow, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Aidan Perkins, Erma Perkins, Michael Peter, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Ian Power, Bill Purcell, Nick Pusateri, Doug Rabjohns, Mary Racinowski, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Rochester Young Birders Club, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Bruce Robinson, Brian Rohrs, Ken Rosenberg, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Carole & Jim Rudman, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jackie Salisbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Lori Seely, Erin Shannon, Shirley Shaw, Ed Scheidlower, Melissa Sheldon, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Dee Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Amanda Smith-Hatch, Joshua Snodgrass, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Nancy Sprague, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, David Strong, June Summers, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, John Thomas, M. J. Thomas, Judith Thurber, Brian Tuttle, Nathan Ukens, Trisha Vanable, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Thomas Verhulst, Matt Voelker, Jules Wagner, Scott Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Susan Weiner, David Wheeler, Kinsley Whittum, Joe Wing Jim Wood, Martha Zettel.

Many other observers contributed eBird data, but all cannot be listed here.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 26 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, G; **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 19 Dec; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Ponds 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; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **RCBC** – Rochester CBC on 20 Dec; **Spt** –

Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 1000+ Oatka Creek Park MONR 30 Dec (JAd); 60 Nunda LIVI 26 Feb.
Greater White-fronted Goose: T Bloomfield ONTA 14 Dec (JCo); HB 1 Jan (DeH, DiB).
Cackling Goose: 33 rep, ~ 52 ind 14 loc Dec; max 12 H 27 Dec (MBa); 25 rep, ~ 31 ind 11 loc 1-21 Jan; 3 rep, ~ 5 ind 2-3 loc Feb (4 obs).
BARNACLE x CANADA GOOSE: H 27 Dec (MBa, *et al.*), ph.
Canada Goose: max 10000 Nations Rd IBA 10 Dec (HKe); total 27,532 WFC 16-23 Jan (sev obs), very high count.
Mute Swan: max 270 IB-S 23 Dec (DC) & 16 Jan (JBo); 200 BB 30 Jan; 200 BB 6 Feb, SPT 14 Feb, & IB-S 28 Feb.
Trumpeter Swan: max 20 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GDa).
Tundra Swan: max 130 BB 8 Jan (JiM).
Wood Duck: 2 Churchillville Park MONR 27 Dec PI); Canal Ponds Park, G 16 Jan (LBe); Pultneyville Harbor WAYN 23 Feb (JWi), only Feb report.
Northern Shoveler: 13 IB-S 20 Dec (CGi, SG, JV); max 17 private pond, T Penfield 17-21 Jan (C&JB, R&SSp); 14 IB Park – W 25 Jan (5 obs); 6 IB-W 2 Feb (NU); OB 8, 10 Feb (RRy); high numbers for winter, many other rep.
Gadwall: max 35 IB-S 28 Feb, decent count.
American Wigeon: 1-2 ind 3 loc 9-31 Jan, usually scarce in winter; arr BB 23 Feb; max 14 BB-WS 27 Feb (GL), low max.
Mallard: max 2650 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Dec (IBA monitoring); 2500 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (AJ); good counts.
American Black Duck: 262 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Dec (IBA Monitoring); 150 Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 20 Dec (JWi); max 1000 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (AJ); 256 CL 21 Jan (MW); very good counts for this species.
Northern Pintail: total ~ 14 ind 11 loc 1-25 Jan, scarce mid winter; 40 BB-WS 26 Feb (MG).
Green-winged Teal: 1-2 IBO 25-31 Jan (6 obs); SPT 26-31 Jan (MG, W&MR, JW); usually scarce mid winter; arr Turning Point Park MONR 12 Feb (WH).
Canvasback: max 36 BB 1 Feb (MBa), low max.
Redhead: max 10,000 CL 26 Dec (GL); 8573 CL 21 Jan (MW); 4300 off Sandbar P Webster

19 Jan (JBo, RSp); total 13,261 WFC 17-24 Jan (sev obs), very high.
Ring-necked Duck: max 700 Hemlock L P 8 Jan (AF); total 1031 WFC 17-24 Jan (sev obs).
Greater Scaup: max 1000 off Lake Rd, Webster I Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 150 Conesus Inlet WMA 22 Jan, low max.
King Eider: 1 f East Manitou Rd Overlook, G 1 Dec (JaG, KGri); 1 f BB-ES 21 Dec (BCar); 1 f off BB mouth 8-31 Jan (GL, mob); 1 F BB-WS 3 Feb (JKea); 1F SPT 5-13 Feb (DSh, MT, 11 oth obs, ph); likely some of these are the same individual.
Harlequin Duck: 1 f East Manitou Rd Overlook, G Dec (mob); 1 f East Manitou Rd to Round Pnd, G Jan; 1 f btwn piers near mouth of Genesee R 2-25 Feb (mob); could all be the same individual.
White-winged Scoter: max 375 SPT 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), good number, generally scarce by Feb.
Long-tailed Duck: max 1800 OB area 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), typical flock offshore on Lake Ontario, number a bit low.
Bufflehead: max 70 Conesus Inlet WMA 10 Dec, low max.
Common Goldeneye: max 275 Hemlock L 1 Dec; total 1528 WFC 16-24 Jan (sev obs).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1-2 imm m btwn piers near mouth of Genesee R 25 Feb thru (BHaa, mob, phs).
Hooded Merganser: max 113 Conesus Inlet WMA 13 Jan, low max.
Common Merganser: max 400 IBO 24 Feb (JiM), low max.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1845 Sodus Bluff area WAYN 21 Jan (DSh, MT).
Ruddy Duck: max 18 Silver L WYOM 11 Dec. last IBO 18 Jan (JO); 1-3 scattered sites thru season, scarce by late win.
Wild Turkey: max 52 OldDuck Inn WAYN 17 Jan (DO), good flock.
Horned Grebe: max 14 off Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 11 Dec (DSh), low max; 13 off Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 13 Jan (JWi); low monthly peaks, very scarce this winter.
Red-necked Grebe: max 118 HB 14 Dec (BCar), good count, *intro*; SPT 13 Feb (LCB, SB); IBO 24-27 Feb (mob); usually scarce in Feb.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD:

Sodus WAYN 16 Jan (CBarlow, phs), at feeder, *intro*.

Virginia Rail: MP – Quaker Pnd 22-24 Feb (4 obs), usual wintering site.

Sora: MP – Quaker Pnd 15-16 Dec (NU, 5+ oth obs, phs), rare in winter.

American Coot: max 115 IBO 25 Jan, low max.

Sandhill Crane: max 138 NMWMA (Savannah, Rts 31 & 89) 14 Jan (AJ); 9 flying W from Honeoye WMA 26 Dec (KKi); 14 NMWMA (Savannah) 2 Jan (JGr, AV); 9 Ashley Rd, T Livonia LIVI 7; 8 Jan (BHo; TB); 2 NMWMA (Deep Muck area) 26 Feb (CL).

Killdeer: BB-ES 27-30 Dec, 1-22 Jan (mob); arr N Hamlin RD fields and OB area 27 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: 1-2 BB-ES 1-12 Dec.

Wilson's Snipe: Conesus Inlet WMA 21 Dec (JGo); 2 Nations Rd IBA 29 Dec (MW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: IB – sev sites 18-19 Dec (BCar, JiM, mob); IB – sev sites 5; 13 Jan Jan (NU, mob; RRY); BB-ES 11 Jan (AP); possibly same ind.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 IB-S 6 Dec, low max; ED & OB 12 Feb (MBa, NU), only Feb reps.

Little Gull: 1ad Turning Point P, Rochester 18 Dec (BCar, DM, JiM, JJo); later Genesee R near mouth 18 Dec (RB, LBe).

Ring-billed Gull: max SPT 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), good count.

Herring Gull: 3000 BB-ES 22 Jan (CKI).

Iceland Gull: 3 ind 3 loc 5, 14, 19 Dec; 37 rep, ~ 21 ind 12 loc Jan; 25 rep, ~ 14 ind 9 loc Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7 rep, 5 ind 6 loc 5-31 Dec; 34 rep, ~ 24 ind 17 loc Jan; 13 rep, ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

HERRING x LESSER BLACK-BACKED

GULL: Buck Pnd, G 1 Jan (AGu, 5 oth obs, phs); BB-ES 9-15 Jan (5 obs, phs), same ind.

Glaucous Gull: 15 rep, ~ 10 ind 6 loc Dec; 32 rep, ~ 18 ind 12 loc Jan; 11 rep, ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: SPT 13 Feb (TL, ph), interesting hybrid.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 13 OB 4 Dec & HB 14 Dec, low numbers thru.

Common Loon: low numbers thru.

ANHINGA: 1 ad m Black Creek, Churchville P MONR 13-18 Dec (PI, mob many phs), 1st Reg record.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 38 RCBC 20 Dec, RCBC high count; 34 IB-Newport Marina 1 Jan (5 obs); 1-2 sev loc thru Feb.

Great Egret: TPP 3 Jan (JJo), Reg record late.

Turkey Vulture: max 65 Dalton RD, T Lima LIVI 17 Jan (AF).

Golden Eagle: Honeoye Inlet WMA 2 Dec (MW); 1 ad Fairport 21 Feb (MT); rare in winter.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 52 eBird lines many loc Jan; 55 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: 228 eBird lines many loc Jan; 190 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 12 LSLCBC 19 Dec, CBC record high; 126 eBird lines 59+ loc Dec; 306 eBirdlines many loc Jan; 239 lines eBird many loc Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CL – N 11 Dec (BCar); NMWMA (SCU) 14 Dec (LP); Nations Rd IBA 17 Dec (KS); Mathes area ORLE 18 Jan (GP); N Wolcott WAYN 29 Jan (W&MR); Doran Rd, T Lima 30 Jan (JGo); T Conesus LIVI 20 Feb (TBo); 1 ad Doran Rd, T Lima LIVI 23 Feb (DDa).

Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*): Rts 531 & 31, Spencerport MONR 14 December (DT, ph) & 14-16 Jan (AGu, GL), rare.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 26 N Hamlin Rd fields 1 Jan 9DF0.

Rough-legged Hawk: 13 rep, ~ 11 ind 10 loc Dec; 22 rep, ~ 18 ind 17 loc 1-25 Jan; 49 rep, ~ 33 ind 23 loc Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 62 RCBC 20 Dec, in spite of weather, *intro*.

Snowy Owl: ~ 3 ind 3 loc 16; 18; 26 Dec; SPT 26 Jan (W&MR, MG, JWi, phs); total 5 ind 4 loc 2-14 Feb.

Barred Owl: M (OW) (JAD rep0rt), relatively "tame" ind.

Long-eared Owl: M (OW) 11 Dec (BBRR counter); 2 M (OW) 2 Jan (*vide* JAD); T Ontario WAYN 4 Feb (DE, ph); 1 found dead private, T Mendon MONR 13 Feb (KA); M (OW) 20 Feb (BBRR counters).

Short-eared Owl: monthly max: 9 Buckland P, Rochester 25 Dec; 16 DEC Avon Survey 19 Jan; 4 Nations Rd IBA 13; 27 Feb. **Northern**

Saw-whet Owl: M (OW) 5, 7 Dec (BBRR counter, NU); Frisbee Hill, G 20 Dec (RB, JWa), RCBC; M (OW) 17 Jan (GL, MG); Lake Rd, T Ontario WAYN 14 Feb (AS-H); total 10

ind M (OW) Feb (BBRR counters), 2nd highest for a Feb, *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total 40 ind many loc Dec; 52 rep, ~ 29 ind 25+ loc Jan; 42 rep, 28 ind 26 loc Feb; big numbers for winter. 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.

American Kestrel: 22 rep, ~ 17 ind 17 loc 1-26 Dec; 46 rep, ~ 28 ind 27 loc Jan; 20 rep, 16 ind 14 loc Feb.

Merlin: 33 rep, ~ 29 ind 28 loc 5-29 Dec; 44 rep, 42+ ind 37+ loc Jan; 37 rep, 29 ind 29 loc Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: 22 rep, ~ 19 ind 17 loc Dec; 33 rep, 21+ ind 14 loc Jan; 23 rep, ~16 ind 16 loc Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: 1b BBBO 11 Dec (APa, *et al.*), **State record late**, photos, audio recordings, and feather for DNA analysis collected.

Northern Shrike: 9 rep, ~ 9 ind 9 loc Dec; 22 rep, ~ 9 ind 9 loc Jan; 12 rep, ~ 8 ind 6+ loc Feb.

American Crow: max 14,600 SE Rochester 20 Dec, winter roost, less organized this year; 1200 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan & 8000 there 24 Feb (GDa).

Fish Crow: total 21+ ind 6+ loc Feb, showing up at more different loc.

Common Raven: max 13 East Lake Rd, T Livonia LIVI 5 Dec (NK, SG, AMcM).

Horned Lark: max 200 N Hamlin Rd MONR 20 Jan, good count.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 46 Beatty Pt 15 Dec (GL), during RCBC; 1293 eBird lines Dec; 1788 eBird lines Jan; 1962 eBird lines Feb; illustrates many reports for common birds.

Tufted Titmouse: 1052 eBird lines Jan; 1309 eBird lines Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 382 eBird lines Dec; 620 eBird lines Jan; 694 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 816 eBird lines Dec; 1331 eBird lines Jan; 1354 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

Winter Wren: 41 rep, ~ 39 ind 27 loc Dec; 34 rep, 20 ind 14 loc Jan; 15 rep, 14 ind 10 loc Feb many winter.

Marsh Wren: 2 NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 14 Dec (NJ); IB-S 1 Jan (6 obs);

NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 4 Jan (LCB, SBe).

Carolina Wren: 517 eBird lines Feb.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last BB-WS 11, 12 Dec (GL, JiM, LMa, BCar, SG, DSh), Reg record late.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: HB-YC 7 Dec (JiM); BB-WS 11 Dec (GL, JiM, LMa); Bisig trail, G 8 Jan (GL, DT); NMWMA (AR) 8 Feb (JMcG, LSa); usually scarce in winter.

Eastern Bluebird: total 70 CHCBC 26 Dec, good count; 20 T Parma MONR 19 Dec (DF), many for loc & date.

Swainson's Thrush: N Greece Rd 20 Dec (PD), Reg record late, 1st on RCBC.

Hermit Thrush: 30 rep, ~ 32 ind 21 loc Dec; 35 rep, ~ 26 ind 20 loc Jan; 29 rep, ~ 16 ind 16 loc Feb (DWi); HB 29 Feb (GL, RB); usually scarce in win.

American Robin: max 3000 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GDa).

Gray Catbird: total 12 ind 12 loc 4-30 Dec; total ~ 11 ind 8 loc Jan; total 5 ind 5 loc Feb, usually scarce in winter.

Brown Thrasher: Webster P 23 Dec; 2 Jan (GL, JiM, JJu; KH), rare in winter.

Bohemian Waxwing: 2; 1 nr Huffer Rd, T Parma MONR 7; 10 Dec (JiM, LMa, AGu; BCar), only reps.

Cedar Waxwing: max 225 Huffer Rd, T Parma MONR 10 Dec.

American Pipit: arr SPT 5 Feb (MG, W&MR), early, only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: many reps, small numbers thru; max 25 T Nunda LIVI 12 Feb (DG).

Pine Grosbeak: total ~ 21 ind ~ 6 loc 10-23 Dec; max 18 Webster P 2 Jan (RRe, JaG); 1-4 Webster P 5-21 Feb.

Common Redpoll: monthly max: 300 T Richmond ONTA 26 Dec (JBo, NP); 280 Honeoye Falls 16 Jan (J&KGo); 223 Hance Rd, T Macedon WAYN 7 Feb (DSh); good numbers thru.

Hoary Redpoll: 1-3 BB-ES 11-28 Dec, 1-21 Jan (mob, phs); Stone Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 14 Dec (KMcGa, MG); 2 Butcher Rd, T Parma MNR 19 Dec (R&SSp, ph) & 1 there 1 Jan (LBer); Lake Bluff Rd, T N Rose WAYN 1 Jan (W&MR); T Williamson WAYN 8 Jan (MG); SPT 24 Jan (JWi); Ivison Rd GENE 1 Feb (GL); Lakeshore Marshes WMA WAYN 12 Feb (MG), many reps for this impending lump.

Red Crossbill: small flocks on a few dates scattered thru; max 29 Webster P 13 Feb (KGa, MG).

White-winged Crossbill: 2 MP 15 Dec; Webster P 23 Jan; Beechwood SP WAYN 23 Jan; T Williamson WAYN 27 Dec; 1-3 Webster P 13-28 Feb.
Pine Siskin: monthly max: 130 DEP 6 Dec; 45 Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 15 Jan; 10 Hogan Pt, G 13 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 35 Lakeshore Rd, T Kendall ORLE 19 Jan.
Snow Bunting: 400 N Hamlin Rd 9 Dec (JiM); max 950 Catchpole Rd WAYN 8 Jan (DDo).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: T Galen WAYN 14 Feb (PH), only rep. **American Tree Sparrow:** max 150 nr Lyons WAYN 13 Feb (LCB, SBe).
Chipping Sparrow: 1-3 T Livonia LIVI 1 Dec, 1 Jan, 6-20 Feb (TBo, ph); Cook & Redman Rds, H MONR 21 Dec (BCar); TCEA 4 Jan (MW); T Gates MONR 13 Feb (SW), usually scarce in winter.
Field Sparrow: 1-5 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 3-29 Dec, 2-18 Jan (7 obs); nr Warsaw WYOM 25 Dec (RSt); NMWMA (VDS) 25 Jan (DK); T Penfield 29 Jan (CMc), usually scarce in winter.
Vesper Sparrow: Lima-Livonia TLR LIVI 23, 26 Dec (TBo, GL), 25 Jan (ST), 7, 8 Feb (MG, KGa).
Savannah Sparrow: Nations Rd IBA 6 Dec; Jones Bridge & Perry Rd, T Leicester, LIVI 18 Dec; max 7 Nations Rd IBA 25 Jan (TBo); 19 rep, 12 ind 8 loc 1-14 Feb; usually scarce & local in winter.
Fox Sparrow: total 5 ind 5 loc 1-22 Dec; 1-2 ind 6 loc Jan; total 8 ind 6 loc 4-28 Feb; usually rare in winter.
Song Sparrow: max 22 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 3, 13 Dec (BCar, NK).
Swamp Sparrow: 20 rep, 11+ ind 7 loc Feb, usually few in win.
White-throated Sparrow: monthly max: 35 HB 31 Dec (JPop), 40 Quaker Rd, T Macedon WAYN 31 Jan (MG), & 30 MP 20 Feb (AGa); 431 eBird lines Jan; 687 eBird lines Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 28 Genesee Valley Greenway 29 Dec (NK); 105 eBird lines Jan; 188 eBird lines Feb.
WHITE-CROWNED “GAMBEL’S” SPARROW: 2 Gloria Dr. T Penfield MONR 8 Feb (ET, CGI, phs), very rare in Reg.
Dark-eyed Junco: monthly max: 65 Caledonia 26 Dec & 50 Caledonia 11 Jan (SBu, JMcC), & 60 MP 20 Feb (JGo); 1795 eBird lines Feb.
Eastern Meadowlark: no reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: monthly max: 176 Beatty Pt, G 20 Dec (GL), 100 NMWMA (CR) & N Wolcott WAYN 1 Jan, & 130 Ionia MONR 8 Feb, low numbers thru.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 140 MP 7 Jan (NK), low max.
Rusty Blackbird: Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 4 Dec (JiM); 3 LSP 11 Dec (BCar); T Springwater LIVI 26 Dec (JGre); MP 1 Jan (KM, SR); max 10 Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah WAYN 18 Jan (JSn), scarce in winter.
Common Grackle: max 50 T Victor ONTA 2 Feb, very low all season.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Burger P, G 4-10 Jan (DF, 6+ othobs), rare in winter.
Common Yellowthroat: Genesee Valley Greenway 4 Dec (NK); Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye ONTA 13, 26 Dec (NK, GL); total 3 ind 3 loc 2-21 Jan, usually scarce in winter.
Pine Warbler: G 10-27 Dec, 1, 7, 8, 22 Jan, 1 Feb (KGri), rare in win, 1st RCBC during count week.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 16 rep, 22 ind 13 loc Dec (17+ obs); max 5 High Acres Nature Area 14 Jan (NU); Walker Lake Ontario Rd, H 4 Feb (DF, ph); MP 23-27 Feb (SG, NU), sometimes scarce in winter.
SUMMER TANAGER: 1 f G 16 Jan (KC, ph), at feeder.
Northern Cardinal: 1045 eBird lines Dec; 1528 eBird lines Jan; 2145 line eBird Feb; many reports.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 ad m Bushnell’s Basin, T Pittsford MONR 6 Feb (ChA), at feeder.



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

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

Winter 2020-21 was one to remember. In Ithaca, December was warmer and snowier than normal. The average daily high temperature was 36.8° F, 1.0° higher than normal. The average low was 24.2°, 2.7° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.79", 1.39" more than normal. Total snowfall was 18.1", 5.5" more than normal. There were 15 days with at least 1" of snow cover.

January was warmer and drier than normal, While the average high temperature was 30.9°, 0.4° below normal, the average low temperature was 20.5°, 5.1° above normal. Total rainfall was 1.84", 0.24" less than normal. Total snowfall was 14.9", 2.7" less than normal. There was at least an inch of snow cover on 19 days.

February was colder and snowier than normal. The average high temperature was 30.8", 3.2" below normal. The average low was 13.1", 3.4" below normal. Total precipitation was 2.43", 0.45" above normal. Total snowfall was 36.5", 22.3" more than normal. Snow cover was at least 7" every day of the month.

Large numbers of Snow Geese persisted in the Region until the middle of January. A high count of Trumpeter Swans was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in early December. Tundra Swans maintained their numbers through the season. Scattered reports of individual Ross's Geese came from each of four lakes through late January. Small numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were present through 2 February.

Observers reported high counts for several duck species: American Wigeon in December, Lesser Scaup in January, White-winged Scoter in February, Black Scoter in January, and Common Merganser in January. Rarities were Blue-winged Teal in Union Springs, Tufted Duck on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and at West River Preserve, possibly the same bird at all three locations, and Surf Scoter on the Chemung River and on Cayuga Lake. Among other waterfowl was a high count of Common Loons in December on Cayuga Lake and a single report of Eared Grebe at the usual location for the species in Aurora.

Sandhill Cranes produced a high count in early December. Two lingered through the first three weeks of January to set a late record. Killdeer set a high count in Schuyler County in late February and one arrived early at Myers Point on 5 February. A high count of Dunlin was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on 1 December. The next day, in Seneca County, a Greater Yellowlegs set a late record. Bonaparte's Gull set a high count in mid-December at Ithaca. A Laughing Gull at Geneva at the end of December was a rare winter occurrence.

Two Black Vultures appeared at compost piles in Dryden in early January and continued foraging there through the end of the season. A high count of

Turkey Vultures accumulated there in mid-January. There were two reports of Golden Eagle—one in mid-December and one in mid-February. The only report of Gyrfalcon came from Ovid in mid-December.

A Red-headed Woodpecker made a brief appearance in Ithaca in December. High counts were reported for three woodpecker species: Northern Flicker in mid-December, Red-bellied Woodpecker in early January, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in late January.

High counts of various passerine species included Tufted Titmice in January, Winter Wrens and Marsh Wrens in December, Ruby-crowned Kinglets in January and February, Hermit Thrushes in December, American Robins in February, and European Starlings in January. Observers reported all the winter finch species including high counts of Common and Hoary Redpolls, and of Red Crossbills.

Lingering passerine species were Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Most surprising was a Blue-winged Warbler in the Town of Tyre in early December.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cindy Ahern, Scott Ahern, Janet Akin, Tom Auer, Mitchell Barry, Shawn Billerman, Wes Blauvelt, Joseph Brin, Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Ethan Chaffee, Larry Chen, Barbara Clise, Jeremy Collison, Alex Cook, Doug Daniels, Jillian Ditner, Joe Doherty, Adriaan Dokter, Sarah Dzielski, Eduardo Inigo Elias, Jody Enck, Jennifer Fais, Adam Farid, Ash Ferlito, Kyle Gage, Daniel Graham, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Derek Green, Michael Gullo, Ginny Halterman, Cullen Hanks, Helen Heizyk, Stephanie Herrick, Paul Herwood, Tristan Herwood, Wesley Hochachka, Jack Hutchison, Jasdev Imani, Carolyn Jacobs, Matthew Janson, Nick Kachala, Hayden Keene, John Kelland, M Kelly, Dave Kennedy, Connie Kitner, Renee Kittleman, Jordan Klein, J Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Ethan Lai, Tim Lenz, Benjamin Mack, Brian Marino, Patrick Marr, Catharine Marsh, Patricia Martin, Martha Mayo, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Kevin McMahan, Phil McNeil, Matthew D. Medler, Eliot Miller, Phil Mills, Ann Mitchell, Ann McMican, Liisa Mobley, Will Morris, Kevin Murphy, Michele Neligan, Bill Ostrander, Shealyn Otto, Elizabeth Padgett, Michelle Perry, Mike Powers, Shannon Reynolds, Laetitia Rodet, Paul Rodewald, Ken Rosenberg, Livia Santana, Jerry Skinner, Joshua Snodgrass, Dave Spier, Constance Stein, Reuben Stoltzfus, Lee Sutcliffe, Michael Tetlow, Mayte Torres, Brian Tuttle, Nathan Ukens, Merjin van den Bosch, Kai Victor, Vicens Vila, Jules Wagner, Brad Walker, Davey Walters, Julia Wang, Brandon Woo, Aaron Yappert, Alex Young, Linda Ziemba.

ABBREVIATIONS

CygL – Cayuga L; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **Ith** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TMil** – T Milo, YATE; **TPot** – T Potter, YATE; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Ross's Goose: SLSP 5 Dec; Canandaigua L ONTA 19-23 Dec; Owasco L Inlet CAYU 3 Jan; Lake Road Bluff CAYU 14 Jan; City Pier ONTA 28 Jan.

Snow X Ross's Goose: TLan 16 Jan (Jay McGowan, ph; Livia Santana).

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 8 SLSP 31 Jan-1 Feb.

Cackling Goose: max 16 MNWR 10 Dec.

Barnacle X Cackling Goose: MNWR 3 Dec (Nick Kachala, ph!).

Trumpeter Swan: max 43 MNWR 2 Dec (Ann McMican!), high.

Blue-winged Teal: Factory Street Pd CAYU 14 Feb (Michele Neligan!).

American Wigeon: max 400 CygL SP 14 Dec (Tim Lenz, Matt Medler), high.

TUFTED DUCK (R3): Seneca L 24 Jan-23 Feb (mob, ph); CygL SENE 21 Feb (Ken Rosenberg!); W River Preserve YATE 28 Feb (Brad Carlson, ph).

Lesser Scaup: max 3200 Perry Pt YATE 27 Jan (Jay McGowan), high.

Surf Scoter: 2 StP 3 Dec; Elmira Dam CHEM 4-5 Dec; StP 8-11 Dec (Adriaan Dokter, Jay McGowan), late.

White-winged Scoter: max 64 CygL SENE 4 Feb (Jay McGowan), high.

Black Scoter: 5-6 Seneca L SENE 1-4 Dec; 13 CygL TOMP 26 Dec; 16 Ladoga P TOMP 23 Jan (Tristan Herwood!), high.

Common Merganser: max 2400 CygL SENE 30 Jan (Jay McGowan), high.

Eared Grebe: Aurora Bay Boathouse CAYU 10 Dec (Jay McGowan!).

Rock Pigeon: max 500 Reynolds State Game Farm 3 Jan (Ethan Chaffee), high.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sandhill Crane: max 275 MNWR 5 Dec (Alex Cook, Sarah Dzielski, Merjin van den Bosch); TTyr 13 Dec (Kevin Murphy), high; last 2 TTyr 21 Jan (Dave Kennedy, ph), late.

Killdeer: TFay 29 Dec; arr Myers Pt TOMP 5 Feb (Jay McGowan), early; max 7 Queen

Catharine Marsh SCHU 24 Feb (Joshua Snodgrass), high.

Dunlin: max 8 MNWR 1 Dec (Joseph Brin, Renee Kittleman), high; last MNWR 4 Dec.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Seybolt Road Bait Pds SENE 2 Dec (Dave Kennedy, ph), late.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 19 Lighthouse Pt Natural Area TOMP 14 Dec (Adrian Dokter), high; last 5 Warren W Clute Memorial P SCHU.

Laughing Gull: Geneva Lakefront P 31 Dec-1 Jan (mob, ph).

Herring X Lesser Black-backed Gull: SLSP 5 Dec (Tim Lenz, ph); SRCP 28 Feb (Jay McGowan, ph, Livia Santana)

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 34 StP 5 Dec (Stephanie Herrick), high.

Black Vulture: 2 SRCP 2 Jan thru.

Turkey Vulture: max 75 SRCP 17-20 Jan (Shawn Billerman, Brad Walker), high.

Golden Eagle: Ithaca Res 15 Dec (J Gary Kohlenberg); TLan 20 Feb (mob, ph).

Snowy Owl: last TFay 14 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: TMil 18 Jan (Reuben Stoltzfus).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Ithaca 20 Dec (John Kelland, Julia Wang!).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 12 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 1 Jan (Wesley Hochachka), high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 T Ovid SENE 24 Jan (Reuben Stoltzfus), high.

Northern Flicker: 13 MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba), high.

GYRFALCON: T Ovid SENE 12 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: TPot 27 Jan (Helen Heizyk, ph).

Tufted Titmouse: max 32 Cayuga Heights 1 Jan (Paul Herwood, Tristan Herwood), high.

Winter Wren: 8 MNWR 14 Dec MNWR (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba), high.

PHOTO GALLERY
WINTER 2020-21



Ferruginous Hawk, Black Dirt Region, *Orange*, 25 Jan 2021, © Linda Scrima.



Snow Buntings, Tiana Beach, *Suffolk*, 14 Feb 2021, © Mike Cooper.



Hoary Redpoll, Willsboro Research Farm, *Essex*, 18 Dec 2020, © Derek Rogers.



Top: three King Eiders, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 20 Dec 2020, © Ernst Mutchnick;
middle: male Common Eider of the subspecies *borealis*, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 16 Dec 2020, © S. S. Mitra;
bottom: male Common Eider of the subspecies *borealis*, possibly the same bird as above, Jones Beach West End, *Nassau*, 30 Dec 2020, © S.S. Mitra.



Eastern Phoebe with fish, East Hampton, *Suffolk*, 4 Mar 2021, © Alfred Ross. See note on p. 125.



Spotted Towhee, Baldwin Harbor Park, *Nassau*, 13 Feb 2021, © David LaMagna. See note on p. 126.

Marsh Wren: 2 MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 Black Diamond Trail TOMP 1 Jan (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba); 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 12 Jan (Jay McGowan); max 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 19 Feb (Jay McGowan), high.
Hermit Thrush: max 3 Sampson SP 13 Dec (Jay McGowan), high.
American Robin: max 930 Ecology House TOMP 12 Feb (Tristan Herwood), high.
Gray Catbird: max 2 MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba), high.
Brown Thrasher: Ithaca 4 Dec; Willow Creek TOMP 21 Dec; Freeville 3-27 Feb; TMil 6 Feb; T Covert SENE 20 Feb.
European Starling: max 5000 T Owasco CAYU 3 Jan (Derek Green); 5000 T Dryden TOMP 17 Jan (Shawn Billerman, Brad Walker), high.
Pine Grosbeak: Summerhill State Forest CAYU 13 Jan (Jay McGowan).
House Finch: max 94 TFay 25 Dec.
Common Redpoll: max 1800 T Newfield TOMP 15 Feb (Jay McGowan), high.
Hoary Redpoll: max 4 T Dryden TOMP 20-23 Jan (Jay McGowan, ph; Brad Walker), high.
Red Crossbill: max 28 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 31 Jan (Eliot Miller!), high.
White-winged Crossbill: max 30 Bear Swamp State Forest TOMP 19 Dec.
Pine Siskin: max 40 TIth 31 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: max 20 TFay 30 Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 1000 T Torrey YATE 24 Jan.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Beulahland STEU 12-29 Dec; T Jerusalem YATE 14 Jan thru ; T Torrey YATE 27 Jan; TPot 18 Feb thru.
Chipping Sparrow: Sapsucker Woods 6 Dec; Hog Hole TOMP 11 Dec; TMil; 1-2 T Groton TOMP 12-14 Feb; T Canisteo STEU 13 Feb; T Manchester ONTA 17-21 Feb.
Vesper Sparrow: T Romulus SENE 4 Feb (Jay McGowan, ph).
Fox Sparrow: TLan 2 Dec (Brian Marino); TIth 6 Dec (Stephanie Herrick!); TIth 8 Dec (Jane Graves).
Blue-winged Warbler: TTyr 7 Dec (Donna Carter, ph),
Common Yellowthroat: MNWR 4 Dec (Robert Buckert, Jules Wagner); MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba); SLSP 28 Dec (Jay McGowan, ph; Livia Santana).
Palm Warbler: TPot 12 Feb (Reuben Stoltzfus!).
Pine Warbler: T Veteran CHEM 18 Dec (Hayden Keene, ph),
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 7 Hanley Biological Field Preserve SENE 9 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 for December showed a high of 53° F on 25 December and a low of 3° on 19 December. The average temperature for the month was 29.1° which was 1.8° above normal. December precipitation was 5.88" which was 2.91" above normal. The high temperature for the month of January was 44° on 2 January and the low was 11° on 29 January. The average temperature for January was 24.4° which was 2.3° above normal. January precipitation was 1.87" which was 0.63" below normal. For the month of February the high temperature was 48° on 24 February and a low of 2° on 8

February. The average temperature was 23.3° which was 0.7° below normal. The precipitation for February was 2.61" which was 0.23" above normal.

Waterfowl, once again, were well represented this period with the highlights being the two Tundra Swans seen by many observers on Boland Pond and the female Black Scoter found by David Nicosia at Lisle Park. Canvasback was reported in both Broome and Chenango Counties and Red-breasted Merganser was found in both Broome and Cortland Counties.

The Cortland Gravel Pits had a trifecta of good gull species with Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Greater Black-backed Gull all being reported there. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was also reported from Dorchester Park in Broome County on 11 December.

The most interesting reports of raptors included a long staying adult Northern Goshawk in Oxford in Chenango County as well as a Snowy Owl in Guilford which was reported from 20 January through 20 February. This was a very good year for Rough-legged Hawk with many reports throughout the Region. The big disappointment was the lack of any reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Region.

There were reports of Northern Shrike in Broome, Otsego and Chenango Counties. With the exception of Pine Grosbeak all the winter finches were reported in the Region including both crossbill species and multiple reports of Hoary Redpoll. Other interesting finds for the period was the only report of Lapland Longspur in Delancey (Delaware County), a Pine Warbler in Apalachin (Tioga County) and a Wilson's Warbler in Lisle (Broome County).

The bird of the period for the Region goes to the Long-eared Owl reported by Adam Troyer at the Birdsong Meadows Farm. Any report of this increasingly rare species is a welcome sight.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jonathan Adamski, Ryan Andrew, Wes Blauvelt, Susan Boyce, Ted Buhl, Rick Bunting, Jodi Brodsky, Sean Camillieri, Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington, Barb Craig, Renee Davis, Sam Deane, Michael DeWispelaere, Rudolph DiFiglia, David Diaz, Carol Edwards, Robert Fairlie, Michael Foor-Pessin, Bryan Franz, Noah Garwood, Derek Green, Peter Harrity, James Hoteling, Mark Husted, Rebecca Husted, Jacob Jensen, Sarah Jones, M. Jordan, Christina Knezevich, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Mitch Light, Alexandra Machrone, David McCart, Jay McGowan, Molly McManus, Deborah Miller, Catherine Murphy, Jeffrey Murray, Julie Nauseef, Matt Nichols, David Nicosia, Andrew Oliver, Otto Onasch, Ruth Pedersen, Aidan Perkins, Jerry Platz, Jeffrey Poulin, Michael Reid, Mickey Ryan, Thomas Salo, Joe Sedlacek, Anna Shaheen, Suzanne Summers, Charlie Todd, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Lance Verderame, Lisa Viviano, Matthew Voelker, Fred von Mechow, Dan Watkins, Jonathan Weeks, Kelly White, Glenn Wilson, Sam Wilson, Tim Wing, Jennifer Wolfe, Colleen Wolpert, Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BMF** – Birdsong Meadows Farm, TIOG; **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; **DeIR** – 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; **SStBS** – Spring Street Bird Sanctuary, BROO; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO, **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 175 Oxford, CHEN 17 Dec (MD); 150 Johnson City, BROO 17 Dec (JH); 100 Endicott, BROO (JP); 150 TC Airport, BROO 20 DEC (MJ); 150 SStBS 23 Dec (GW).

Canada Goose: 1000 Kilroy Rd. CHEN 7 Dec (MD); 1100 Spring Ctr. OTSE 9 Dec (TB); 600 Mead Pd 16 Dec (ATri).

Tundra Swan: 2 BPd 25 Feb - 26 Feb (mob).

Wood Duck: Plymouth Res CHEN 1 Dec (CM); LHNC 3 Dec (PH); Chenango Ri CHEN 16 Dec (MD); 2 BPd 27 Feb-28 Feb (MRy,JH); 2 Harold Moore Pk, BROO 27 Feb (DN); 2 Downsville DELW 28 Feb (LVe).

Gadwall: ULCP 3 Dec (ATri); Cooperstown OTSE 17 Jan (DD); Marathon CORT 24 Jan (MY); max site 7 CRes 30 Jan (LVe); max site 5 Nichols Boat Launch, TIOG 25 Feb (DG); max site 3 BPd 3 Feb-26 Feb (WK, DN, mob).

American Wigeon: Sherburne, CHEN 19 Dec (MD); max site 3 CRes 10 Jan (LVe); Nichols Boat Launch 25 Feb (DM); site max 28 BPd 27 Feb (SR).

Mallard: 95 Deposit 10 Jan (JB); site max 170 HCP 10 Feb (JW) 74 Chenango Ri 17 Feb (MD); 152 Deposit, 21 Feb (LVe); site max 118 BPd 26 Feb (AS, BF, LVi).

American Black Duck: site max 36 Chenango Ri 17 Feb (MD); site max 94 CRes 21 Feb (LVe); site max 46 BPd 27 Feb (DN).

Northern Pintail: 2 Portlanville OTES 8 Jan (SS); 2 Cooperstown 17 Jan (DD); max site 4 BPd 27 Jan-28 Feb (mob); 2 CRes 30 Jan (LVe); 3 Nichols Boat Launch 25 Feb (DM); 2 Endwell BROO 26 Feb (JA, AM).

Green-winged Teal: 2 StPd 3 Dec (JJ); site max 3 LHNC 10 Dec-22 Feb (mob); Chenango Ri 21 Jan (MD); 3 Cooperstown 17 Jan (DD); HCP 21 Feb (DN); site max 2 BPd 26 Feb (DN).

Canvasback: Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 2 Dec (JC); max site 6 HCP 10 Feb-27 Feb (mob); 2 Chugnut River Walk BROO 26 Feb-28 Feb (MJ, DN, GW).

Redhead: 3 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC); 8 Allen Lk , OTSE 9 Dec (TB); max site 16 HCP 13 Feb (MD); 4 Chenango Ri 22 Feb (MD); 3 Honeymoon Cottage 25 Feb (DG).

Ring-necked Duck: max site 450 Allen Lk 7 Dec (TB); max site 60 CRes 24 Jan (LVe); site max 11 HCP 13 Feb (SD).

Greater Scaup: 5 Cortland Gravel Pits 16 Dec (JM, JC); 4 Binghamton 15 Feb (WK); 3 HCP 24 Feb (DW).

Lesser Scaup: 2 Cortland Gravels Pits 6 Dec (JC); 11 Allen Lk 7 Dec (TB); max site 4 HCP 24 Feb (DW).

Black Scoter: 1 ULCP 2 Dec - 7 Dec (DN).
Long-tailed Duck: 2 Cortland Gravel Pits 8 Dec (JM).
Bufflehead: max site 26 ULCP 2 Dec (DN); max site 37 Lake Front Pk, OTSE 17 Jan (DD).
Common Goldeneye: 80 Allen Lk 3 Dec (TB); 16 CRes 2 Jan (LVe); 22 Downsville 21 Feb (LVe).
Hooded Merganser: 90 Canadarago Lk, OTSE 9 Dec (TB); site max 24 ChenL 14 Dec (MD); site max 190 OtsL 15 Dec (TB); site max 75 Otsingo Pk, BROO 31 Jan (WK); site max 58 HCP 12 Feb (SB); site max 55 River Walk, BROO 15 Feb (MRy).
Common Merganser: max site 135 ULCP 8 Dec (DN); max site 100 Chenango Lk 14 Dec (MD); max site 300 OtsL 16 Dec (TB); 516 Canadarago Lk 8 Jan (TS).
Red-breasted Merganser: max site 6 ULCP 11 Dec (ATri); Chenango Lk, CHEN 26 Dec (MD); HCP 10 Jan (DN).
Ruddy Duck: site max 32 ULCP 2 Dec (DN).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Lk Delaware, DELA 1 Dec (RP); MHL 3 Dec-28 Feb (WB,SCo); ULCP 5 Dec (DN); Handen, DELA 31 Dec (JWo); Binghamton 10 Jan (DN); ULCP 7 Feb (KW).
Ruffed Grouse: Scattered reports in all counties throughout Region.
Wild Turkey: Many reports in all counties throughout Region.
Pied-billed Grebe: Millbrook Town Pk, CHEN 1 Dec (MD); ULCP 4 Dec-12 Dec (JWe, ATri); River Walk 10 Jan (DN,MJ); Lake Front Pk 4 Feb (SS); River Walk 28 Feb (DN).
Horned Grebe: ULCP 2 Dec-11 Dec (DN,JWe,ATri,GW,VL).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: max site 36 Lake Front Pk 1 Jan (SS).
Killdeer: 2 Vestal, BROO 25 Feb (GW); 2 HCP 27 Feb (DN); Deposit 27 Feb (LVe); Hamden,DELA 28 Feb (MN); Mercereau Pk, BROO 28 Feb (LVi).
Ring-billed Gull: scattered reports in all counties in Region. max Region 700 Broome Cty Lanfill, BROO 5 Dec (DN).
Herring Gull: scattered reports in all counties in Region. max Region 70 ULCP 8 Dec (DN).
Iceland Gull: 2 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cortland Gravel Pits 2 Dec (JC); Dorchester Pk, BROO 11 Dec (DW).

Great Black-backed Gull: site max 7 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC); LHNC 23 Dec (PH); Cortland, CORT 6 Feb (JC).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: ULCP 2 Dec (DN).
Common Loon: 6 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC); OtsL 15 Dec (TB); Mead Pd 16 Dec-19 Dec (MD,ATri); PRes 1 Jan (LVe); Lake Front Pk 1 Jan - 14 Jan (SS,DD).
Double-crested Cormorant: Cortland Gravel Pits 5 Dec (JC); 2 ULCP 7 Dec (DN,ATri,GW).
Great Blue Heron: scattered reports of 1-2 birds in all counties in Region
Turkey Vulture: 3 Marathon 5 Feb (JN); Candor, TIOG 14 Feb (RD); many late Feb records in Binghamton with a max count of 14 Giles Street 24 Feb (RH,MH).
Golden Eagle: max site 6 FMHW 15 Dec (reported by site); PRes 8 Jan (SCa,MRi); 2 Sherburne, 2 Roscoe, DELA 9 Jan (AP); CHEN 18 Jan (MD); Bovina Ctr. 28 Jan (RP); Roscoe 14 Feb (LV).
Northern Harrier: 4 Plymouth, CHEN 12 Dec (MD); 2 Sherburne 16 Dec (MD); other scattered reports of single birds in CHEN, BROO and OTSE counties.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: scattered reports of single birds in all counties in Region with the exception of OTSE.
Cooper's Hawk: Reports by many observers in all counties in Region.
Northern Goshawk: Oxford, CHEN 5 Jan-27 Feb (MD); Johnson City, BROO 29 Jan (JH).
Bald Eagle: 54 CRes 8 Jan (SCa,MRi); reported in all counties in Region.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Johnson City 30 Jan (DN); Conklin, BROO 21 Feb (JWe); Kirkwood, BROO 24 Feb (JWe); Springfield Ctr, OTSE 26 Feb (ML).
Red-tailed Hawk: many reports throughout Region.
Rough-legged Hawk: A good year for this species. Many reports throughout entire Region.
Eastern Screech-Owl: Sherburne 27 Dec - 25 Feb (FvM); Downsville 3 Jan (LVe,RDa); Norwich, CHEN 26 Jan (AO); Fly Creek, OTSE 10 Feb (DD), Newark Valley, TIOG 11 Feb (DG); Delhi, BROO 14 Feb (OO); 2 Candor, TIOG 14 Feb (RDi).
Great Horned Owl: many reports throughout Region.
Snowy Owl: Guilford, CHEN 20 Jan - 20 Feb (mob); Sherburne 5 Feb (MD).

Barred Owl: many reports throughout Region.

Long-eared Owl: BMF 7 Dec (ATro).

Belted Kingfisher: many reports throughout Region.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StPd 4 Dec (JJ); Scott 15 Dec - 26 Feb (PH); Plymouth Res 29 Jan (CM); Fly Creek 6 Feb (DMi).

American Kestrel: many reports throughout Region.

Merlin: Kinney Golf Swamp, CORT 23 Dec (JJ); Bainbridge, CHEN 14 Jan (MD); 2 Owego, TIOG 21 Jan (DM); Greene, CHEN 27 Jan (JC); Norwick 30 Jan (TW,MV); Grippen Pk, BROO 5 Feb (MI).

Peregrine Falcon: Region max 3 downtown Binghamton 21 Feb (AS).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Owego 24 Jan (CW).

Northern Shrike: Fly Creek 5 Dec (DD); Cortland 18 Jan (JC); Lisle, BROO 19 Jan (JH,GW); Hoag, CHEN 4 Feb (MD).

Fish Crow: max Region 15 Vestal 20 Feb (GW); 14 Chugnut River Walk 21 Feb (DN,LVi).

Common Raven: 16 Downsville 16 Jan (LVe); many other reports throughout Region.

Horned Lark: 24 Springfield Ctr. 15 Jan (TB); 60 Sherburne 27 Feb (FvM); 50 Harold Moore Pk 27 Feb (DN); 64 Delancy, DELA 28 Feb (LVe).

Winter Wren: CVSP 29 Dec-4 Feb (Wk, DN, GW, KW); Bpd 1 Jan (DN); Newaark Valley 12 Feb (CK); S. Owego, TIOG 12 Feb (RF); Castle Creek, BROO 13 Feb (SJ); Binghamton 27 Feb (SD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Bpd 19 Feb (DN).

Eastern Bluebird: many reports throughout Region.

Hermit Thrush: BUNP 6 Dec-18 Jan (DN, JA, RA, MM, AM); Cooperstown, TIOG 19 Dec (JM); Spencer, TIOG 19 Jan (WB); BMF 11 Feb-20 Feb (ATro); Endicott, BROO 13 Feb-14 Feb (DN, AS, JH); Johnson City 13 Feb (LVi).

Northern Mockingbird: scattered reports in BROO, TIOG, CORT and OTSE counties.

Cedar Waxwing: 22 Scott 30 Jan (PH); 30 Welsh Road Grassland, TIOG 13 Feb (DG); 32 Downsville 27 Feb (LVe); many other reports throughout the Region.

Evening Grosbeak: 28 Plymouth Res 9 Dec (MD); 100 Otselic, CHEN 3 Jan (MFP); site max 40 Otsego 3 Feb (SS). Many other reports throughout Region.

Purple Finch: small numbers scattered throughout Region.

Common Redpoll: many reports throughout Region.

Hoary Redpoll: Lisle 7 Dec (GW); Homer, CORT 31 Dec (JC); Scott, CORT 1 Jan (PH); Owego 17 Feb-thru (ATro); Owego 18 & 20 Feb (DG, DM).

Red Crossbill: max Region 26 LHNC (DG); this species was well represented this period with many reports throughout the Region.

White-winged Crossbill: max site 5 Greene, CHEN 15 Dec (ATri); 6 BMF 23 Dec (ATro); 3 Binghamton 1 Jan (DN); 2 Endicott 10 Feb (NG); 5 Endicott 13 Feb (DN).

Pine Siskin: max site 80 Bainbridge 10 Dec (RB); max site 75 Binghamton 22 Jan (DN); many other reports throughout Region.

Lapland Longspur: Delancey 28 Feb (LVe).

Snow Bunting: 63 Camillus, OTSE 6 Jan (SS); 60 MHL 8 Jan (SCo); 150 Greene 22 Jan (GW); 150 Homer 31 Jan (JJ); 80 Sherburne 5 Feb (MD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Lake Delaware 18 Dec (RP).

Chipping Sparrow: Scott 20 Dec-2 Feb (PH); North Norwich, CHEN 30 Jan (CE).

Savannah Sparrow: Maine, BROO 19 Dec (JS); Binghamton 26 Dec-30 Dec (DN).

Fox Sparrow: Fly Creek 18 Dec (DD); South Owego, TIOG 23 Dec (BC); Otsego 11 Jan-27 Jan (SS).

Swamp Sparrow: Owego 14 Dec (DG); max site 2 BUNP 15 Dec - 10 Jan

(DN, RA, CT, SW); 2 Sherburne 16 Dec (MD).

White-crowned Sparrow: Homer 2 Dec (JJ); Lockheed Martin Pd, TIOG 2 Jan (DG); 2 Cortland 8 Jan & 20 Feb (PH).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Sherburne 19 Dec FvM); 5 Sherburne 3 Feb (MD).

Pine Warbler: Apalachin, TIOG 13 Feb-15 Feb (JP).

Wilson's Warbler: Lisle 16 Dec (DW).



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

David Wheeler

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

Winter 2020-2021 started with a dry, warmer-than-usual December. The average daily maximum and minimum temperatures were 3.6 ° F and 5.3° above normal and 13.2" of snow was 19.5" below expected. Rainfall was average. January's average high of 32.3° was close to normal but overnight minimums were 6.5° warmer. Snowfall was 11.3", much shy of 34" historically. A whopping 28 of 31 days were cloudy and none characterized as 'sunny.' February temperatures returned to normal as did snowfall, with spring approaching and eight days partly cloudy or better.

It was a great season for rare geese with Ross's, Greater White-fronted, and **Pink-footed** the highlights, the latter bird found at Woodman Pond by Gary Chapin on 15 December and only a third Regional record. Loyal readers will recall an individual in Onondaga County during the previous reporting period. Same bird? Lingering dabblers were about typical with Erin Brisson describing two early-returning Blue-winged Teal at Onondaga Lake on 14 February. Given the lack of other early returnees one might wonder how close the birds had wintered. As many as three King Eider graced Oswego Harbor intermittently through the winter and a Barrow's Goldeneye at Phoenix was a one-day wonder for Gregg Dashnau on 23 December.

The first-year female **Rufous Hummingbird** first seen in the previous period (but brought to wider attention in early December) continued through 23 January and was seen by many birders. Barbara Gordon provided frequent updates on the bird and along with another homeowner assured a supply of fresh nectar. A supplement made for birds in captivity was tried at one feeder but rejected and subsequently found to be unsuitable for any conditions other than room temperature. Sugar water at the typical concentrations is recommended. The bird's continued presence set a new record-late date for the species in NY, as most in the past have not attempted to overwinter much past December. Hopefully this precious bird realized it was time to get out and will be eagerly awaited should it return this fall.

The south end of Onondaga Lake was a hotspot throughout the winter season, and a Great Egret lingered there through 22 December. Only a handful of prior December records exist for upstate. Matt Brown found a very late Greater Yellowlegs at Selkirk Shores State Park on 5 December and added 5 Killdeer there on 11 December, a good number for the date. Two Killdeer in Rome on 13 January were likely very late migrants. Gull numbers were typical on the area's waterways with no rarities found and no large number of white-wingers. Black Vulture was reported from Jamesville on 28 December and 28 February and also the Little Falls birds were noted in early February. A few Snowy Owls lingered in typical

places, while at the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk a Long-eared Owl was photographed by Samantha Reiter. For the first time in a while, no Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported this winter but were hopefully just missed during visits to typical locations.

The author wondered in the previous version of this report if a big invasion of Bohemian Waxwings would happen. Alas it did not, with only four reports and small numbers. Only a few **Pine Grosbeak** continued past the early push and only seen intermittently at a couple locations. Meanwhile, the big irruption year for Evening Grosbeaks continued and impressive flocks settled in the usual hotspots for the species in the Region's forested uplands. Lucky residents enjoyed their company all winter long. Ditto for Common Redpoll which was widespread at feeders and weedy fields in the best numbers in years. Diligent searching for **Hoary Redpoll** produced reports at 12 locations, most of them well-documented with photos showing the relevant field marks. Purple Finch was represented at expected locations but not widespread. Red Crossbills continued in the southern highlands while at Fair Haven Gregg Dashnau observed 11 White-winged Crossbills passing on the lakeshore. The Morgan Hill spot enjoyed only one report of the species and no substantial invasion occurred. Pine Siskins continued in typical locations but were generally more localized and at fewer places than Redpolls. Last but not least, American Goldfinch was reported in good numbers throughout the Region but its presence every winter makes it difficult to evaluate year-to-year. To what degree, if any, is it irruptive?

White-crowned Sparrow likely wintered 3-4 different places including several at Onondaga Lake Park and 5-6 in the Baldwinsville area. More Savannah Sparrow than usual were found, including a bird in Richland found by Matt Brown on 3 and 5 January. Mike Gullo saw three in Port Byron on 9 February while a bird at Sterling Nature Center on 27 February may refer to an early migrant. In Syracuse Deborah Dohne followed up on a **Baltimore Oriole** report and found a bright and beautiful male bird on 4 February. Since the species does not winter here observers may assume it is drab, but that is not the case! A few Rusty Blackbirds were noted and the weedy 'Marshy Spits' area of Onondaga Lake held a few Red-winged. At the same location a Common Yellowthroat was heard calling by Jay McGowan on 7 January. Twelve reports of Yellow-rumped Warbler were received, including five in the Baldwinsville area. Terry White reported two very-rare-in-winter **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in Cassville on 17 December following 10" of new snow. Wendy Vautrin hosted another at her feeders near Pulaski from 25 December to 15 January. Many of the lingering birds noted in this report were last seen in mid-January.

It is noted with sadness the passing of Gene Huggins in September. Gene was one of the most friendly and warm individuals the Region has ever known, and a longtime observer of birds and nature. He was also a former Regional Editor of this publication from the 1970s when it was indeed the only widespread record of bird sightings in the state. His contributions and annual Purple Sandpiper field trip to Fair Haven will be missed.

This season a total of 146 species and five hybrids were reported, which is 11 above the recent average for the Region and 15 more than last winter. Highlights of the season included: **Ross's Goose**, Greater White-fronted Goose, **Pink-footed Goose**, Blue-winged Teal, King Eider, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Hoary Redpoll**, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

Winter 2020-21 produced 71,727 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 658 people. With so many submitting to eBird, the editor would like to take this opportunity to share how the 'Contributor' names below are compiled. Names appear in the list if at least one of the following four criteria are met: (1) a person's initials are used in the 'Synopsis' section; (2) a person submits a written list of sightings to the editor; (3) a person is the only one contributing from a particular part of the Region that would otherwise have no reports; or (4) a person submits above a 'participation threshold' number of eBird records which varies by season and was set at 250 for this report. Most listed below qualified under (4) but rest assured that all submissions contribute to this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

Maryanne Adams (MA), Janet Allen, Andrew & Joann Andersen, Dennis Anderson, Faith Baker, Barbara Barker, Chelsea Beck (CBe), Sue Boettger, Carla Bregman, Joseph Brin, Erin Brisson (EB), John Bronk, Matthew Brown (MB), Ken Burdick (KB), Andrea Burke, Martin Cain, Bruce Carpenter, Tim Carroll (TC), Donna Carter (DC), Jerry Case, Roger Chambers, Gary Chapin (GC), Richard Cohen, Karl Curtis, Jim D'Angelo (JD), Gregg Dashnau (GD), Liz Del Conte (LD), Deborah Dohne (DD), Sarah Dzielski, Kaye Fenlon (KF), Kayla Fisk, Elizabeth Frascatore (EF), Barbara Gordon (BGo), Bill Gruenbaum, Mike Gullo (MG), Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Eric Hellquist (EH), Tyler Hodges (TH), Harmon Hoff, John Killiany (JK), Renee Kittleman, Alison Kocek, Gary Lee, Fred Leff (FL), Beverly Levreault, Cheryl Lloyd (CL), Jason Luscier, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan (JMc), Tom McKay, Gary Meyers, John Moore, Kevin Murphy, David Nash, Joanne Oliver, Kevin Pace, Scott Peterson, Matt Perry, John Pumilio, Bill Purcell (BP), Samantha Reiter (SR), Carter Riley, Santos Rodriguez, Linda Salter, Steve Schwab (SS), Mickey Scilingo (MS), Ida Sheppard, Carol Sizemore, Kent Skaggs, Barbara Stith, Faith Thompson, Judy Thurber, Sasha Torman, Wendy Vautrin (WV), Matt Voelker, Nick Voris (NV), Drew Weber (DWe), Tom Weickert, David Wheeler (DWh), Terry White (TWWh), Robert Whitman, Robert G. Williams III, Tim Wing, Matt Young, Matthew Zera.

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 River, Indian Point, 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 County 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; **SkAn** – 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: est 1000 SSSP 6 Dec; max 2000 SkanL 18 Jan, wintering;
Ross's Goose: Caz 6 Dec (JK); BLNC 11 Dec (LD); only reps.
Greater White-fronted Goose: SkanL 17 Jan (DWe); LaFayette 18 Jan (mob); OtiscoL 18 Jan (KB).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: WP 15-16 Dec (GC, mob, ph), 1st county rec and 3rd for Reg.
Brant: 80 Port Ontario 8 Dec (MB), only rep.
Cackling Goose: max 4 WP 16 Dec (JMc).
Canada Goose: max est 7500 WP 16 Dec.
Snow x Canada Goose (hybrid): Phx 14 Jan (GD).
Mute Swan: 17 OnonL 4 Dec; max 74 FH 25 Jan, all large nums this loc.
Trumpeter Swan: small nums wintering var locs; max 15 FH 13 Jan.
Tundra Swan: max 445 Ppt 10 Dec.

Wood Duck: small nums 4 locs; max 4 Fult 20 Dec.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 OnonL 14 Feb, record early (EB).
Northern Shoveler: last OLC 27 Dec; max 5 FH 3 Dec; arr 2 OnonL 17 Feb.
Gadwall: max 24 FH 13 Jan & OnonL 27 Feb.
American Wigeon: 1-2 at 3 locs thru; arr 8 FH 26 Feb; max 12 FH 28 Feb.
Mallard: max 900 WP 16 Dec.
American Black Duck: max 180 WP 16 Dec.
Mallard x Am. Black Duck (hybrid): 1-2 at 3 locs.
Northern Pintail: 1-2 var locs thru; max 16 WP 16 Dec.
Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid): OswH 4 Jan thru (GD, mob).
Green-winged Teal: last WP 17 Dec; FH 12 Jan; arr Onei 18 Feb; max 4 WP 16 Dec.

Canvasback: arr WP 15 Dec; max 10 OnonL 17 Jan; small nums typ locs thru.
Redhead: max est 2000 OnonL Jan-Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 600 WP 5 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max est 450 OswH 27 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: max est 750 OneiL 8 Dec.
King Eider: SSSP 8 Dec; OswH 11-15 Dec; 2-3 OswH 18 Feb thru.
Surf Scoter: max 3 OswH 28 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: max 350 OswH 21 Feb.
Black Scoter: max 10 SP 3 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: max 800 OswH 21 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 74 SkanL 3 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: max 500 OnonL 13 Jan.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: Phx 23 Dec (GD).
Hooded Merganser: max 109 SH 5 Dec.
Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid): Bville 29 Jan.
Common Merganser: max est 2200 OnonL 16 Jan.
Red-breasted Merganser: max est 750 FH 11 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: last Bville 3 Jan; arr OnonL 28 Feb; max WP 7 Dec & BLNC 1 Dec.
Ring-necked Pheasant: small nums thru.
Ruffed Grouse: small nums thru.
Wild Turkey: small flocks thru; max 70 DB 9 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: small nums thru, mostly OnonL; max 4 OnonL 10 Feb.
Horned Grebe: max 7 DH 11 Dec.
Red-necked Grebe: singles OnonL, OswH thru 16 Jan; max 2 OswH 25 Dec & DH 5 Dec.
Rock Pigeon: flocks widespread.
Mourning Dove: small flocks widespread; max 100 DB 9 Dec – 2 Jan.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Bville, cont thru 23 Jan (BGo), rec late stay.
American Coot: small nums OnonL & SkanL thru; max 22 SkanL 17 Jan.
Sandhill Crane: 7 SSSP 12 Dec (MB), only rep.
Killdeer: last & max 5 SSSP 11 Dec; 2 Rome 13 Jan, wintering?; arr Syr 23 Feb.
Greater Yellowlegs: SSSP 5 Dec, very late (MB).
Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 2 Dec (BP), only rep.
Bonaparte's Gull: last OswH 23 Dec; max OneiL 5 Dec.
Ring-billed Gull: max est 3000 OnonL 3 Dec.
Herring Gull: max est 1200 OswH 23 Jan.

Iceland Gull: max 5 IH 1 Feb; small nums typ locs thru.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 DB 4 Jan; 1-2 typ locs thru.
Glaucous Gull: max 2 SVB 1 Jan; 1-2 typ locs thru.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 132 IH 30 Jan.
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid): DH 13 Dec (BP).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 5 OswH 21 Dec; a few singles thru.
Common Loon: max 35 FH 3 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 78 Bville 31 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: max 4 OnonL 19 Dec.
Great Egret: OnonL 3-22 Dec, very rare in winter.
Black Vulture: Jville 28 Dec & 28 Feb; 1-max 3 Little Falls 26 Jan – 14 Feb; only reps.
Turkey Vulture: max 59 Jville 1 Dec, birds winter at loc thru.
Golden Eagle: SH 6 Dec, only rep.
Northern Harrier: singles typ locs thru.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles thru but most poorly documented.
Cooper's Hawk: good num singles thru.
Northern Goshawk: Oriskany 3 Dec, well described (CB, NV); Pulaski 14, 19 Jan (MB, ph).
Bald Eagle: max 63 OnonL 18 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 7 Marcellus 27 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: 1-3 var locs thru.
Eastern Screech-Owl: singles small nums mostly southern part of Reg.
Great Horned Owl: small nums thru.
Snowy Owl: few other than singles SH thru.
Barred Owl: singles thru.
Long-eared Owl: TR 12 Jan (GD); OLC 20 Feb (SR, ph); only reps.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 Oneida 1 Jan; OnonL 1 Jan; 1-3 LoopR 8-24 Feb; only reps.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Sithe 7 Jan; Cold Brook 24 Feb; Dolge 26 Feb; only reps.
Belted Kingfisher: 1-2 typ locs thru.
Red-headed Woodpecker: no reps but known nesters likely wintering.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Salisbury 1 Dec.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1-2 winter var locs.
Downy Woodpecker: typ nums/locs.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 9 Fville

Northern Flicker: max 9 Bville 23 Feb; singles/small nums var locs thru.
Pileated Woodpecker: small nums thru.
American Kestrel: few singles var locs, thru.
Merlin: few singles var locs thru, now fairly common in winter.
Peregrine Falcon: singles/pairs typ locs thru, winterers & local nesters.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: singles var locs thru but fewer than usual.
Blue Jay: max 30 Georgetown 13 Feb; typ nums winter.
American Crow: max 3000 IH 1 Feb.
Fish Crow: max 8 IH 13 Dec; small groups typ locs
Common Raven: 24 SH 22 Dec, good num; small groups var locs thru.
Horned Lark: max 126 Memphis 8 Feb.
Black-capped Chickadee: typ nums.
Tufted Titmouse: typ nums.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 Pulaski 13 Feb.
White-breasted Nuthatch: typ nums.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Mexico 20 Dec.
Winter Wren: 9 reps var locs mid-Dec to mid-Feb.
Carolina Wren: typ nums locs but a pair winters DH, *intro*.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 BLNC 26 Dec; small nums var locs thru 18 Jan.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: scattered reps 6 locs thru.
Eastern Bluebird: max 18 Pulaski 5 Jan.
Hermit Thrush: singles 12 locs var dates; max 2 GLSP & Utica 19 Dec.
American Robin: max est 8000 GLSP 19 Dec, roost flight count, unusual circumstances; typ nums otherwise.
Gray Catbird: Clinton 19 Dec & 6 Jan; Utica 21 Dec; Salisbury 23 Dec, 2 Feb; & DeWitt 19 Dec; New Hartford 15 Jan; max 2 Jville 19 Jan; only reps.
Brown Thrasher: Fruit Valley 19 Feb (EH, ph).
Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ loc, mostly around Syr; max 3 Cazenovia 26 Feb, unusual loc.
European Starling: max est 4000 HI 13 Dec.
Bohemian Waxwing: Sithe 4 Jan; 5 Salisbury 22 Feb; max 13 Salisbury 5 Dec; only reps.
Cedar Waxwing: max 120 SSSP 1 Jan.
House Sparrow: typ nums thru.

Evening Grosbeak: max 85 DeRuyter 29 Dec; irruption year, good nums typ locs thru.
Pine Grosbeak: small nums thru & max 10 Salisbury 6 Jan (KT); 2 Forestport 6 Dec; 2 Erieville 4 Dec, 17 Jan; only reps & fewer than hoped for.
House Finch: max 45 OLP 11 Dec.
Purple Finch: max approx 10 Sheds, var dates; scattered reps typ locs but disappointing at feeders otherwise.
Common Redpoll: est 400 Bville 17 Feb; max est 920 Port Byron 25 Feb; irruption year, exc nums, widespread, many reps.
Hoary Redpoll: scattered reports 12 locs thru; max 6 Port Byron 15 Feb; *intro*.
Red Crossbill: 4 Clinton 16 Feb, unusual loc; flocks continue SH, esp Morgan Hill SF, thru; max 30 Morgan Hill 5 Dec.
White-winged Crossbill: GLSP 3 Dec; Morgan Hill SF 10 Jan; max 11 FH 11 Dec, unusual loc (GD), *intro*; only reps.
Pine Siskin: max 60 Cazenovia 29 Dec; flocks >20 var typ locs incl SH, Dolge; smaller groups widespread thru but generally more scarce than redpolls; *intro*.
American Goldfinch: max 60 Dolge 1 Feb; good nums widespread.
Lapland Longspur: Waterville 18 Dec; Pulaski 16 Jan; max 2 Mexico 20 Jan & Memphis 8 Feb; Oswh 4 Feb; only reps.
Snow Bunting: max 300 Fenner 13 Feb & T Richland 6 Jan; good flocks rep var locs thru.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Granby 20 Dec, 12, 13 Feb (TC); only rep.
American Tree Sparrow: max 100 OLP 31 Jan, 19 Feb; good nums widespread thru.
Chipping Sparrow: max 10 Manheim Center 18 Feb; reported feeding with other sparrows at grain spill (EF), rec num for date (?); Syr 1, 5 Dec (DWe, DD); only reps.
Field Sparrow: OLP 19 Dec (FL); TR 1 Jan (GD); only reps.
Savannah Sparrow: T Richland 3, 5 Jan (MB); max 3 Port Byron 9 Feb (MG); Port Byron 15 Feb (DC); arr SNC 27 Feb (JD); only reps.
Fox Sparrow: last Dolge 9-10 Dec (BLH); Marcellus 16 Dec (KF); arr or winterer Cato 18 Feb (MA); only reps.
Song Sparrow: max 14 OLP 19 Feb; best nums OLP & TR.
Swamp Sparrow: 1-2 TR var dates; 4 other locs var dates.

White-throated Sparrow: max 45 GLSP 11 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 5 Cross Lake 5 Dec thru (CL); 5 Bville 30 Jan; max 6 Bville 31 Jan; several other locs, most birds presumed to winter, more than usual.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 86 Sterling 30 Dec.
Baltimore Oriole: Syr 4 Feb (DD), very rare in winter.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 35 OLP 4 Dec & Fville 30 Dec; small num var locs thru.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 37 Chittenango 22 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: Chittenango 2-23 Feb (TH); max 3 Elbridge 19 Feb (SS)
Common Grackle: max 8 Syr 20 Dec; a few winter.
Common Yellowthroat: OLP 7 Jan (JMc); only rep.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 RRP 28 Dec; max 5 RRP 21 Feb & HI 14 Dec; Elbridge, Bville, SP; only reps but more than usual.
Northern Cardinal: typ nums.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Cassville 17 Dec (TWh); Pulaski 25 Dec – 15 Jan (WV, MB, ph), very rare in winter.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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

Temperatures was generally mild, with the mean monthly temperature in Watertown exceeding long-term averages by 3.8° F in December and 2.8° in January. Relatively cold weather finally arrived late in the winter, and February's mean temperature of 18.5° was 2.6° below normal. There were no sustained periods of very cold temperatures this winter, so that large sections of the St. Lawrence River and near-shore Lake Ontario remained open for most or all of the season. Precipitation varied from normal by just 0.05" in December, but was below normal by 1.7" in January and 0.6" in February. Much of the Region saw relatively little snow, and for the first half of the winter what snow fell typically melted quickly, with a consistent snow pack not developing until the second half of the winter in many places.

It was a somewhat strange year for waterfowl. Thanks to mild weather to start the season and the lack of significant ice cover on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, duck numbers were fairly high overall. However, ducks were scarce at some locations where they are reliably found most winters, perhaps because the extensive open water didn't force them to concentrate. At the start of the winter good numbers of Gadwall, Northern Pintail, and Ring-necked Duck were still present at Wilson Hill WMA and other locations on the St. Lawrence River downstream where ice would normally have pushed them out by the end of November. Notable ducks included an adult female **King Eider** Nick Leone found at Pillar Point on 2 December and one each first-year male and female King Eider I found with White-winged Scoters at Henderson Harbor on 15 January. The five **Barrow's Goldeneye** seen at four locations was a relatively good tally, many found by Nick Leone, who also found a Common Goldeneye X Hooded

Merganser hybrid at Grass Point State Park on 15 December, and an apparent Common Goldeneye X Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid at Tibbett's Point on 11 February. Nick also saw a female Red-crested Pochard at Millen's Bay on 30 December, likely the same suspected escapee seen by many at Wilson Hill WMA in the fall.

Among the season's rarities was an adult **Great Cormorant** I found on a breakwater in the St. Lawrence River near the Massena-Cornwall bridge on 15 February and likely saw a week earlier when poor viewing conditions prevented certain identification. The cormorant remained until at least 27 February, allowing a number of local birders to see it. Most other waterbirds were present in typical numbers, but gulls were quite disappointing. A few pulses of gulls moved through the St. Lawrence River but seemed to consist almost entirely of Herring Gulls, and white-winged gulls were unusually scarce. For the first winter in many years no Glaucous Gulls were reported at Hawkins Point, which is often the best site for this species in New York State, and this species would have been missed entirely if not for a single report from Lake Ontario. Among the surprises of the season was a Spotted Sandpiper Vanessa Rojas and Steve Stevens saw at Whalen Park on 11 December. Other than the occasional Killdeer shorebirds of any species are rarely seen in Region 6 during winter.

Large numbers of raptors on and near Point Peninsula drew birders from around the state. On 10 January Mike Tetlow and Dominic Sherony carefully counted hawks on Point Peninsula, coming up with 23 Northern Harriers, 21 Red-tailed Hawks, and 55 Rough-legged Hawks. A few concentrations of Rough-legged Hawks were noted elsewhere, most notably more than two dozen on Fort Drum, but generally buteos were more widely scattered away from northwestern Jefferson County. Formerly extremely rare in winter, Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be nearly annual at this season now, with adults in Philadelphia and Lowville in February. American Kestrel also appears to be increasing in winter, and the more than 30 reported this winter seemed exceptionally high; also fairly unusual was the large number that appeared to survive the winter. A **Gyr Falcon**, apparently a juvenile dark morph individual, was observed perched on a large building adjacent to the airfield at Fort Drum on 11 January, but in typical fashion quickly flew off and was not seen again.

It was a good year for Short-eared Owls, with the largest roost on Point Peninsula, where as many as 25 were reported on a NYSDEC survey in late December but more modest numbers were generally seen. At least six Short-eared Owls were on Fort Drum and two more at Perch River, with rumors of additional roosts that lacked details. It was not a particularly big year for Snowy Owls, with a few scattered around the Region and again the largest number at Point Peninsula, where at least five were observed by many.

This winter's songbird list is unusually long for Region 6. Several birds not normally reported in winter were seen at feeders or in yards, most notably a Baltimore Oriole at a Rodman feeder until 13 December, and a Pine Warbler that showed up at a feeder in Denmark on 31 January. Until ten years ago Winter

Wren, Marsh Wren, and Hermit Thrush were considered great Regional rarities in winter, but are now found almost every year, including multiple individuals this winter. The five Winter Wrens and eight Hermit Thrushes reported is high by recent standards, although most of the Winter Wrens were seen in December and not again. Other unusual half-hardies include Gray Catbirds at Westcott Beach State Park and in Massena, a Brown Thrasher in Canton until mid-December, probably the same Eastern Towhee at two locations in Canton about one mile and six days apart in late December and early January, a Chipping Sparrow at a Canton feeder until 10 January, and a White-crowned Sparrow at a Carthage feeder to 26 January.

It was also a good year for irruptive finches. Evening Grosbeak and Common Redpoll were widespread in good numbers. Numerous Hoary Redpoll reports were submitted, of which 19 included photos or convincing details, quite a bit more than during most recent irruptions. Pine Grosbeaks were fairly common in northern St. Lawrence County but were scarce and widely scattered elsewhere. Very few adult male Pine Grosbeaks were observed. Red Crossbills were seen in eight locations and White-winged Crossbill in one location, all in lowland areas outside the Adirondacks. Presumably crossbills nested in the Adirondack portion of St. Lawrence County, but if so they were not detected by any birders.

For the season I received reports of 127 species, the highest winter tally in at least 15 years and ten species higher than the most recent ten-year average. The great diversity of half-hardies, lingering fall migrants, and irruptive finches all contributed to the high species total. The Great Cormorant was probably the bird of the season, but the raptor show on Point Peninsula was certainly the Region's biggest draw. The biggest disappointment was the scarcity of white-winged gulls, especially at Hawkins Point.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tom Auer, Beth Barnes, Steven & Linda Clark Benedict, Brian Berg, Jeff Biby, Jeff Bolsinger, Robin Booth, Darlene Bourdeau, Joseph Brin, Richard Brouse, Janet Burrows, Carol Cady, Benjamin Dixon, Deborah Dohne, Sarah Dzielski, Deborah Earl, Michelle Eichner, Harold Ellingsen, Doug & Ann Emlin, Will Gallup, Amber Gauthier, Michael Greenwald, Hollis Harrington, Rebecca Heagle, Susan Hochgraf, Janelle Hoh, Tamara Jolly, Nick Kachala, Steve Kelling, Patty LaLonde, Tom Langen, Monica LeClerc, Jorge de Leon Cardoza, Rachel Lewis, Nancy Loomis, Brian McAllister, Irene Mazzocchi, Brian Miller, Daniel Miller, Steven Mix, Bill Monroe, Anne Moomey, David Pechey, Bill Purcell, Asa Reed, Emily Reichert, Mandi Roggie, Vanessa Rojas, John Rupp, Ernest Scribner, Dominic Sherony, Eric John Smith, Gerry Smith, Raymond Spahn, Lynn Sprott, Janet Stein, Steve Stevens, Ila Terry, Michael Tetlow, Elizabeth Truskowski, Julian Warren, Drew Weber, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Sue Willson.

ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **FdIP** – Fort de la Presentation; **FL** – Fisher’s Landing, T Alexandria; **GPSP** – Grass Pt SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard’s Landing Trail T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SH** – Sackett’s Harbor; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 8 reports southbound flocks thru 4 Jan; southbound max 500 2 Jan; singles FdIP 22 Jan & HP 9 Feb only other reports.

Canada Goose: max 4450 SLR T Waddington 24 Dec.

Mute Swan: max 106 FL 13 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 22 ULLWMA 24 Jan; increasing.

Tundra Swan: max 565 PtPen 3 Dec.

Wood Duck: 2 T Watertown 1 Dec (BM) only report.

Gadwall: max 52 RLT 31 Dec;

American Wigeon: max 3 HP 31 Jan; 1-2 each from 3 other locations.

Mallard: max 935 HP 31 Jan.

American Black Duck: max 98 WP 13 Dec.

Northern Pintail: max 36 WP 1 Jan where last 9 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: max 5 WHWMA 13 Dec.

Canvasback: max 6 HH 29 Dec.

Redhead: max 1400 Millens Bay 30 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: 400 WHWMA to 5 Dec; 35 StPt 15 Jan only other report of more than one; last WHWMA 31 Jan.

Greater Scaup: max 230 StPt 15 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 13 PtPen 16 Jan.

King Eider: ad f PilPt 2 Dec (NL); 1st year m & f HH 15 Jan (JB).

Surf Scoter: f T Watertown 5 Jan (BM) only report.

White-winged Scoter: max 64 HH 15 Jan.

Black Scoter: max 4 CCSP 4 Dec & MP 8 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: max 620 MP 15 Jan.

Bufflehead: max 49 PtPen 1 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: max 1500-2000 FL early Jan.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser: GPSP 15 Dec (NL).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m & f S tip PtPen 1 Dec (NL); ad m isthmus PtPen 1-10 Jan (NL, BM); f FL 10 Jan & 18 Feb (JB, NL); ad m FL 14 Jan (RB).

Barrow’s Goldeneye X Common Goldeneye: ad m TP 11 Feb (NL).

Hooded Merganser: max 65 RMSP 27 Dec.

Common Merganser: max 2600 RLT 27 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 405 HH 19 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: 4 Dexter Marsh 12 Dec only report.

Spruce Grouse: MM 6 & 14 Dec only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: BRB late Dec (NL).

Horned Grebe: max 3 PtPen 5 Dec; last WBSP 19 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: MP 15 Jan (JB) only report.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: 12 WHWMA to 5 Dec (high for winter) only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: WP 11 Dec (VR, SS) very rare in winter.

Bonaparte’s Gull: 5 T Lyme 5 Dec only report.

Ring-billed Gull: last PtPen 23 Jan until arr BI 28 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 1000 BI 17 Jan; numbers low most of winter.

Iceland Gull: SLR T Massena 27 Dec & MoP 3 Jan only reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad SLR T Massena 17 Jan only report.

Glaucous Gull: SBSP 3 Dec only report; none HP & RMSP where usually present.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 228 HP 27 Dec.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 BRB 5 & 19 Dec only reports.

Common Loon: max 5 BI 19 Dec; PtPen 14 Feb only report after 18 Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 11 HH 6 Dec; 5 KPSP 10 Jan high for Jan; last 3 SLR Massena 18 Jan.

GREAT CORMORANT (R6): ad SLR T Massena 15-27 Feb (JB, mob) rare R6.

Great Blue Heron: reports from 13 locations throughout season.

Northern Harrier: max 23 PtPen 10 Jan where unusually common thru; few reports away from NW JEFF.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 18 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 40 reports.

Northern Goshawk: T Louisville 24 Dec & FD 7 Jan only reports.

Bald Eagle: common & widespread even by recent standards; max 17 T Martinsburg 11 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: T Philadelphia 8 Feb (JB) & T Lowville 16 Feb (MR); rare but increasing in winter.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 21 PtPen 10 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 55 PtPen 10 Jan; 21-27/day FD thru.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 8 reports all but 1 W JEFF more than usual.

Snowy Owl: up to 5/day PtPen; few away from NW JEFF.

Short-eared Owl: as many as 25 PtPen late Dec but 4-11/day more typical thru (mob); 2 PRWMA 9 Feb (IM); 6 FD 7 Jan (JB).

Belted Kingfisher: CV thru (DM); FD thru at least 4 Feb (JB); KPSP 18 Dec (BP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: KC thru 19 Feb; FD 1 Feb; T Rutland 14 Feb.

Northern Flicker: max 4 CV 10 Jan; singles from 17 other locations.

American Kestrel: max 1-3/day PtPen thru; reports from more than 30 other locations; high.

Merlin: reports from 15 locations about average for recent years.

GYRFALCON: presumed juv dark morph perched on building adjacent to FD airfield 11 Jan (JB).

Peregrine Falcon: BI & T Watertown thru; 8 additional reports; increasing.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: reports from about 30 locations modestly higher than previous 3-4 years.

Horned Lark: max 38 CV 27 Jan.

Tufted Titmouse: 150+ reports from 30+ locations; continuing to increase.

Winter Wren: Kip Trail T Canton thru 3 Jan (JB); BPWMA 6 Dec (BB); Muskellunge Bay & WBSP 19 Dec (JB); T Watertown 25 Jan to 2 Feb (LS); increasing in winter although rare after Jan.

Marsh Wren: 2 PRWMA 19 Dec (JB); rare but increasing in winter.

Carolina Wren: reports from 8 locations more than recent years.

Eastern Bluebird: max 8 T Canton 28 Jan; reports from 16 additional locations.

Hermit Thrush: max 2 T Clayton 21 Feb (RB); 6 additional reports all JEFF high for winter.

American Robin: max 75 T Watertown 6 Feb; modest numbers throughout.

Gray Catbird: WBSP 18 Dec (NL); T Massena 3 Jan (HE); rare in winter.

Brown Thrasher: T Canton thru 17 Dec; rare in winter.

European Starling: max 1100 CV 16 Dec.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 130 RMSP 15 Feb; 6 other reports of 15 or fewer.

Cedar Waxwing: max 140 RMSP 23 Feb; generally low numbers throughout.

American Pipit: RLT 27 Dec (BM, JS) rare in winter.

Evening Grosbeak: max 60 T Constableville 24 Dec; many reports throughout.

Pine Grosbeak: max 20 T Carthage 13 Jan; about 65 reports mostly STLA; very few adult males reported.

Purple Finch: scarce thru.

Common Redpoll: max 800 T Lyme 10 Jan; widespread in modest numbers with a few large flocks.

Hoary Redpoll: 19 reports with photos or reasonable descriptions; high.

Red Crossbill: max 12 T Croghan 16 Jan & T Potsdam 6 Feb; 6 other reports all from lowland areas.

White-winged Crossbill: RMSP 4 Jan (AB) only report.
Pine Siskin: max 24 T Clayton 13 Feb; generally modest numbers.
American Goldfinch: max 36 T Hammond 22 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 15 CV 7 Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 165 T Massena 15 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: different locations about 1-mile apart T Canton 29 Dec (JB) & 4 Jan (EJS)
Chipping Sparrow: T Canton thru 10 Jan (BB); rare in winter.
Savannah Sparrow: FD 11 Dec (JB); T Ellisburg 19 Dec (JB); PtPen 29 Dec (SH, JLC); last T Leray 7 Jan (JB); more than usual for winter.
Song Sparrow: reported from 13 locations; a little below average.
Swamp Sparrow: Muskellunge Bay 19 Dec (JB); FD 7 & 11 Jan (JB); only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: max 21 T Watertown 13 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: T West Carthage feeder thru 26 Jan (RH) rare in winter.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 29 Burnham Pt SP 13 Feb; widespread in mostly small flocks.
Eastern Meadowlark: T Watertown 1 Jan (RB) only report.
Baltimore Oriole: T Rodman feeder thru 13 Dec (HH) rare in winter.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 7 StPt 15 Jan; 5 additional reports.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 6 T Watertown 22 Jan; T Rutland 14 Feb only other report.
Common Grackle: max 7 T Canton feeder 29 Jan (JR) where 1 5 Feb; 8 other reports.
Pine Warbler: T Denmark feeder 31 Jan (MR) very rare in winter.

EXOTICS

Red-crested Pochard: f Millens Bay 30 Dec (NL).



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Bill Krueger

40 Colligan Point Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
billkrueger@hotmail.com

Derek Rogers

54 Corlear Drive, Willsboro, NY 12996
drogers0031@gmail.com

Temperatures in December continued the warming observed in November. The bulk of Region 7 was 3°-5° F warmer than normal. The exceptions were a strip along the border with Canada which was 5°-7° warmer than average and an area which included Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and most of Hamilton County that was only 1°-3° warmer. Precipitation (melted equivalent) in the northern half of the Region measured 2"-3" except for a nearly circular area around Lyon Mountain and Averill Peak where it was 3"-4". Most of Hamilton County and the High Peaks area recorded 5"-6".

Winter storm John ushered in January with 6"-8" of snow over the first two days. Overall most of the region got 1"-2" of melted precipitation in the month. The exceptions were the eastern two thirds of Essex, the southwest corner of Franklin County, and an area astride the Clinton/Franklin County border which got 2"-3". Lyon Mountain and environs were the wettest with 3"-4" for the month.

Temperatures for the month averaged 3°-5° above normal in the north of Region 7 with a segment along the border with Canada that was 5°-7° above normal. Most of Essex County was only 1°-3° above normal. The southern two thirds Hamilton County, only 1°-3° warmer than average, was the coolest.

Winter storm Orlena opened the month of February dumping 15"-17" of snow in the upper Lake Champlain Valley. Surprisingly the snowfall totals ranged from 2"-5" in the southern portions of Region 7. The next winter storm to impact the Region was Uri which left 5"-6" in the Lake Champlain Valley on 16-17 February. The difference in Orlena's snowfall totals, north and south, is reflected in a comparison of the overall precipitation totals for the month. The northern half of Region 7 recorded 2"-3" while the southern half only 1"-2". Temperatures in February ended the three month warmer-than-average period. The warmest section of the Region was an area that included the north of Hamilton and the south of Franklin Counties where the average was within a degree either way of normal. The balance of Region 7 was 1°-3° below normal for the month, except for the High Peaks area which was 3°-5° below normal.

The water level of Lake Champlain began the winter season at just a fraction above 94'. At this level an extensive gravel bar was exposed at the mouth of the Saranac River. This and the warm effluent from the sewage treatment plant attracted large numbers of larids and waterfowl including both white-winged gulls and Barrow's Goldeneye. On at least one occasion a Peregrine Falcon found the numbers inviting. However, in winter the timing and extent of ice coverage has a greater effect on avian activity than the lake level.

Once again Lake Champlain did not ice over completely. This was surely due to the exceptionally warm December and January noted above. Ice was also later than normal in forming in the bays and upper and lower ends of the lake. Thus the lake was nearly ice free for the annual waterfowl count in mid-January. The shallow bay to the north and east of Ausable Point did not ice over permanently. The resulting open water provided suitable forage for Bald Eagles throughout the season. A Belted Kingfisher was present into March, and a Great Blue Heron was reported as late as the last week of January. Bluebirds also overwintered. To the south the ice didn't reach Westport until early February. The edge of the ice was an active spot for waterfowl, including Barrow's Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, and Red-throated Loon. Two Northern Pintail lingered at least to the end of the season even as the open area contracted when the temperatures returned to seasonal values.

The Winter Finch Forecast (WFF) suggested that this would not be a flight year for Pine Grosbeak. After a modest showing in the fall this winter produced nearly 50 records with a maximum 36 individuals. Red Crossbills, predicted to drift south, were reported dozens of times with a maximum of 42. Expected to stay west, White-winged Crossbill was reported fewer than two dozen times. Though a moderate to good flight was expected for Common Redpoll, the season for this species was astonishing. The tremendous numbers of redpolls were difficult at times to comprehend with the vast majority of sightings taking place

in the Champlain Valley lowlands, mostly from Willsboro south to Westport. Most agricultural lands with suitable seed crops hosted hundreds, if not thousands of redpolls. Multiple reports of a thousand or more birds were filed with a maximum of 2,250 individuals along Sayre Road in Wadhams at the Art Farm. This huge crush of redpolls were feeding on many acres of hemp seeds, and they persisted here in large numbers throughout much of the second half of the season. Among these flocks as many as twenty Hoary Redpolls were extrapolated based on a ratio of 1 Hoary Redpoll per 100 Common Redpolls, many of which were photographed by several observers. And there were dozens of individual Hoary reports from widely scattered locations throughout Region 7, but mostly in the Champlain Valley. As a bonus, subspecies of both **Common Redpoll**, *rostrata* (max eight), and **Hoary Redpoll**, *hornemanni* (max two), were reported. There were more than a dozen sightings of the former and four of the latter, some with photos. To put it in technical terms redpolls of all types were all over the place. Pine Siskin, expected to move south in small numbers, was reported fewer than three dozen times with a maximum of 30. Up to 80 Evening Grosbeaks were noted in nearly two dozen reports. The WFF suggested Bohemian Waxwing “will most likely stay north”. This winter there were fewer than 20 reports, though numbers as high as 90 individuals were recorded.

Tufted Duck has been seen on the NY side of Lake Champlain every year since 2013 except 2015. This winter it was present in the Crown Point area from late December to 12 February. On that day and the day after it was found about ten miles north, suggesting the latter was the same bird moving north. An adult **Golden Eagle** was photographed extensively as it was mobbed by a Bald Eagle. The hostile interaction included the Golden Eagle at times flying inverted with its talons extended. After a prolonged stay in spring 2020 and a second appearance for a day in November, **Say’s Phoebe** was present at Crown Point for a nine day encore from the end of December into January. It seems highly unlikely that three individuals were involved.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Belford, Jeff Biby, Brent Bomkamp, Steve and Josette Bonamo, Ron Bussian, Dick Cartwright, Gary Chapin, Glen Chapman (MCh), Malinda Chapman, Marie Chappell (MCp), Keri Charles, Ross Conover, Harry Cook, Dave Dresser, Jon Erickson, Elinor George, Gina Faoro Gratton, Jane Graves, Judy Heintz, Janelle Hoh, Stan Jennings, Suzy Johnson, Tom Johnson, John Kent, Bill Krueger, Peter LaBelle, Dayna Lalonde, Tim Lenz, Ryan Mandelbaum, Larry Master, Brian McAllister (BMc), Sean McHugh, Kevin McGrath, Betsy Miner, Michael Moccio (MMo), Deborra Mullins, Nancy Olsen, Mark Robinson, Stacy Robinson, Derek H. Rogers (DHR), Dana Rohleder, Marilyn Smith, Janet Stein, Owen Stainken, Jan Trzeciak, Bob Wei, Sean Williams, Ian Worley.

ABBREVIATIONS

AFT – Art Farm Trail; **AHR** – Angier Hill Rd; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Pt, north of entrance; **AR** – Anfier Hill Rd; **BaR** – Bay Rd, Plattsburgh; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BEC** – Belmont Center; **BHT** – Blueberry Hill Trail; **BP** – Bicentennial P; **BRd** – Burdick Rd, ESSE; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CDR** – Camp Dudley Rd; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **ChP** – Cheney Pd; **ChR** – Christian Rd; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRd** – Cross Rd; **CZ** – Chazy; **DRd** – Delano Rd; **DyR** – Duprey Rd; **EC** – Essex County; **Es** – Essex; **FWC** – Fisk Rd., West Chazy; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet; **HBr** – Halfway Brook; **Ke** – Keeseville; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **LP** – Lake Placid; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; – McCaughen Rd; **MEC** – Middle Rd, ESSE; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MTE** – Military Turnpike Extension; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NRd** – Nappier Rd; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PBy** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Plattsburgh; **PP** – Pine Pd; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RRd** – Reynolds Rd; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SF** – Schuyler Falls; **SL** – Saranac L; **SP** – Santanoni Pres; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **SRWF** – Split Rock Wild Forest; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and Boat Launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TRd** – Trimble Rd, ESSE; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **WBR** – Wallons Bay Rd; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WRF** – Willsboro Research Farm; **WP** – Westport; **WPG** – Westport Grasslands.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 75,000 MB 20 Dec (AB); 7 RRd 13 Feb (BB, late).

Ross’s Goose: MB 20 Dec (AB).

Snow x Ross’s Goose hybrid: MB 20 Dec (AB).

Greater White-fronted Goose: TB 10 Dec (SR), ph; PBy 29 Dec (AB).

Cackling Goose: CH 22 Dec (BK).

Gadwall: 3 HB 23 Dec (SR).

Northern Pintail: MM 22 Dec (SR); HB 2 -26 Feb (SR, mo).

Green-winged Teal: MB 27 Jan (BW).

Redhead: 6 APN 28 Dec (SR).

Ring-necked Duck: 10 WP 11 Feb (JG).

TUFTED DUCK: CP 24 Dec-12 Feb (SR, mo); SB 17- 24 Jan (SR); HB 12-13 Feb (AB, RB, SR).

Greater Scaup: 750 WP 14 Feb (SR).

Lesser Scaup: 1500 WP 14 Feb (SR).

Scaup sp: 1950 CP 3 Jan (SR).

White-winged Scoter: LP 12 Dec (OS).

Black Scoter: LCI 8 Dec (SMc); HB 11-12 Feb (SR, RB), late.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 SB 17 Jan (SR).

Bufflehead: 119 NP 7 Dec (SR).

Common Goldeneye: 535 CP 1 Jan (SR).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: APN 23 Dec (KMc); SRM 6 Feb (JH); 9 HB 11 Feb (SR), max.

Hooded Merganser: 25 CB 27 Jan (TL).

Common Merganser: 39 PtR 20 Dec (AB).

Red-breasted Merganser: 5 CP 31 Dec (SR).

Ruddy Duck: CP 24 Dec (SR).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 WB 28 Dec (SR).

Ruffed Grouse: 6 PD 21 Jan (OS).

Wild Turkey: 32 CZ 11 Dec (JB); 42 CRd 26 Dec (SR).

Pied-billed Grebe: PH 22 Dec (JS).

Horned Grebe: 6 WB 22 Dec (RB); 2 HB 6 Feb (MCp).

Red-necked Grebe: WP 22 Dec (JS, BMC, JB).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Killdeer: arr. CB 20 Feb (IW); CH 24 Feb (SJ), early Clin.

Bonaparte’s Gull: 3 NP 2 Dec (GC).

Herring Gull: SRM 21 Dec (SR).

Iceland Gull: MTE 5 Dec (SR); GBM 6 Dec (JB); 2 SRM 7 Jan (SR); NP 17 Jan (DHR); HBO 29 Jan (TL, SW).

Glaucous Gull: SRM 28 Dec (SR).

Great Black-backed Gull: 65 SRM 10 Dec (JB).

Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: NP 31 Dec - 17 Jan (SR, DHR); HBO 13 Jan (SR); AM 18 Feb (SR).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: CP 27 Dec (JK); HB 31 Jan (BMc), late.

Common Loon: 5 WP 18 Feb (SR).

Double-crested Cormorant: HB 12 Dec (JS).

Great Blue Heron: CB 17 Dec (SR); 29 Dec-23 Jan (AB, DR, mo).

Black Vulture: 6 BP 24 Dec (SR); 15 TI 23 Jan -24 Feb (SR, mo), cont.

Turkey Vulture: MEC 10 Dec (SR).

GOLDEN EAGLE: BRd 31 Jan (EG), photos.

Northern Harrier: MR 29 Dec (AB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: CH 31 Dec (SJ).

Cooper's Hawk: PL 14 Feb (JH).

Northern Goshawk: SWF 18 Dec (DHR); HBr 3 Jan (JS); Es 17 Feb (DHR).

Bald Eagle: 3 CH 28 Jan (SJ).

Red-shouldered Hawk: SF 19 Jan (DD), ph.

Red-tailed Hawk: 4 DRd 18 Jan (SR).

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 WPG 31 Dec (SW).

Eastern Screech Owl: AR 19 Dec (GC); 2 CB 8 Feb (RB).

Great Horned Owl: CH 5 Dec (SJ); 2 EC 19 Dec (SR).

Snowy Owl: PD 13 Feb (SJ).

Barred Owl: 3 Es 26 Feb (G&MC).

Short-eared Owl: 2 MEC 4 Dec - 11 Jan (DHR, mob); WRF 10 Dec (DHR); WBR 19 Jan (DHR), ph.

Belted Kingfisher: AP 21 Dec-28 Feb (SR, DR, mo).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 BRR 31 Dec (G&MC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: BRR 3 Jan-14 Feb (G&MC).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 ChP 14 Jan (GC).

Northern Flicker: 4 TFBL 12 Dec (SR); BRd 14 Feb (MC).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 SP 11 Dec (G&MC).

American Kestrel: EC 5 Jan (LM); WP 28 Jan (TL).

Merlin: CP 4 Jan (ZC).

Peregrine Falcon: ESSE 12 Jan (BMc, JS); HB 28 Jan (SR).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOWBUNTING

SAY'S PHOEBE: CP 26 Dec-4 Jan (RB, GC, JE, mo).

Northern Shrike: several reps at traditional locs.

Canada Jay: 10 BB 22 Feb (DM).

Blue Jay: 21 BRR 26 Dec (G&MC).

Fish Crow: WD 5 Dec (BK).

Common Raven: 15 BRR 26 Dec (G&MC).

Horned Lark: 130 CP 2 Jan (SR).

Boreal Chickadee: 5 Jay 13 Dec (MM).

Tufted Titmouse: 6 CH 20 Dec (NO).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12 BB 28 Feb (S&JB).

White-breasted Nuthatch: 5 SL 28 Feb (JS).

Brown Creeper: WP 18 Feb (SR).

Winter Wren: MM 2 Jan (SR).

Carolina Wren: 2 CH 1 Dec-28 Feb (NO).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 PP 3 Jan (RC).

Hermit Thrush: WP 19 Dec (RB).

Gray Catbird: WP 13 Dec (RB).

Northern Mockingbird: SRM 4 Dec-17 Feb (mo).

Bohemian Waxwing: 41 BEC 8 Dec (SR); 90 WP 3 Feb (DC), max.

Cedar Waxwing: 80 WP 15 Feb (SR).

Evening Grosbeak: 80 WP 17 Dec (SR), max.

Pine Grosbeak: widespread with reps in all 4 counties; max 36 WP 2 Dec (DHR).

Common Redpoll: max 2250 AFT 12 Jan (DHR); widespread throughout Region.

Common Redpoll (*rostrata/islandica*): AHR 2 30 Dec (SW); ChR 30 Dec- 13 Feb (mob); WBR 2 Jan (SW); CP 13 Jan (GC); 2 Jan (SW); WPt 28 -31 Jan (DHR); BaR 29 Jan (TL); BB 26 Feb (RM).

Hoary Redpoll: reps in all 4 counties; 60 ESSE, 8 CLIN, 4 FRAN, 1 HAMI.

Hoary Redpoll (*hornemanni*): DyR 10 Jan (GC); AFT 27 Jan (SW); 2 AHR 30 Jan (SW); 2 BaR 29 Jan (TL, SW).

Red Crossbill: 12 PS 5 Jan (BMc, JS, JB); 42 OPR 22 Feb (ZC), max.

Red Crossbill (type 10): CP 25 Feb (SR), rec'ing.

White-winged Crossbill: widespread; 35 CB 3 Jan (KMc), max.

Pine Siskin: 9 PB 21 Dec (JK); 30 WB 18 Jan (SR), max.

Lapland Longspur: 8 FWC 8 Dec (GFG).

Snow Bunting: 50 CR 10 Dec (SR).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

American Tree Sparrow: 30 AFT 17 Jan (SW).

Field Sparrow: Peru 1 Jan (KC), late, ph.

Savannah Sparrow: RRd 9 Jan (AB), late.

Fox Sparrow: SL 1 Dec (AB).

Song Sparrow: McC 11 Jan (SR); 2 Peru 18 Feb (HC).
Swamp Sparrow: APN 21 Dec (SR), late.
White-throated Sparrow: 3 SL 15 Dec (AB).
Red-winged Blackbird: SL 15 Dec (AB), late; arr. CH 14 Feb (BB) .

Brown-headed Cowbird: 30 DRd 2 Jan (GC).
Northern Cardinal: 11 WP 6 Jan (JS).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Tom Williams

153A Consaul Rd., Albany, NY 12205
 trwdsd@fastmail.fm

Temp	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	29.9°	28.5°	+1.4°	27.6°	25.0°	+2.6°
Jan	23.3°	22.6°	+0.7°	22.1°	18.0°	+4.1°
Feb	23.7°	25.9°	-2.2°	21.7°	21.3°	+0.4°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	3.70"	2.93"	+0.77"	1.68"	3.05"	-1.37"
Jan	1.85"	2.59"	-0.74"	1.54"	2.86"	-1.32"
Feb	1.78"	2.20"	-0.42"	1.70"	2.08"	-0.38"

The weather in December 2020 featured slightly above normal temperatures, and wetter than normal conditions. A massive storm on 16-17 December dropped 22.9" of snow at Albany, and the four-day period from 16-19 December averaged 15° F below normal. Remarkably, the weather warmed substantially by Christmas Eve, and Christmas day had a high of 63° at Albany with nearly one inch of rainfall. Virtually all the snow melted at lower elevations, and severe flooding occurred throughout many areas. January 2021 was rather tranquil, with no arctic cold until the last three days of the month, only 12.1" of snow, and dry conditions overall. February had regular light snowfalls, enough to keep the ground covered until the end of the month, but offered no extreme weather.

The major event of the season continued to be the winter finch incursion. Common Redpolls were seemingly everywhere one looked and listened. By late January reports of a few Hoary Redpolls were received, generally seen at feeders but also in the field among large groups of Common Redpolls. Observations of Red Crossbills also became commonplace, and White-winged Crossbills were noted in many places as well, including suburban yards. Pine Siskins, normally a welcomed winter sighting, were ever-present but relegated to background status.

Evening and Pine Grosbeaks also continued in lower numbers, in more select locations.

Waterfowl were of the typical variety and number. A Greater White-fronted Goose spent much of January around the Stillwater area in Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties. A Eurasian Wigeon was spotted near the Vischer Ferry Power Plant in Saratoga County by John Hershey's group, while they were conducting the Schenectady Christmas Bird Count in that sector; nice bird for the count. Redhead ducks were reported in just a few spots, mostly during February, along the Mohawk River in Albany and Montgomery Counties.

On the gull front, it seemed that at least one adult and one immature Iceland Gull spent much of the winter in the Cohoes-Waterford-Crescent corridor of the Mohawk River. Glaucous Gull was also reported from that area, as well as later in the season from the Hudson River near Albany. Similarly, at least one adult and two immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls were sighted along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers in Albany County.

Red-throated Loons were observed in both Saratoga County (Gansevoort and Crescent) and Fulton County (Broadalbin) in the first week of December. A few Common Loons were seen in the Hudson River corridor up until Christmas week, with spotty reports thereafter from Lake George (Warren) and Stockport (Columbia).

At least one Golden Eagle spent much of the winter in Washington County, being reported and photographed by several observers. One or two birds also were noted from southern Columbia County, as has become the norm in recent years. Rough-legged Hawks were seen in typical numbers in favored habitat.

Only a couple of Snowy Owls were detected this winter, one in the Fort Edward area of Washington County, the other from Berne in Albany County. As many as six Short-eared Owls were present in the Germantown area (Wire Road) of Columbia County this season, which represents a new location for that species. The Fort Edward Grasslands stronghold in Washington County had up to twenty-four Short-eared Owls reported this winter, which is encouraging.

Northern Shrike numbers seemed to be down this winter, with only a half-dozen reports. It is not entirely clear if observer effort factored into this, however.

Overwintering sparrows included a hearty Clay-colored Sparrow that spent much of the season coming to a feeder in the city of Albany. White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows were seen in typical numbers in their favored locations in Washington, Saratoga, Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia Counties.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at a feeder in Washington County on 3 January.

Dr. Bill Cook writes in his January 2021 monthly summary, which is included in *The Warbler*, the Alan Devoe Bird Club publication:

“SHORT-EARED OWL and LAPLAND LONGSPUR which were “rumors” last month have materialized. I am jumping the gun a bit with the owl because the sightings by club members didn't actually begin until early February. But a longspur was found by David Harrison, a Schenectady birder, in northern Columbia County at the end of January. These

winter visitors have probably been regulars in Columbia County over the years but simply overlooked in the past. The increased efforts of a new cadre of dedicated birders has significantly improved the county coverage.

Climate change may also be playing a role in some changes that we see. Zach Schwartz-Weinstein suggests that the **60 plus** Rusty Blackbirds which are wintering on Trout Brook Road in Copake is climatically “disconcerting”. Will Raup believes that this flock might be a Region 8 winter maximum.

As far as winter finches go, lots of **Common Redpolls** are being found, Will Yandik reported a **Pine Siskin**, but no crossbills went on record this month. Only Roberta Bernstein reported a **Purple Finch** at her feeder. **Snow Bunting** searches were successful mostly in the northern part of the county and a **Northern Shrike** was found along the Hudson River at Hudson.

The **Eastern Towhee** is still hanging around Will Yandik’s feeder. Towhees do winter on Long Island, but they have rarely been found in Columbia County in the winter. **Common Loon** and **Fox Sparrow** have also lingered longer than usual and a very white **leucistic Red-tailed Hawk** is wintering along Black Grocery Road in Copake. Eagles are hardly worth mentioning anymore but Marian Sole found **49** Bald Eagles along the Hudson River as well as occupied nests on the 10th. Further, she and Mike Nicosia continue to find **Golden Eagles** in Copake and Germantown.”

Bob Yunick submitted his field notes for the winter season, excerpted here:

“The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady NY area: **2)** my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (**JL**) at 1250 ft elevation near Corinth in northern Saratoga Co, NY.

2) Intense Black-capped Chickadee irruption at Jenny Lake. Beginning in Aug 2020, there was a faint glimmer of an irruption. By the end of Nov. 2020, 21 chickadees had been captured (20 banded and 1 return capture from a previous year). The irruption seemed to fizzle out in Dec. when only 3 new chickadees were banded but come Jan a drastic change occurred as follows. These capture results are based on operating 2 ½ mist nets for 3-3½ hrs per banding session.

Date	No. Banded	No. Returns	No. Repeats	Total Captures
12/21/20	3	0	4	7
1/1/21	8	1	4	13
1/12/21	33	4	3	40
1/19/21	37	4	19	60
2/4/21	44	2	18	64
2/11/21	25	4	44	73
2/18/21	17	0	36	53
2/26/21	24	2	44	70

Total captures from 8/9/20 to 2/28/21 = 229 (212 banded, 17 returns). Age distribution on newly banded birds was 88.2% imm/ 11.8% ad. Age distribution for all 229 birds captured was 81.7% imm/ 18.3% ad.

Sunflower seed consumption closely tracked the trend in captures. Nov/Dec consumption averaged 100-200 g/day, rising to ~300 g/day by late Dec. In Jan, it

skyrocketed to 1400 g/dy by 1/19/21, peaked at 1850 g/day on 2/4/21, remaining above 1500 g/day through Feb. I've burned through 180 lbs. of black oil sunflower seed Dec-Feb.

Based on 50 years of monitoring these irruptions at JL, this year's pattern was unusual. Typically, bird numbers and seed consumption rise in Oct/Nov with the greatest influx in Dec, peaking in Jan and declining in later Jan as increasing daylight prompts birds to begin their "fee-bee" territorial calls and depart to their breeding areas. This season, the main influx occurred in Jan/Feb, not Dec/Jan, and the season's highest capture totals persisted through Feb which is unusual.

Along with this irruption of chickadees, there were smaller irruptions of **Red-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice.**"

Species	No. Banded by Month								
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
RBNU	1	7	3	3	1	2	2	11	30
TUTI					5	2	5	3	15

In Region 8, 132 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, 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 Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, 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, 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 800 Coxsackie GREE 23 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Schaghticoke RENS 8 Jan.
Mute Swan: max 4 BCR 4 Dec.
Wood Duck: max 14 Halfmoon SARA 28 Feb.
Northern Shoveler: max 5 Cohoes ALBA 1 Dec.
Gadwall: max 26 Stanton Pd ALBA 7 Dec.
Eurasian Wigeon: VFNHP 19-21 Dec.
American Wigeon: max 26 BCR 4 Dec.
Mallard: max 750 Fonda MONT 6 Feb.
American Black Duck: max 294 Mindenville MONT 13 Feb.
Northern Pintail: max 12 Halfmoon SARA 21 Jan.
Green-winged Teal: max 18 TR 8 Dec.
Redhead: max 4 Crescent Power Plant 19 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 250 Loughberry L SARA 10 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 6 Loughberry L SARA 6 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: max 200 Loughberry L SARA 15 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: 2 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec; 2 L George WARR 4 Dec; 2 Copake L 7 Dec.
Black Scoter: 6 Saratoga L SARA 6 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Ft Edward WASH 1 Jan; Amsterdam MONT 4 Jan; Stillwater SARA 24 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 44 Saratoga L SARA 18 Dec.
Common Goldeneye: max 200 Stillwater SARA 14 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 195 Stillwater SARA 14 Feb.
Common Merganser: max 1000 TR 13 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 18 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 167 BCR 4 Dec.
Wild Turkey: max 133 Northumberland SARA 7 Jan.
Pied-billed Grebe: Athens GREE 4 Dec; Troy RENS 19 Jan.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Killdeer: arr 3 Livingston COLU 26 Feb.
American Woodcock: arr 2 Livingston COLU 27 Feb.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Schaghticoke RENS 27 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: Overlook P Cohoes ALBA 5 Dec.

Ring-billed Gull: max 500 Waterford SARA 10 Jan.
Herring Gull: max 500 Colonie ALBA 19 Jan.
Iceland Gull: Cohoes ALBA 4 Dec.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 2 Cohoes ALBA 1 Jan.
Glaucous Gull: Cohoes ALBA 27 Dec; Rensselaer RENS 19 Jan.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 78 Cohoes ALBA 13 Feb.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: Broadalbin FULT 1 Dec; Gansevoort SARA 1 Dec; Halfmoon SARA 4 Dec.
Common Loon: last 4 Hague WARR 24 Jan.
Double-crested Cormorant: last Catskill GREE 15 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: max 3 Niskayuna SCHE 4 Dec; 3 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
Black Vulture: max 63 Albany ALBA 13 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: mig arr Livingston COLU 11 Feb; a few birds overwintered in scattered loc.
Golden Eagle: max 2 Copake COLU 7 Jan.
Northern Harrier: max 7 Coxsackie GREE 12 Jan; 7 FtEG 12 Jan.
Bald Eagle: max 27 Germantown COLU 30 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr FtEG 6 Dec; max 6 FtEG 25 Jan.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 3 FR 9 Dec.
Great Horned Owl: max 3 Ballston Lake SARA 30 Dec.
Snowy Owl: FtEG 29 Dec; Berne ALBA 13 Jan.
Barred Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Short-eared Owl: max 24 FtEG 31 Jan.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 Troy RENS 20 Dec.
Northern Flicker: max 4 Cambridge WASH 13 Dec.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 6 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
American Kestrel: max 2 mult loc.
Merlin: 2 Meads Ln ALBA 24 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: last FR 23 Dec.
Northern Shrike: Stuyvesant COLU 19 Dec; Kinderhook COLU 31 Dec; Queensbury

WARR 4 Jan; Putnam WASH 5 Jan; FtEG 9 Jan; Schodack RENS 18 Feb.
Blue Jay: max 46 Grafton RENS 5 Feb.
American Crow: est 10,000 Troy RENS 14 Jan.
Fish Crow: max 60 Colonie ALBA 26 Dec.
Common Raven: max 11 Ft Ann WASH 11 Jan.
Horned Lark: max 700 Copake COLU 5 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 25 TR 12 Dec.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 15 Stillwater SARA 26 Jan.
Brown Creeper: max 7 Nassau RENS 28 Feb.
Carolina Wren: max 6 Stuyvesant COLU 8 Dec.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 3 mult loc.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: New Baltimore GREE 6 Dec; Bethlehem ALBA 28 Dec; Catskill GREE 18 Jan; Halfmoon SARA 28 Jan.
Eastern Bluebird: max 25 Dresden WASH 3 Jan.
Hermit Thrush: max 2 FR 20 Dec.
American Robin: max 277 Cambridge WASH 10 Jan.
Northern Mockingbird: max 6 Stuyvesant COLU 5 Jan.
Cedar Waxwing: max 76 Esperance SCHO 12 Feb.
American Pipit: Ft Miller WASH 22 Jan.
Evening Grosbeak: max 157 Summit SCHO 18 Dec.
Pine Grosbeak: max 60 Salem WASH 6 Dec.
Purple Finch: max 10 Summit SCHO 20 Dec.
Common Redpoll: max 250 FtEG 30 Jan.
Hoary Redpoll: singletons rep WASH, SARA, ALBA, RENS.
Red Crossbill: max 35 APBP 30 Jan.
White-winged Crossbill: max 125 Queensbury WARR 10 Jan.
Pine Siskin: max 180 Warrensburgh WARR 31 Dec.

American Goldfinch: max 60 Greenport COLU 22 Jan.
Lapland Longspur: max 6 Northumberland SARA 9 Jan.
Snow Bunting: est 1000 Northumberland SARA 30 Jan.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Livingston COLU 19 Dec-9 Feb; Burnt Hills SARA 20 Feb.
American Tree Sparrow: max 72 Saratoga CBC sect D SARA 18 Dec.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Albany ALBA 24 Dec- 8 Jan.
Field Sparrow: max 2 APBP 23 Jan.
Savannah Sparrow: max 11 Kinderhook COLU 23 Dec.
Song Sparrow: max 21 Halfmoon SARA 4 Feb.
White-throated Sparrow: max 200 Schuylerville SARA 13 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 8 E Greenbush RENS 19 Jan.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 268 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
Eastern Meadowlark: Sprakers MONT 26 Dec- 17 Jan; FtEG 29-31 Jan.
Baltimore Oriole: Germantown COLU 17 Dec, at feeder during snowstorm.
Red-winged Blackbird: est 1000 Schodack RENS 28 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: est 500 Schodack RENS 28 Feb.
Rusty Blackbird: max 60 Copkae COLU 13 Jan.
Common Grackle: max 300 Schodack RENS 16 Dec.
Northern Cardinal: max 52 FR 1 Feb, high count!
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: White Creek WASH 15 Dec- 21 Jan, at feeder.



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

John H. Haas

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

Winter 2020-21 started with the first significant storm of the season on 17 December. Up to twenty inches of snow fell in parts of the Region. This storm was followed by a period of near record high temps and storms that consisted entirely of rain. The pattern continued through the month. There was a high of 65° F on 25 December and a low of -3° on 19 December. The average temperature was 42.7°, 2.4° above average. There was a total of 3.21" of precipitation, 0.32" below average. January started off with average conditions. The first snow fell on 3-4 January, about 4". Precipitation was variable with a mix of snow and rain, but snowfall overall was minimal. There was a high of 51° on 2 January and a low of 3° on 30 January. Overall temperature was 1.0° above average. There was a total of 1.3" of precipitation, 1.85" below average. February started off with a major weather event. On 1-2 February up to two feet of snow fell on most of the Region. This was followed by several lesser snow events and deep freeze conditions. Poughkeepsie had a total precipitation of 1.74", 0.92" below average, but this was not characteristic of most of the Region. There was considerable snowfall throughout the month, and the period ended with substantial snow cover in much of the Region. There was a high of 52° on 24 February and a low of 0° on 12 February, 3.9° below average.

The Greater White-fronted Goose on Bowman Avenue Pond in Rye Brook continued into December and through January. The **Barnacle Goose** with its four hybrid offspring continued into the period at the Camel Farm in Orange County. While the author and Bruce Nott searched for them on 2 December, we found a group of six Cackling Geese, and, ultimately, eight would be seen together. Both species were reported sporadically throughout the season. On 30 December, the author found a Green-winged Teal on the Rio Reservoir in Sullivan County. Seen and photographed by myself, Kevin Kreisler and Nick Hawvermale, the bird proved to be a "Common Teal", the Eurasian counterpart of our Green-winged Teal. The bird could not be relocated after 1 January. On 28 February, Wendy Tocci found an adult female Barrow's Goldeneye at Kingston Point, Ulster County.

On 24 December Larry Trachtenberg spotted a first-winter Iceland Gull at Croton Point, and likely the same bird was found three days later at McEchron Waterfront Park, also in Westchester County. On 25 December, Tom Burke and Gail Benson discovered a first-winter Glaucous Gull at Edith G. Read Nature Center in Rye. The bird was still present the following day. Bruce Nott spotted a second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull at Newburgh Waterfront on 29 December. Continuing his efforts in the new year, Bruce found two Iceland and

two Glaucous Gulls; these birds were seen at both the Newburgh and Beacon Waterfronts and continued through February.

One of the most interesting birds of the period was an immature **Brown Pelican** found by Gerard Savaresse in Yonkers, Westchester County on 16 January. The bird was well documented as it moved up and down the Hudson River for a couple of hours before disappearing to the south. This is likely the same bird rescued in Connecticut two weeks later, rehabbed, and flown down to Florida for eventual release.

On 16 January, Linda Scrima found and photographed an unusual hawk in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird was later that evening identified as an immature **Ferruginous Hawk**! Linda, Bruce Nott and the author were searching for the bird the following morning when the author relocated it on Celery Avenue in the same region. Birders arrived from all over the state and northward to see this fantastic bird, which continued through the end of February. If accepted by NYSARC, this is the first record of this species for New York State and the easternmost record for the United States. This was without a doubt the most remarkable find of the season, perhaps even the year (time will tell).

On 26 December, the author found an adult Northern Shrike on Muhlig Road in Sullivan County. This bird is possibly the juvenile bird that frequented the same area last winter. The bird continued well into the new year but was usually difficult to find. An interesting follow up was a juvenile bird found in the same area on 26 February by Steve Sulzer.

On 26 February Charlie Roberto counted a flock of 14 Tree Swallows at Croton Point Park. By the following day they were recorded up and down the Hudson Valley. These were exceptionally early arrival dates.

The season's much anticipated winter finch irruption produced many birds throughout the period. Common Redpolls exploded on the scene the second week of December. Reports were widespread throughout the Region, increasing as the period progressed. On 10 December, the author found a single redpoll near the store in Neversink, Sullivan County. When I stopped to photograph the bird, I discovered it was a **Hoary Redpoll**. The bird was cooperative and continued most of the day. A second Hoary Redpoll was found at Croton Point Park on 21 January and seen by many people. February brought even more reports, with several present in the Region. This was the most productive season for Hoary Redpoll in many years. Red Crossbill reports were widespread throughout the early period with birds seen in almost every county in the Region. They decreased in the new year, with just a few reports by the end of the period. There were a few reports of Evening Grosbeak early in the period, but the birds ultimately vanished, leaving only a group of up to 42 remaining in the mountains of Sullivan County throughout the period.

Two great finds occurred at Croton Point Park on 20 December. Not quite unexpected was a beautiful Grasshopper Sparrow, but most unexpected was an even more striking **LeConte's Sparrow**! A group of birders found the two early, Kyle Bardwell identifying the LeConte's. Word got out quickly so many were

able to enjoy these great birds. Nice among the sparrow flock that day were two “Ipswich” Savannah Sparrows. These large pale sparrows are unique and normally only found along the coast. These birds continued for several days, with one Ipswich remaining through the period. The period produced another incursion of wintering Chipping Sparrows, though not as many as last year. Several reports of Vesper Sparrow for the winter period were notable.

On 20 February Dawn Hannay was asked to identify a bird coming to a local feeder in Rockland County. The bird turned out to be a beautiful male **Painted Bunting!** After discussing the situation with the homeowner, they decided not to open their yard for viewing of the bird.

CONTRIBUTORS

Carl Albano, Julian Amsellem (JAm), Ajit Anthony, Liza Anthony, Kathleen Ashman, John Askildsen (JAs), Elizabeth Axley, Scott Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Nigel Bark, Amelia Batchelor, Gail Benson (GBen), Frank Beres, Ginger Bernardin (GBer), Holly Berra, Michael Bochnik (MBo), Erik Brodsky, Tom Burke, Deborah Busby, Mary Buskey (MBu), Barbara Butler, Sean Camillieri, Brad Carlson, Chris Chappell (CCh), Dave Chernack, Katherine Choquette, Andre Choussy (ACh), Jim Clinton Anthony Collerton (ACo), Jamie Collins, Travis Cordes, Chris Cording (CCo), Rebekah Creshkoff, Michael Curtis, Renee Davis (RDa), Patrick Dechon, Riley Dechon (RDe), Matt Decker (MDec), Mark DeDea (MDed), Joyce Depew, Saverio DiGiorgio, Ronnie DiLorenzo, Adriana Dinu, Frank Durso, Max Epstein, John Fagen, Andrew Farnsworth, Gerald Fix, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Nick Giordano, Ariane Giudicelli (AGi), Doug Gochfeld, Jonathan Gold, Elijah Goodwin, Marge Gorton, Scott Graber, Aiden Griffiths (AGr), Frank Guida, John Haas, Dawn Hannay, Nick Hawvermale, Tim Healy, Valerie Heemstra, Brian Hess (BHe), Barbara Higham (BHi), Yahvey Hoffman, Patrick Horan, Susan Iannucci, Tait Johansson, Susan Joseph, Maha Katnani (MKa), Mindy Kaufman, Rik Kaufman, Suzanne Kavic, Melissa Kelder’Zeko, Kevin Kelly, Tom Kenny, Cynthia King (CKi), Kyle Knapp, Mary Beth Kooper, Chris Kostek (CKo), Deborah Kral, Aimee LaBarr, Karalyn Lamb, MaryLaura Lamont, Stu Landesberg, Bill Lenhart, Robert Lewis, Maria Loukeris, Alexandra Lowe, David Lund, Preston Lust, Jim Macaluso, Anthony Macchiarola, Sophia Macchiarola, Karen Malloy-Brady, Barbara Mansell, Patrick Markee (PMar), Nick Martin, Daniel Martinez, Kara Mason (KMa), Mauve Mauer, Curt McDermott, Kenneth McDermott (KMcd), Kevin McGrath (KMcG), Patrick McKenzie (PMc), Arnie Meier (AMe), Barbara Michelin, Hannah Miller, Karen Miller (KMl), R Miller, Ethan Muller, Frank Murphy, Melissa Murgittroyd, Karen Nickeson, Bruce Nott, LouAnn O’Hora, Dixon Onderdonk, Suzanne O’Rourke, Gerhard Patsch, Mona Payton, Filipe Pimentel, Linda Pistolesi, Carena Pooth, Sandra Power, Steve Rappaport, Michael Reid (MRe), Morgan Rich (MRi), Charlie Roberto, Ellen Rosensein, Miles Ross, Joe Rothstein, The Salmons, Dina Samargian (DSa), Gerard Savaresse, Nicholas

Schleissmann, Peter Schoenberger, Linda Scrima, Renee Seacor (RSe), Henry Shankweiler, Maya Shikhman, PJ Singh, Darren Sinnott (DSi), Robert Slechta (RSI), Frank Smith, Gordon Stankovic, Rob Stone (RSt), Barbara Strobino, Steve Sulzer, Ann Swaime, Jory Teltser, Barbara Thomascall, Wendy Tocci, Larry Trachtenberg, Dennis Trapnell, Karen VanDyk, Debbie van Zyl, Lance Verderame, David Villa, Chet Vincent, Tom Warren, Laura Weir, Ari Weiss (AWei), Carol Weiss, Alan Wells (AWel), Leah Wells, Deb Weltsch, Bradly White, Nelson Wilbury, Ken Witkowski, Janet Wooten, Sandra Wright, Matthew Zeitler, Joseph Zygala.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **AR**- Ashokan Res , ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mt 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; **EMLHP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, 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, ORAN; **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, WEST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscanawana I 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 Rd, 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; **WPPF** – West Point Foundry Pres, PUTN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 7 OCBDR 1 Dec (LS); 3 Jessup Switch Rd ORAN (KA); max 40 OCBDR 17-20 Dec (KMi, KMcD); BSWMA 24 Dec (SB); max 6 OCBDR 17 Jan-12 Feb (LS, RSt, MZ, mob);

Greater White-fronted Goose: Bowman Ave Pd WEST 1-14 Dec (GBer, SD, GBen, mob); EGR 28 Dec (GBen, TB); Bowman Ave Pd 29 Dec-30 Jan (GBen, TB, MBo, mob), *intro*.

Brant: 20 New Paltz ULST 19 Dec (NYML CBC).

BARNACLE GOOSE (R9): Camel Farm ORAN 2-4 Dec (BN, JH, LS, mob); Camel Farm 2 Jan (BN, LS, KMcD, mob), *intro*.

Cackling Goose: 6 Camel Farm 2 Dec (BN, JH); max 8 OCBDR 3 – 8 Dec (LS, YH, GBen, mob); Bowman Ave Pd 4 Dec (BT); OCBDR 28 Dec (MZ); Huguenot L WEST 3-8 Jan (SK, SC, SO, MB, mob); max 2 OCBDR 17-22 Jan (PL, JT, BMa, GBen); Sylvan L DUTC 18, 26 Jan (AM, SC, KB, mob); LR 22 Jan (GBen, TB); OCBDR 5 Feb (BN, ACh), *intro*.

Wood Duck: McDonald Rd SULL 1 Dec (JD); Madam Brett P DUTC 3 Dec (SI); Bowman Ave Pd 4 Dec (BT); MNSP 9 Dec (CV); NCR 19 Dec (MM, SC); KP 23 Dec (PS); 2 Esopus Meadows Pres ULST 24 Dec (AM); Rio Res SULL 30 Dec, 21 Jan (JH, NH); OCBDR 21-22 Jan (JH, DG, TJ); Monticello SULL 27 Jan (JH).

Northern Shoveler: max 4 Browns Pd ORAN 5-22 Dec (BN); max 42 RLSP 4-23 Dec (SB, AR, AWel, mob); MC 7 Dec (MG); max 69 Huguenot L 20 Jan (GBen, TB).

Northern Pintail: max 2 RR 1 Dec- 30 Jan (JH, LV, KMi, PD); max 11 OCBDR 3-11 Dec (BN, YH, BT, mob); 6 Goose Chase Pd DUTC 17 Dec (JAs); 3 BSWMA 11 Dec (SB, BN); 5 Ulster County Fairgrounds ULST 23 Dec (GF); Titicus Res WEST 11 Dec (SC); Lake Carmel PUTN 13-14 Dec (SC, AM); 2 Deans Bridge WEST 12-22 Jan (SC, SK, KMcG, mob).

Canvasback: max 115 PP 6 Dec - 14 Feb (LP, CW); CPP 13 Dec (KB, LT, KL, mob); max 46 Dobbs Ferry WEST 22 Jan- 12 Feb (JAm).

Redhead: 2 RLSP 4-15 Dec, 1 Jan (SB, AWei, CW, AWel, CCo); 2 EGR 8 Dec (GBen, BS, SC, KMcG); Sylvan L 2-27 Jan (CP, BMa, SJ, CF); West Branch Res PUTN 4 Feb (DSi); Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 13 Feb (JAs); 3 NCR 14-28 Feb (SC, CR, SR, mob).

Surf Scoter: EGR 6 Dec (JAm); max 2 EGR 1 Jan – 13 Feb (SR, GBen, ASw, mob).

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 6 Dec (JAm); PP 7 Dec (SP); max 4 EGR 1-16 Jan (GBen, SC, BS, mob); EGR 13 Feb (KB, CR, MC).

Black Scoter: Orange L ORAN 1-15 Dec (BN); 6 High Banks Pres ULST 3 Dec (MS); MRCC 10 Dec (NG); Browns P 12-13 Dec (BN); 2 EGR 1 Jan (MT); KP 20-21 Feb (PS, DH, mob).

Long-tailed Duck: max 34 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, MT, KMcG, mob); 7 Milton Pt WEST 7 Dec (KMcG); 8 AR 13 Dec (RM).

Barrow's Goldeneye: KP 28 Feb (WT, PS, JP), *intro*.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 52 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, BSt, NG, mob); CPP 1 Dec (LO); Sylvan L 1 Dec (CP); West Branch Res 5 Dec (SC, MM); Beacon Waterfront P DUTC 7 Dec (KB); NW 1, 10 Jan (BN, MZ, KA); PP 19 Jan (CCo); CPP 22 Jan (SC).

Horned Grebe: max 30 AR 3-13 Dec (DO, RM, DW, mob); Rye Town P 6 Dec (JAm); max 10 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (GBen, BSt, KMcG); Beacon Waterfront P 15 Feb (BN).

Red-necked Grebe: NCR 2 Dec (LT); Washington L ORAN 9-10 Dec (BN); Kensico Res WEST 9 Dec (SC); Milton Pt 27 Dec (GBen, TB); NCR 9 Jan (BSt).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: max 17 SHSR 1-9 Dec (KMi, KA, JD); max 162 NCR 10-19 Dec (CR, LO, MB, mob); max 87 RLSP 1-19 Dec (AWel, ME, AR, mob); OCBDR 1-17 Jan (BN, LS); max 70 RLSP 1-31 Jan (CCo, ME, FD, mob); max 152 NCR 1 Jan -28 Feb (SK, LT, SC, mob).

Killdeer: max 7 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, JG, JAm, mob); SGNWR 5 Jan (JC); Stony Kill Farm DUTC 11 Jan (CKo); CPP 17-22 Feb (SW, KL, mob); BSWMA 25 Feb (JH, KMi, SB, mob); Georges Island P WEST 24 Feb (GBer, ASw).

Purple Sandpiper: max 2 PP 21 Dec -28 Feb (CW, EF, TF, NB, mob); max 14 EGR 14 Dec-28 Feb (KMcG, GBen, SR, mob).

American Woodcock: Overlook P DUTC 4 Feb (SC, DC).

Wilson's Snipe: CPP 1 Dec (MG, SKa, ASw, mob); max 11 Orange L 1-12 Dec (BN); SGNWR 15 Dec (BHe, DH, mob); Phillippsport Rd SULL 4-27 Feb (JH, SB, SG, RDa, MG, mob); Tinkertown DUTC 27 Feb (JC).

Spotted Sandpiper: Forest Ave WEST 29 Dec (GBen, TB); Georges Island P 4-8 Jan (GBer, CR, SKa, mob); EGR 12 Jan (DM).

Virginia Rail: Thompson Pd Pres DUTC 4 Jan (JAs).

Razorbill: 2 EGR 31 Dec (GBen, GBer, TB).

Iceland Gull: CPP 24 Dec (LT, SR, RSI, KB); McEchron Waterfront P WEST 27 Dec (JAm, BSt, SW, mob); max 3 NW 4 Jan- 23 Feb (BN, JH, YH, RDa, mob); max 2 Beacon Waterfront P 7 Jan-16 Feb (BN, CP, MKa, mob); Verplanck WEST 10, 23-24 Feb (KB, CR, KMcG, mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: NW 29 Dec-28 Jan (BN, KA, KMcD, YH, mob); Beacon Waterfront P 30 Dec- 6 Feb (DC, KB, DvZ); NW 20 Feb (YH).

Glaucous Gull: EGR 25-26, 31 Dec (GBen, SR, SC, mob); Rye WEST 1 Jan (BT); NW 7 Jan -14 Feb (BN, JH, RSI, YH, mob); Beacon Waterfront P 7 Jan-14 Feb (BN, AM, CP, MKa, mob); EGR 16 Jan (CA).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 AR 3 Dec (DO); NCR 12 Dec (NG); Croton Landing P WEST 19 Dec (SC); max 4 EGR 1-18 Dec (GBen, JAm, mob); MC 4-9 Dec (DW, GBen, TB); max 2 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (SR, SK, GBen, mob); Steamboat Riverfront P 14 Feb (CR, GBer).

Common Loon: max 2 EGR 1-19 Dec (GBen, JG, MBK, mob); West Branch Res 19 Dec (JB); Cross River Res WEST 4 Dec (GBen, TB); MRCC 2-4, 23 Dec (SR, SC, BSt); Washington L 1-10 Jan (BN, YH); Dobbs Ferry 21-22 Jan (JAm); max 5 EGR 1 Jan -28 Feb (GBen, KMcG, ASw, mob).

Great Cormorant: max 6 NCR 4 Dec-28 Feb (ASw, CR, mob); CPP 15 Dec (LT); max 6 Harbor Square P WEST 6-19 Dec (LT, SK, TS); 7 RSP 20 Dec (EG); max 8 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, SC, JAm, JAs); max 22 Verplanck 9 Jan-28 Feb (YH, GBer, KMcG, mob).

BROWN PELICAN (R9): Yonkers WEST 16 Jan (GS, MBo, GBen, mob), *intro*.

Great Egret: Cross River Res 9 Jan (SC, MM, MRe).

Golden Eagle: Kukok Ln ULST 6 Dec (DO); 3 I 84 Overlook 6 Dec (LA, AA); 4 Shaughnessy Rd DUTC 6 Dec (SC); Verbank DUTC 7 Dec (AM, SMA); Strever Farm Rd DUTC 13 Dec (DK); Deer Pd Farm DUTC 15 Dec (SMA); Walker Valley ULST 2 Jan (JH, DH); 2 River Rd SULL 8 Jan (RK); max 3 Pine Plains (general area) DUTC 4 Jan-28 Feb (DK, KB, DC, mob); RR 15 Jan (JH); Storm King Mt ORAN 16 Jan-28 Feb (MZ, GP, ME, mob); OCBDR 6 Feb (PJS, KMi, GBen, TB);

OCBDR 17 Feb (KK, RD, SK); BSWMA 25 Feb (JH, LV), widespread reports.

Northern Harrier: max 5 OCBDR 1 Dec-31 Jan (RSe, KMi, BN, mob); max 7 SGNWR 1 Dec-31 Jan (JF, MR, FP, mob); max 2 Beechwoods SULL 12-20 Dec SULL (PD, KMi, JH); EGR 17-30 Dec (NG, KMcG, JAm, mob); MC 3, 21 Jan (KK, DJ); max 2 CPP 5 Jan-28 Feb (SK, DC, SR, mob).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 WRNWR 1 Dec-28 Feb (KW, FP, LS); Aden Hill Rd SULL 11 Dec (JH); 2 Beechwoods 12-16 Dec (JH, KMi); max 3 OCBDR 1 Dec-28 Feb (LS, RSt, YH, mob); SGNWR 18-20 Dec (RM, FP, PS, mob); Cornwall-on-Hudson ORAN 6 Dec (AA); Minnewaska Trail ULST 17 Dec (CK); 2 Beekman DUTC 19 Dec (CP); 2 CPP 19 Dec (ASw); 2 Stony Pt SP ROCK 20 Dec (AWel); Beechwoods 14-16 Jan (JH, SB, PD); BSWMA 6 Feb (PD, MB, JD); CPP 3-6 Feb (JAm, SK, MB, mob); BSWMA 14 -16 Feb (KMi, MZ, SB, JH).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: OCBDR 16 Jan - 25 Feb (LS, JH, BN, RSt, MZ, KMcD, CM, mob), *intro*.

Eastern Screech-owl: Wurtsboro SULL 23 Dec-15 Feb (JH); CPP 5,11 Jan (SK, CR); EGR 5 Jan (GBen, TB); BSWMA 8,11 Jan (JH, SB); Pine Plains 8-11 Jan (SJ, DvZ, DK); Maple Ridge ULST 17 Jan (AME).

Great Horned Owl: 2 Stony Pt SP 20 Dec (AWel); CPP 4-21 Dec (ASw, SK, BSt); max 2 MC 1-25 Dec (GBen, DJ, MBK, mob); 2 Poughkeepsie DUTC 20 Dec (BL); MC 1-25 Jan (GBen, SC, SR, mob); Kendridge Farm ORAN 2 Jan (YH); OCBDR 2 Jan-6 Feb (BN, GBen, LS, mob); max 2 BSWMA 5 Jan-5 Feb (JH, SB, PD, SG, mob); max 2 CPP 5 Jan-13 Feb (SK, LT, EM, mob).

Snowy Owl: New Paltz 21 Feb (CKi).

Barred Owl: BSWMA 1 Dec, 11, 25 Jan -5 Feb (JH, SB, SG, KMi, mob); Lasdon P and Arboretum WEST 4 Dec (LT); THMUA 21 Jan (DA, SH). Widespread reports throughout period.

Long-eared Owl: SGNWR 5 Feb (GP, KMB, CM, mob); KP 16 Feb (HS).

Short-eared Owl: max 10 SGNWR 2 Dec -28 Feb (RM, JF, FP, mob); max 4 OCBDR 1 Jan-14 Feb (KMi, BN, KA, mob); CPP 24 Jan (MRo).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Magic Meadow ULST 15,21 Dec (PS); Sickler Rd ULST 15,21 Dec (PS); Sundale Rd ULST 10 Dec (PS); Sickler Rd 14 Feb (PS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Ft Montgomery ORAN 13 Dec (CKi); Maple Ridge ULST 13 Dec (AM); Minnewaska Tr 3 Jan (CKi); New Paltz ULST 21 Feb (CKi).

American Kestrel: SGNWR 1-24 Jan (SC, KB, MRi, mob); max 2 OCBDR 1-24 Jan – 10 Feb (LS, KA, KMi, mob); max 2 Sullivan Grasslands SULL 5-24 Jan (JH).

Merlin: Lake Glenaida PUTN 2 Jan (SK, AB); OCBDR 4-22 Jan (ML, PS, LS, mob); CPP 15 Jan (LT, DV); RLSP 17 Jan (CCo).

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 OCBDR 1 Jan-28 Feb (LS, BN, GBen, mob); SGNWR 5-10 Jan, 8 Feb (AG, GS, mob); PP 1,15 Jan (CCo, KN, JM); Beacon Waterfront 25 Jan (KB); CPP 17 Jan- 20 Feb (CR, KMcG, LT, mob);

Monk Parakeet: max 12 Red Bridge Area WEST 13 Dec-31 Jan (FG, SKa, SC, mob); Five Islands P WEST 1 Jan-24 Feb (KK, BN).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: CPP 1 Dec (AS, SK, LT, mob); Ulster P ULST 2-3 Jan (DT); Farmers Mill Rd PUTN 7 Jan (SC); Hilltop Hanover Farm WEST 14 Jan (KMcG); WRNWR 20-31 Jan (KMB, AV); Phillipsport Rd 31 Jan (JH); EMLHP 4 Feb (FM); 2 WRNWR 21 Feb (DSa).

Northern Shrike: Muhlig/Muthig Rds SULL 26-27 Dec (JH, RDa, MG, PD, RDe); Aden Rd SULL 1-19 Jan (PD, SB, SS, KMi, mob); Aden Rd 26 Feb (SS), *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 10 OCBDR 2-27 Dec (KMcD, KA, LS, mob); max 75 CPP 1-26 Dec (CR, EG, NG, mob); max 12 Beechwoods 18-22 Dec (JH, KMi, PD); 4 Hurley Mt Rd ULST 19 Dec (DO); 40 Rockefeller Ln DUTC 22 Dec (DC); 25 Haverstraw Landfill ROCK 20 Dec (AWel); max 6 BSWMA 2-27 Feb (JH, SB, KMi, mob).

Tree Swallow: 14 CPP 26-28 Feb (CR, SR, SK, mob); max 11 NCR 27 Feb (GBen, KB, CR, mob); WRNWR 27 Feb (LS, KMi); 2 KP 28 Feb (RH), *intro*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 BSWMA 1-23 Dec (SB, KMi, JH); max 11 Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery DUTC 2-20 Dec (CCh, DvZ, BN, mob); max 40 Marletown O + W Rail Trail ULST 13 Dec (NW, DWe, MM, mob); 2 Kensico Res 23 Dec (LWel). widespread reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Croton Landing P 19 Dec (SC, MM); Van Cortlandt Manor WEST Dec (CR); North County Trial WEST 19 Dec (SR, RK); MRCC 26 Dec (CR); BSWMA 26,

31 Dec (SB, JH); Greenhaven WEST 27 Dec (TB, GBen, AF); Long Dock P DUTC 28 Dec (HM); Madam Brett P 4-12 Jan (HM); Lake Mahopac PUTN 21 Jan (CR); LNP 9,17 Jan (JR).

Gray Catbird: Kendridge Farm 19 Dec (AA, LA); Yorktown Bike Path WEST 4 Dec (SR); Pruyne Sanctuary WEST 9 Dec (SC); max 4 CPP 1-24 Dec (LO, LT, KB, mob); SFSP 23 Dec (EF, TF); DHCLP 25 Jan (JH); max 3 WFPF 1-26 Jan (CR, KB, NS); max 2 CPP 1-24 Jan (SL, SK, LO, mob).

Brown Thrasher: Cortland Golf Course Wetlands WEST 19 Dec (JAm, TW).

Hermit Thrush: KP 4 Dec (RM); max 4 OMRLMSP 4-11 Dec (CCh, DL, JC); Marletown ULST 13 Dec (NW, DW, MM, mob); Mill Brook Pres DUTC 19 Dec (NM); max 2 BSWMA 19-22 Dec (SB); Kendridge Farm 19 Dec (AA, LA); 2 VFEF 21 Dec (MKa); CPP 23,27 Dec (KMa, LT).

American Pipit: max 40 OCBDR 1- 5 Dec (KMi, DC, EA); max 40 CPP 1 Dec-10 Jan (GBen, LT, AS, mob); SGNWR 18 Dec (RM).

Evening Grosbeak: 6 AR 10 Dec (MM); Somers WEST 1 Jan (KC); 2 Walkkill ULST 2 Jan (JC); max 42 Blue Hill Rd SULL 12 Jan - 21 Feb (JH, BN, KMi, mob), *intro*.

Purple Finch: MC 2 Dec (GBen, TB); 2 Pruyne Sanctuary WEST 4 Dec (AS, GBer); max 2 BSWMA 7-27 Dec (SB, JH, KMi); max 4 Quaker Bridge WEST 16-18 Dec (TS); Minnewaska Trail ULST 24-25 Dec (CKi); 5 Kendridge Farm 19 Dec (AA, LA).

Common Redpoll: 4 PHP 2 Dec (KB); 3 Stonehouse ULST 3 Dec (PMar); max 65 Deer Pd DUTC 8 Dec (SMA); max 60 Beechwoods 10 Dec (RDa); 15 Aden Hill Rd SULL 11 Dec (JH); max 17 Neversink SULL (KMi, JH, SB, PD); 2 Mountain Lakes P WEST 11 Dec (RL); 48 RR 22 Dec (JH); max 18 Brinton Brook Sanctuary WEST 26-30 Dec (GBer, JC, PC, EB); 10 Neversink SULL 1 Jan (SB, KMi, PD, mob); max 105 Lake Louise Marie SULL 4 Jan (JH, KMi); 54 Beechwoods 14 Jan (JH); max 30 CPP 10 Jan-21 Feb (AS, BSt, GBen, mob); OCBDR 20 Jan -4 Feb (MZ, ML, ACo, KA, TH, mob); max 105 BSWMA 3-24 Feb (JH, MBu, SB, mob), *intro*.

HOARY REDPOLL (R9): Neversink 10 Dec (JH, RDa); CPP 21 Jan (LT, SK, BSt, mob); CPP 28 Jan, 5 Feb (SC, AS, PH, RL); OCBDR 4 Feb (JD); 2 Poughkeepsie 17-26 Feb (KB, DC, CP); CPP 17 Feb (MS); max 2 Port Ewen ULST 22-28 Feb (FB, PD, PS, mob); Blue Hill

Rd SULL 26-28 Feb (JH, RDa, MG, KMi, mob), *intro*.

Red Crossbill: 2 Yard Patch ULST 5 Dec (PS); 2 Hilltop Acres ULST 6 Dec (PD); 3 Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery 6 Dec (DvZ, BMa); 8 Merriwald SULL 7 Dec (NH); 11 RR 11 Dec (JH); 35 Yard ULST 11 Dec (PS); 8 Forestburgh SULL 30 Dec (JH); Ulster P 1 Jan (DT); Hudson Overlook WEST 1 Jan (JAm); 2 Glynwood Farm PUTN 2 Jan (ME, LT); Statsburgh DUTC 6 Jan (JC); max 9 West Saugheties Rd ULST 18-20 Jan (PS); max 2 Forestburgh 20-22 Feb (NH), *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: Ulster P 14 Dec (AS, DT); 4 Saugarties Light House ULST 17 Jan (SC, AB); AR 21 Jan (PS).

Pine Siskin: 2 BSWMA 28 Dec (SB); 10 Gardner ULST 2 Jan (JC); max 30 Stoutenburgh Dr DUTC 1 Jan-28 Feb (DC, BMa, DvZ); 2 SGNWR 3, 10 Jan (LWei, DW); 25 Maple Ridge ULST 6 Jan (AM); max 7 Arlington DUTC 7-12 Jan (BHi); Wurtsboro SULL 26 Jan, 14 Feb (PD, JH); max 2 BSWMA 5,12 Feb (SG, KV); max 3 MC 20-25 Feb (GBen, KMcG, TB).

Lapland Longspur: OCBDR 4,12 Dec (YH, RS); max 8 OCBDR 11,18, 29 Jan, 6-14 Feb (BN, BW, BC, JH, MZ, KMi).

Snow Bunting: max 80 OCBDR 1-18 Dec (BN, KMi); max 8 Beechwoods 18-21 Dec (JH, KMi, RD, PD); 4 Nyquist-Harcourt ULST 18 Dec (NM); max 13 CPP 5-22 Dec (EG, LT, MBo, mob); 6 Kingsland Pt CP WEST 20 Dec (EG); max 11 Sullivan County Community College 10-15 Jan (KM, JH); max 120 OCBDR 29 Jan (RH, BN, MZ, JH, mob); max 110 BSWMA 4-28 Feb (JH, SB, LV, KMi, SG, mob).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 20 Dec (CR, KB, SC, mob), *intro*.

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: CPP 20-22 Dec (KB, CR, SC, mob), *intro*.

Chipping Sparrow: South Salem WEST 5 Dec (JZ); Home PUTN 5 Dec (SC); Hillview Res WEST 16 Dec (SC); max 2 Dunderberg Rd ROCK 16-20 Dec, 3 Jan (AWel); WPPF 3 Jan (CR); Kingston Ave ULST 24 Jan (NW); Spring Valley ROCK 16-20 Feb (LP).

Fox Sparrow: Esopus ULST 1-17 Dec (DB); max 2 CPP 2-23 Dec (LO, LT, KB, mob); max 2 MC 2-10 Dec (GBen, TB); Ulster County

Fairgrounds 12 Dec (GF); 3 Fox Hill ORAN (AS); Stoney Pt SP 16 Dec (AWel).

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Port Ewen ULST Dec (FB); Stoutenberg Dr DUTC 9 Dec (DC); max 9 Posquello Creek ULST 5, 11 Dec (PS); SGNWR 26 Dec (TC); 2 Stoney Kill Farm EEC 28 Dec (AL).

Vesper Sparrow: Hurley Mt Rd ULST 19, 22 Dec (PS); 2 OCBDR 30 Jan -10 Feb (MZ, RH, GBen, mob), *intro*.

“Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow: 2 CPP 20 Dec-28 Feb (KB, GBen, TB, mob), *intro*.

Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 13-14 Jan (TB, SO); CPP 26 Jan (LT, SKA).

Eastern Towhee: 2 Weston Rd Swamp ULST 1 Dec (GF); Arlington DUTC 12 Dec (BHi); Pleasantville WEST 25 Dec (NB).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 4 CPP 1-23 Dec (LT, AS, SKA, mob); max 8 SGRNWR 5-22 Dec (MDed, AD, FS, mob); max 2 CPP 2 Jan – 14 Feb (KF, LT, SK, mob); max 21 SGRNWR 7 Jan-5 Feb (SC, KB, SR, mob).

Baltimore Oriole: Wappingers DUTC 11-24 Dec (SI, BMi); Rhinebeck DUTC 12-13 Dec (MP); Hastings-on-Hudson WEST 25-26 Jan (TK).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 45 CPP 1-25 Dec (LT, JAm, AS, mob); max 11 Georges Island P 1-18 Dec (GBer); max 10 EGR 14-24 Dec (GBen, NG, KMcG, EL); 40 Stony Pt SP 16 Dec (AWel); max 35 BSWMA 25 Dec -15 Feb (KMi, JH, SB).

Rusty Blackbird: max 4 Esopus 3-17 Dec (DB); 2 Grieg Farm DUTC 15 Dec (AG); max 7 Bucolic Acres East ULST 14,17 Dec (ER); max 3 Prun Sanctuary 18-19 Dec (AS, KMcG, KW.); CPP 23 Dec (MW); 2 BSWMA 25 Dec (KMi, JH, SB); Putnam County Golf Course PUTN 2 Jan (NS); Ossining WEST 9 Jan (SK); Esopus ULST 15 Jan (DB); max 9 DHCLP 25 Jan-14 Feb (JH, SG, PD).

Common Grackle: 45 LNP 6 Dec (MB); max 23 CPP 14-28 Dec (LT, CR, LO, mob); 30 LNP 17 Dec (JR).

Tennessee Warbler: KP 4 Dec (RM); White Plains 11 Jan (KMcG); CPP 13-15 Jan (LT, SK, LO, mob).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Moran PL WEST 16-17 Dec (FG).

Nashville Warbler: Larchmont WEST 17 Dec (GBen, TB).

Northern Parula: Meadow and Rowley Bridge Trail WEST 1 Dec (PMac).

Pine Warbler: CPP 11 Dec (KL, LT); Monroe ORAN 28 Dec- 26 Jan (HB); CPP 13 Jan (SK, LT, LO, KL)

PAINTED BUNTING: Pearl River ROCK 20-21 Feb (MKaufman, DH, JWo), *intro*.

Dickcissel: Kerhonksen ULST 17 Dec- 4 Jan (MKZ, PS).



REGION 10—MARINE

Douglas J. Futuyma

8 Walnut Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790

dfutuyma@gmail.com

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	39.2°	37.5°	+1.7°	37.2°	35.6°	+1.6°
Jan	34.8°	32.6°	+2.2°	32.9°	30.6°	+2.3°
Feb	34.2°	35.3°	-1.1°	32.2°	32.5°	-0.6°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	4.61"	4.00"	+0.61"	4.50"	4.06"	+0.44"
Jan	2.31"	3.65"	-1.34"	1.86"	3.64"	-1.78"
Feb	5.13"	3.09"	+2.04"	4.21"	3.26"	+0.95"

Although temperatures in Region 10 were above average in December and January, and somewhat below in February, the winter was marked by several short-lived but steep temperature declines that froze freshwater bodies, most notably on 19-20 December, 9-12 January, and 7 February. There were substantial snowfalls on 16 December, 1 February, and again on 7 February, with February totals of 26.0" in Central Park and 24.9" in Islip. Counts of many "half-hardy" species dropped substantially between January and February, although I have not compared this year's to previous years' midwinter changes.

In the early fall, reports of poor seed crops to the north fed hopes of massive incursions of fringillid finches and possibly other boreal visitors. As the Fall report will doubtless have detailed, migration watches along the south shore of Long Island, especially at Robert Moses SP (Suffolk), bore this out, as observers recorded massive numbers of American Goldfinches (as many as 1400 per hour) and many Pine Siskins (records up to 80 per hour), accompanied by modest numbers of Red Crossbills and Purple Finches and by many single-digit counts of Common Redpoll and fewer of Evening Grosbeak. Of these great numbers, few settled and lingered long into the winter. Only five Evening Grosbeaks were recorded after 30 November, one of which came to a feeder in Stony Brook (Suffolk) well into February. Common Redpolls were recorded throughout the season, especially along the north shore of Long Island, with an exceptionally high count of 80 in Caumsett SP (Suffolk) on 18 January. Pine Siskins persisted

in all counties except Bronx, with high counts of 30 in Richmond, 22 in Brooklyn, and 35 in Nassau; they continued at a Stony Brook feeder well into April. American Goldfinches persisted through the winter in unexceptional numbers. Single-digit counts of Purple Finch were reported from 12 or fewer sites in each county, except for Suffolk, with 32 site records. Especially in December but continuing through, there were many reports of Red Crossbill, mostly at coastal sites, with as many as 80 recorded on 16 January at Robert Moses SP. Based on recordings of their calls, most of those identified were Type 10, although there were also single reports of Types 1 and 13. Note, however, that the distinction between Type 10, distributed mostly in the Pacific Northwest, and Type 7, said to frequent the east, appears to be uncertain (M. Young and T. Spahn 2017, <https://ebird.org/news/crossbills>). Small numbers were recorded in February and into at least May along the Paumanok Trail in the pine barrens of Manorville (Suffolk), where apparent nesting efforts were noted in 2019. Up to 29 were recorded in December and January, with smaller numbers in February and into at least May along the Paumanok Trail in the pine barrens of Manorville (Suffolk), where apparent nesting efforts were noted in 2019. White-winged Crossbill, in contrast, was almost missing: the only reports were of a few birds in early January at Jones Beach West End (Nassau) and Heckscher SP (Suffolk).

Regarding other northern land birds, it was an irruption year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, as in winter 2018-2019 but contrasting with its paucity in 2019-2020. Lapland Longspurs were seen at Great Kills Park (Richmond) and at six other sites, mostly on the south shore from Kings through Suffolk. Snow Buntings appeared in probably average numbers, with as many as 173 counted on 7 December in Robert Moses SP. Among raptors, a single Northern Goshawk was seen at Shinnecock Inlet on 20 January, and Rough-legged Hawks were seen at 11 sites in four counties, with a maximum of three at the EPCAL grassland (Suffolk). The incidence of roosting owls is hard to judge, as many observers, wisely, are not reporting them, but at least five Barred Owls moved into Pelham Bay Park (Bronx) and three parks in Manhattan; and single Long-eared Owls were seen in Inwood Hill and Central Parks (Manhattan), JFK Wildlife Sanctuary (Nassau), and Heckscher SP and Wertheim NWR (Suffolk). Northern Saw-whet Owls were found roosting in at least three counties, and enterprising owlers reported the species from at least 28 sites in Suffolk, with as many as six heard in Napeague. Short-eared Owls were reported from nine sites in four counties, with a maximum of three at Richmond Creek (Richmond); the number of this increasingly threatened species at the EPCAL grassland (Suffolk) has dwindled year by year to a single bird this season. At least 22 Snowy Owls were recorded in the Region, at 15 sites in five counties. These included a celebrity in Central Park that continued from 4 February to at least 27 February.

This winter, like most, yielded a considerable number of vagrant, very uncommon, and downright rare species. Greater White-fronted Goose occurs annually, but one that frequented Randall's Island and visited Central Park was a first record for Manhattan (New York Co.). Only two Barnacle Geese were

recorded, in Southampton, and a single **Pink-footed Goose**, in Northport (Suffolk) was the rarest of the winter geese. King Eiders were more numerous and widespread than usual, as detailed in the species account. At least two male “**Northern**” **Common Eiders**, subspecies *borealis*, were photographed between Jones Beach and Fire Island Inlet (see p. 155). A small but growing number of documented records of this taxon south of northern New England suggests that it might be a rare, but under-detected incursive visitor to our area (S. S. Mitra, pers. comm.).

An Eared Grebe continued into December at Jamaica Bay WR. A Brown Pelican was spotted along the Hudson River from Inwood Hill Park, and a Sandhill Crane was photographed at Tobay Beach (Nassau). Black-headed Gulls were seen at four widely spaced sites between Montauk and Queens, and at least two in Brooklyn—and one seen repeatedly at Randall’s Island probably accounted also for the exceptional sighting on the Central Park reservoir. Remarkably, three “**Mew**” **Gulls** were recorded (the formal split into two species was published during the preparation of this report): an adult *brachyrhynchus* and an immature *canus* in Brooklyn and an adult at Orient Point (Suffolk), deemed indeterminate. Notable passerines included at least five **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, one Western Kingbird (Montauk), a Sedge Wren on the Captree CBC in West Sayville (Suffolk), a Lark Sparrow at Fort Tilden, two (!) **LeConte’s Sparrows**, at Wolfe’s Pond Park (Richmond) in December and Breezy Point (Queens) in February, and three **Western Tanagers**, including a single sighting in Montauk and two long-staying birds in Manhattan.

Species at the rarer end of the spectrum included a **Rufous Hummingbird** at a feeder in East Hampton (Suffolk), a **Varied Thrush** in Ridge (Suffolk), and a **Painted Bunting** near Montauk that obligingly stayed for the CBC the next day. But the **Spotted Towhee** that Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay found on the Southern Nassau CBC in Baldwin Harbor Park certainly takes pride of place. The towhee, a female of the *arcticus* race, frequented a large island of thick brush that both confined the bird to a searchable area and provided it plenty of opportunity to stay out of sight, frustrating some of the many birders who came for it. The last of the 129 eBird reports of the towhee was from 26 February. (If I may be allowed a personal reflection: I was very happy to see this bird, but it wasn’t my first in New York; see note, p. 126 and photo, p. 156).

Among noteworthy water birds, Tundra Swans were distinguished by their absence, other than a group of five in Staten Island (Richmond) on 5 February; the traditional East Hampton group has dwindled steadily, now apparently to zero. Blue-winged Teal was seen at five sites on Long Island, and Eurasian Wigeon at 10; a male Eurasian x American Wigeon was photographed in Brooklyn. The maximal count of Canvasback was 94 at the World’s Fair Marina (Queens); the species was almost absent from some former sites. Harlequin Ducks were reported from six sites; at Point Lookout, the most consistent site over the years the maximal count was seven, but only three continued through. One or two Barrow’s Goldeneye occurred at nine Long Island sites; in Suffolk, a male returned for the

fourth year to Crab Meadow Beach, and a female visited a freshwater pond in Setauket for about a week. The most exceptional anatid event was the abundance of King Eiders. In contrast to the usual handful of individuals, this winter featured one bird in Richmond, two in Kings, at least four in Queens, three in Nassau, and at least 10 at six sites in Suffolk. Razorbills were not unusually abundant; the star alcid this winter was Dovekie, seen by many observers from Brooklyn to Montauk, mostly from mid-December to mid-January; as many as nine were seen in single sea-watches. There were only four to five reports (each) of **Thick-billed** and **Common Murres**, none of which stayed in place for long. Due to weather, there were no pelagic trips this winter, but shore-based sea watches yielded up to 13 Black-legged Kittiwakes. Counts of as many as 940 (on 7 December) and 3418 (on 20 December) Bonaparte's Gull at Robert Moses SP were encouraging by current, although not by historical, standards. Along with goodly numbers of Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, at least 12 Glaucous Gulls were seen from Staten Island to Montauk, and there were three confirmed reports of Herring x Glaucous gull hybrids. Other notable Laridae included two Royal Terns in early December in Queens, and Black Skimmers that lingered into early January at Point Wadsworth (Richmond) and Coney Island Creek Park (Kings).

The most interesting rallid this winter was an adult Common Gallinule throughout the period at Mill Pond in Bellmore (Nassau)—interesting because an immature did the same in winter 2019-2020, so this was very possibly a returning bird. American Oystercatchers occurred in all five coastal counties, mostly in December, but one stayed until 24 February in Richmond and two until 28 February in Queens. Two Piping Plovers at Robert Moses SP on 25 February might have been early returning migrants, but the six Semipalmated Plovers at Jones Beach West End, seen 10-14 February, surely overwintered nearby, as did one in Floyd Bennett Field (Kings), seen on 10 and 4 January. There were many reports of Greater Yellowlegs through the season, and single Lesser Yellowlegs in Nassau and Richmond. Two Long-billed Dowitchers found in Oceanside on the Southern Nassau CBC (2 January) were the only report of this ordinarily scarce but dependable species, but a Short-billed Dowitcher photographed on 5 December in Amityville (Suffolk) was unexpected, as were a Spotted Sandpiper in Queens on 19 December and a Least Sandpiper seen on 19 December and 1 January in Great Kills Park (Richmond). Wilson's Snipe was seen at least 20 sites in five counties, with as many as 18 at Georgica Cove Hollow in eastern Suffolk. American Bitterns were seen in four counties, with several persisting through the winter along Dune Road (Suffolk) and at the J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary at Tobay Beach (Nassau). Great Egrets occurred at 57 sites in the Region, with numerous reports through February. Single Snowy Egret records from three fairly close sites in Suffolk, from 27 December to 16 January, might have been a single bird. A Tricolored Heron at Jones Beach SP on 2 January and a Green Heron at Hendrix Creek (Queens) on 11-12 January were the only reports of those species, while single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in Nassau (2-18 January) and at

Randall's Island (11 December to at least 10 January), a notable record for New York County.

Lingering "half-hardy" species included Osprey (20 December), Turkey Vulture (at least 50 overwintering in Riverhead), and Black Vulture ("historically rare, but decreasingly so" [Peter Paul, eBird, 26 April]), as usual in Riverhead (Suffolk), but also in Kings and Bronx Counties. Among quite a few Eastern Phoebes, one was repeatedly observed feeding on small fish at Georgica Cove Hollow on 4 March by Jane and Alfred Ross. (See note, p. 125, and photo, p. 156). Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Veery, and Swainson's Thrush were each recorded singly. Tree Swallow was much less abundant than in some other winters, but at least six House Wrens, nearly 30 Marsh Wrens, and at least 34 Brown Thrashers were recorded. Chipping Sparrow is surely overwintering in greater numbers than before, with up to nine birds at 52 sites in six counties. Single Vesper Sparrows were recorded at Shirley Chisholm SP in Brooklyn, and at three sites in Suffolk; Dune Road yielded Saltmarsh, a "probable" Nelson's, and Seaside Sparrows, the latter also in Richmond. At least six Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded, one of which persisted well beyond this season in Central Park. There were five reports of Yellow-breasted Chat; Eastern Meadowlark was seen at 25 sites in five counties, and Baltimore Oriole at 23 sites in five counties, including several at feeders. Among the 52 sites in seven counties at which Rusty Blackbird was recorded, a count of 49 at Shu Swamp was exceptional. Large flocks of Common Grackle were noted at several sites, including 3200 at EPCAL in Suffolk; and as many as 562 Boat-tailed Grackles were recorded at a Queens park. Last in this list are a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 9 January, and no fewer than 14 species of warblers, many of which persisted in city parks: Ovenbird (9!), Northern Waterthrush (2), Tennessee (6), Orange-crowned (10), Nashville (5), Common Yellowthroat (3), Cape May (3), Northern Parula (2), Yellow (1), Blackpoll (1), Palm (at least 21), Pine (25), Yellow-rumped (as usual), and Wilson's (2).

I close with remarks on a few species that do not fit into these several themes. Red-headed Woodpeckers, as always sporadic, were seen repeatedly at two Suffolk sites and once in Staten Island, and Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in Van Cortland P (Bronx) and at three sites in Staten Island. Common Raven has become a quotidian bird throughout much of the Region, recorded from more than 21 sites in Kings, 20 in Queens, 63 in Nassau, and more than 150 in Suffolk, extending to the end of both forks. In contrast, Northern Bobwhite and (except perhaps in Staten Island) Ring-necked Pheasant seem no longer to be self-sustaining in the Region. The numerous sightings of the pheasant in Suffolk Co. are of released birds or their immediate progeny (M. Scheibel, pers. comm.), and in its last Nassau stronghold (Hempstead Plains), it has not been recorded on the Southern Nassau CBC since 2014. It has been ecologically replaced by Wild Turkey, now abundant throughout much of Long Island, especially in the east.

To my knowledge, 220 species were recorded in the Region this winter.

It is with sadness but also many fond memories that we note the passing of Seymour (Sy) Schiff on 14 January 2021 at the age of 93. A long-time Region 10 co-editor and well-known figure among the Region's birding community, Sy was a voluble but alert, inquisitive stalwart of Nassau birding, and a role model for those of us who hope to be alert and active in our later years. A touching memorial by his good friend and constant companion, Joe Giunta, appears in the October issue of *New York Birders*.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Adamo, Patricia Aitken, Resit Akçakaya, Chris Allieri, Deborah Allen, Trevor Ambrico, William Andermann, Annette Anderson, Bob Anderson, Richard Aracil, Dmitrij Aronov, Seth Ausubel, Alan Bacchiocchi, , Andrew Baksh (ABk), David Barrett, Catherine Barron (CB), Rob Bate, Loyan Beausoleil, Ed Becher, Willy Becker, Bill Belford, Matthieu Benoit, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlingeri (BBE), C. Bernlach, Luci Betti, Steve Biasseti, Sean Billerman, Mary Beth Billerman, Max Bivona, Michael Bochnik, Shane Blodgett, Katie Blouse, David Bohrer, Jill Bohrer, Brad Bolliett, Brent Bomkamp (BBO), G. Bourquoio, Liam Brock, Sharon Brody, Brenda Bull, Adrian Burke, Jean Burke, Thomas W. Burke, Joe Bushman, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace, Erin Calamasso, Sean Camillieri, Chase Cammarota, Gabriel Campos, Dick Cartwright, Keith Cashman, Cesar Castillo, Stephen Chang, Steveland Charles, Kristine Chayes, Solomon Cherry, Yiru Cheng, Anthony Ciancimino (ACi), Douglas Cioffi, Anthony Collerton (AColl), Matthew Cook, Mike Cooper, Kathleen Coyle, Adam Cunningham, Gail DeLalla, Louis DeMarco, Alice Deutsch, Joseph DiCostanzo, Robert Dieterich, Liz DiNapoli, Patrice Domeischel, Margarette Doyle, Jacob Drucker, Tim Dunn, Frank Durso, Bryan Edwards, Sherif Elmaghrabi, Max Epstein, Linda Ewing, Mike Farina, Andrew Farnsworth, Anthony Ferino, Kim Fessler, Ken Feustel, Suzy Feustel, Bert Filemyr, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, James Fitzgerald, Richard Fleming, Brendan Fogarty (BF), Karen Fung, Douglas Futuyma (DF), John Gaglione, Ed Gaillard, Chris Gangemi (CG), Barbara Garriel, Arie Gilbert, Joe Girgente, Joe Giunta, Vincent Glasser, John Gluth (JG), Doug Gochfeld (DGo), Eric Goodman, Ethan Goodman, Rich Gostic, Isaac Grant, Timothy Graves, Tom Gray, John Haas, Yong Hahn, Richard Haimes, Dana Halle, Dawn Hannay, Tim Healy (TH), Nadine Henderson, Mike Higgiston, William Hollweg, Adelia Honeywood, Patrick Horan, Bruce Horwith, Nancy Houlihan, Dennis Hrehowsik, Ken Huth, Christoph Illemassene, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Peter Joannidis, Ed Johnson, Tom Johnson, Clark Jones, Alise Jordana, Danny Karlson, Roger Kaufmann, John Keane, Srah Keeton, Paul Keim, Gus Keri, HJ Kim, Jordan Klein, K. J. Klein, Matt Klein, Katie Kleinpeter, Vincent Koczurik, Mary Beth Kooper, Linda LaBella, Barbara LaGois, David LaMagna, MaryLaura Lamont, Joseph Landesberg, J. Lee, Andrew Leidig, Jenna Levandosky, Jody Levin, Patricia J. Lindsay (PJL), Heydi Lopes (HL), Ron Lulov, Joshua Malbin, Ryan Mandelbaum, Roberta Manion, Deborah Martin,

Michael McBrien (MMcB), Michael D. McBrien, Ryan McGrady, Jay McGowan, Hugh McGuinness, Alice McNerney, John McNeill, Calista McRea, Chris McVoy, Stacy & Kurt Meyerheinrich, Kurt Meyfahrt, Carey Michel, Eric Miller, Stella Miller, Joel Milton, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra (SSM), Ursula Mitra, Thomas Moran, Pete Morris, Deborra Mullins, Melissa Murgitroyd, Ernst Mutchnick, Farah Mutchnick, Stefan Mutchnick, Theodore Muth, Steve Nanz, Lisa Nasta, Mary Normandia, John O'Brien, Russ Ogden, Karen O'Hearn, Todd Olson, Gregory O'Mara, Nathan O'Reilly, Luke Ormand, Bill Ostrander, Jesse Ottesen, Patrick Palladino, JeanMarie Panzeca, Daisy Paul, Peter Paul (PP), Robert Paxton, Richard Payne, Aidan Perkins (APe), Stephane Perreault (SP), Felipe Pimentel, Lisa Pisani, Sarah Plimpton, Peter Polshak, Peter Post, Tom Preston, Robert Proniewych, April Pufahi, Joe Purchacki, Joan Quinlan, Dermot Quinn, Glen Quinn, Jose Ramirez-Garofalo, Jay Rand, Mike Rath, Alexandra Ratray, RBA – NY Rare Bird Alert, Peter Reisfeld, T. Remy, Kris Replogle, Ian Resnick, Phil Ribolow, Jeff Ritter, Kristi Roberts, Arturo Romua, Raina Coyle Iris Roses, Jane Ross, Miles Ross, Jack Rothman, Juan Salas, Chris Sayers, Lynne Scheibel, Mike Scheibel, Steve Schellenger, Lisa Scheppke, Sy Schiff, Lee Schlesinger, Donna Schulman, Emma Schwartz, Eileen Schwinn, John Sepenoski, Ryan Serio, Mike Shanley, Robin Shea, John Shemilt, Maya Shikhman, Sally Shore, Robert Shriber, Patrick Shure, Sean Sime (SS), Amy Simmons, Daniel Smith, Nadir Souirgi, Jeff Stetson, Suzi Stewart, Miles Stokowski, Noah Strycker, Michael Stubblefield, Taylor J. Sturm (TJS), Harry Sullivan, Linda Sullivan, Anne Swaim, Paul Sweet, Robert Taylor, Nick Tepper, Indira Thirkannad, Ken Thompson, Pamela Thompson, Jeremy Thorpe, Cole Tiemann, Louis Tognan, Nancy Tognan, Kathleen Toomey, John Turner, Rosemary Valente, Benjamin Van Doren, Mike Vedder, Richard Veit, Michelle Ventresca, Lance Verderame, Joe Viglietta, Adam Vinson, Aaron Virgin, Xander Vitarelli, Michael Waldron, Steve Walter, Bob Washburn, Joanna Watson, Drew Weber, Cathy Weiner, Ari Weiss, Scott Whitmore, Alicia Williams, Gabriel Willow, Angus Wilson (AnW), Julie Wilson, Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Tod Winston, Heather Wolf, Mark Wolfe, Marguerite Wolffsohn, Lisa Wollerstein, Seth Ian Wollney, Janet Wooten, D. Bruce Yelton, Byron Young, Mi Yu, Michael Yuan, Terence Zahner, Eric Zawatski, Michael Zito, Ryan Zucker, and the many others who have contributed sightings during this time. (Note: anonymous and pseudonymous eBird reports are not included.)

ABBREVIATIONS

AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; **APEC** – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BBP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **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; **CroP** – Crocheron P, QUEE; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P (aka Dreier Offerman P), KING; **DP** – Democrat Pt, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **DR** – Dune Rd, CCP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **et seq.** – observers who saw a bird after the discoverer (from *et sequentes*, “and persons following”); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadow-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GCH** – Georgica Cove Hollow, SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HHCG** – Hither Hills Campground, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **KCP** – Kissena Corridor P, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox In, SUFF; **Mon** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **NYIT** – New York Institute of Technology, NEWY; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PatchL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert; **RI** – Randalls I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Riis P, QUEE; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SCFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Education Center, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SMNC** – Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine P (KING); **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **TB** – Tiana Beach, near Shinn, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VMP** – Veterans Memorial Pier, KING; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: Max 1300 JBWE 28 Feb (CF).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Randall’s Is NEWY 20 Dec (CBC) – 12 Jan; sightings of probably same bird, CP, sporadically 15-23 Jan; Centerport SUFF 1 Dec-13 Jan (J. Klein et seq.); Riverhead sod fields 26 Jan (B. Bull); Southampton 12-24 Dec (AColl et seq.); East Hampton 10-19 Dec (B. Horwith); 3 Dix Hills 13 Jan (M. Vedder, PJJ, SSM).
Pink-footed Goose: Northport SUFF 24 Jan, 1 Mar (JG et seq.).
Barnacle Goose: 7 Southampton 1 Dec (D. Cartwright) – 24 Dec (2, J. Shemilt).
Cackling Goose: 2 Miller Field RICH 26 Dec (ACi); Governor’s Island NEWY 11 Feb (C. Weiner); 10 sites in SUFF.
Canada Goose: max 4850 VCP 16 Jan (M. Bochnik).

Tundra Swan: 5 Fort Wadsworth RICH 5 Feb (ACi).
Wood Duck: max 47 BZ 14 Feb (K. Huth).
Blue-winged Teal: Bellmore NASS 31 Dec-30 Jan (m. ob.), Captree I 13 Dec (DF); Patchogue L 31 Dec-30 Jan (K. Coyle), Eastport 31 Jan (K. Cashman).
Northern Shoveler: max 375 PP KING 13 Dec (DGo).
Gadwall: max 415 Swan Pd, Patchogue SUFF 4 Jan (G. O’Mara).
Eurasian Wigeon: Bush Term. Piers P KING 26 Feb (P. Sweet), Alley Pond P QUEE 1 Dec (L. Pisani); JBWR 3 Dec (CF); Bayswater QUEE 25 Jan (L. Schepke); Hewlett NASS 12 Dec (B. Belford); HLSP 4-11 Dec (M. Zito); Oyster Bay NASS 6 Dec-15 Jan (BBo et seq); Fort Salonga SUFF 5 Dec-6 Feb (BBo et seq); Patchogue SUFF 12 Jan (B. Young); Mott

Lane SUFF 24 Feb (M. Scheibel); Pepperidge L SUFF 7 Dec (K. J. Klein).

American Wigeon: max 232 Gardiner's I SUFF 19 Dec (TJS).

Mallard: max 800 Horsemill La, Southampton 23 Feb (C. Tiemann).

American Black Duck: max 1484 JFK Memorial Sanctuary (Tobay) 2 Jan (S. Camillieri).

Northern Pintail: max 58, Mass NASS 3 Dec (E. Mutchnick).

Green-winged Teal: max 156 Shorts Pd SUFF 6 Feb (BBo, TJS). No reports of Eurasian.

Canvasback: mostly single-digit counts at 3 sites in BRON, 1 in NEWY, 3 in QUEE (high count 94 at World's Fair Marina 23 Jan, SP), 2 in NASS, 18 in SUFF (high counts 26 Centerport 21 Jan, S. Mutchnick; 84 North Sea 9 Jan, CG *et al.*; 160 Watermill, SUFF 13 Feb, CG; max. 210 Big Fresh Pd, Southampton 6 Feb (J. McNeill).

Redhead: max 91 Baisley Pd P QUEE 18 Dec (CF).

Ring-necked Duck: max 210 West L, Patchogue SUFF 14 Jan (K. Kleinpeter).

Greater Scaup: max 7500 HSP 10 Feb (JG).

Lesser Scaup: max 1250 World's Fair Marina QUEE 23 Jan (SP).

King Eider: Great Kills P RICH 13 Dec (M. Shanley, A. Ferino); Army Pier KING 71 Dec (R. Manian, D. Hreshowsik); Dead Horse Pt/FBF 16 Jan thru (T. Preston et seq.); Breezy Pt QUEE 12 Jan (CF); 2 FT 4 Dec (P. Sweet); 2-4 RP 6 Dec (L. LaBella, X. Vitarelli); 2 Rockaway Beach 2 Jan (J. Thorp); 2-3 JBWE 28 Dec-27 Feb (S. Billerman et seq.); RMSP 11 Dec-3 Feb, high 4 (16 Jan, MMcB); also Captree I (MMcB); Bay Shore (L. Nasta, K. Thompson), SPCP (K. Cashman); Shinn 7 Dec-18 Jan (AnW et seq.); MP 15 Feb (L. Nasta).

Common Eider: Max 1800 MP 6 Feb (BBo *et al.*).

"NORTHERN" COMMON EIDER: RMSP 16 Dec (SSM, ph.) and 20 Dec (PM), subadult male; JBWE 30 Jan (SSM et al., ph.), possibly the same as prev; RMSP 24 Dec (MMcB, ph.), different male; see p. 155; *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: 3 PL 6 Dec (T. Preston) thru; max count 7, 18 Jan (L. Sullivan); 3 MP 15 Dec (APe *et al.*); Moriches Bay 12 Dec (APe); Shinn 2 Dec-28 Jan (PD, L. Betti et seq.); 2 Orient Pt 15 Feb (JSep); Gardiner's Is 19 Dec (AnW).

Surf Scoter: max 500 Elizabeth A. Morton NWR (SUFF) 3 Jan (M. Stokowski *et al.*).

White-winged Scoter: max 2100 Cedar Pt CP 14 Jan (P JL, SSM).

Black Scoter: max 1200 Shagwong Pt SUFF 19 Dec (TH, T. Dunn).

Long-tailed Duck: max 450 MP 6 Feb (TJS *et al.*).

Bufflehead: max 439 PBP 22 Feb (R. Aracil).

Common Goldeneye: max 300 FDR Boardwalk and Beach RICH 12 Feb (J. Ramirez-Garofalo).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Kings Pt NASS 5 Dec (MMcB); East Setauket SUFF 1-15 Dec (L. Betti); CMB 4 Dec-8 Feb (BBo et seq; presumed returning male; 2 present 13 Dec, A. Gilbert); Gardiner's I 19 Dec (TJS), 7 Jan (A. Farnsworth); Goldsmiths In SUFF 28 Dec-18 Jan (A. Ratray et seq.); 2 Orient Pt 23 Dec (J. Levin); Cedar Pt CP SUFF 26 Dec-24 Jan (CG); Mashomack Pres 26 Dec (D. Cartwright); Sammy's Beach SUFF 7 Feb (AColl).

Hooded Merganser: max 240 HLSP 2 Jan (S. Meyerheinrich *et al.*); notable total 1387 2 Jan, S. Nassau CBC ("all-time high").

Common Merganser: max 81 L. Ronkonkoma 5 Jan (F. Mutchnick, S. Mutchnick); notable count 12 PBP 3 Dec ("all-time high," P. Horan).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 364 Oak Beach SUFF 20 Dec (Captree CBC: PD, L. Betti).

Ruddy Duck: max 1350 Quantuck Creek, Southampton 28 Jan (B. Young).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Ocean Breeze P RICH 24 Jan (ACi); 4 SMNC 11 Dec (A. Bacchiochi); Shirley Chisholm SP KING 16 Jan (M. Bivona); FMCP 2 Feb (K. Blouse); Rockaway Beach QUEE 14 Dec (CF); Smithtown SUFF 11 Feb (K. Chayes); multiple sites in e. SUFF probably released (*intro*).

Wild Turkey: 3 sites in BRON, ca. 20 in RICH; ca. 100 in SUFF (notable count 41, Sagaponack 22 Jan. [S. Mutchnick]); max 129 Seaview Ave RICH 19 Jan (A. Romua).

Pied-billed Grebe: at 6 sites in RICH, 1 NEWY, 2 BRON, 8 KING (max 4, PP 10 Dec, D. Halle), 6 QUEE, 9 NASS, 27 SUFF.

Horned Grebe: max. 83 GKP 14 Dec (R. Veit).

Red-necked Grebe: WPP 20 Feb (ACi); PBP BRON 11 Feb (P. Horan); 6 sites in KING, max 5 Manhattan Beach 31 Jan (HL); BPT 26 Dec (R. Serio); RP 16 Jan (BF); FMCP 8-12 Dec (D. Schulman *et al.*); PL/JBWE 24 Dec-2 Jan (R. Haimes et seq.), 10 sites in SUFF.

Eared Grebe: 1 JBWR, 3-10 Dec, continuing from Nov. (CF et seq.).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: GCH 3 Dec -4 Jan (J. Ross, AColl); likely this sp but still under review by NYSARC.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: JBWR 19 Dec (DGo and R. Gochfeld); SMNC 16 Jan (H. Sullivan); Cow Meadow P NASS 2 Jan (MMcB); 15 Feb (J. Gaglione); Short Beach P SUFF 27 Dec (R. Gostic); W. Sayville 20 Dec (K. Thompson); Wading River SUFF 4 Feb (R. Gostic); Orient Beach P 26 Dec (BBo. TJS); DR multiple records to 31 Jan; Ponquogue Bridge SUFF 31 Jan (AColl).

Virginia Rail: River Rd RICH 1 Jan (ACi); 2 High Rock P RICH 31 Jan (J. Levandosky); Mass 2 Jan (S. and M. B. Billerman); 11 sites in SUFF, incl Lily Pd CP 28 Feb (PD and K. Coyle) and William Floyd Estate 27 Dec (ML Lamont).

Common Gallinule: Mill Pond P, Bellmore NASS 4 Dec (J. Landesberg)-28 Feb (*intro*).

Sandhill Crane: JFK Sanctuary, Tobay Beach NASS 26 Feb (W. Becker, ph.).

American Oystercatcher: Trapp House RICH 24 Feb (M. Shanley); 2 Plumb Beach KING 6-22 Dec (J. Salas); BPT 15-21 Dec (M. Yu. HL); 2 Rockaway Beach QUEE 28 Feb (T. Remy); 2 Silver Pt CP NASS 20 Dec (R. Dieterich); multiple records JBWE, max 12, 1 Jan (PJJ, SSM), to 3 Feb (4, V. Glasser).

Black-bellied Plover: many reports in NASS, also KING, QUEE, SUFF; max 160 PL 14 Jan (T. Johnson *et al.*).

Semipalmated Plover: FBF 10 and 24 Jan (T. Preston, M. Epstein); 6 JBWE 10-14 Jan (B. Belford, M. Ventresca et seq.).

Piping Plover: 2 RMSP 25 Feb. (D. Cartwright).

Ruddy Turnstone: 26 sites in RICH, KING, NASS, SUFF; max 150 Napeague Harbor SUFF 14 Feb (P. Sweet).

Red Knot: FBF 30 Jan (T. Preston); 13 BPT 16 Feb (DGo); 4 Jamaica Bay islands 20 Dec (M. Benoit); 5 NB 3 Jan (GB); PL *thru*, max 23 31 Jan (S. Camillieri *et al.*); JBWE several dates, max 20 13 Dec (Y. Hahn); many reports Shinn to 26 Feb, max 14 10 Jan (M. Scheibel), also 19 Jan (D. Cartwright).

Sanderling: notable counts 240 BPT 14 Feb (C. Allieri); 465 Silver Pt CP NASS 20 Dec (DGo *et al.*); 300 JBWE 5 Jan (J. Lee, C. Bernlach); 250 RMSP 25 Feb (D. Cartwright); 240 Smith

Pt CP 10 Jan (K. Cashman); 1020 Gardiner's I. 19 Dec (AnW).

Dunlin: notable counts 290 BPT 16 Feb (DGo); 1500 NB 2 Jan (ABk); 2500 PL 8 Jan (J. McGowan); 300 DR 9 Feb (K&SF).

Purple Sandpiper: max 100 JBWE 25 Feb (A. Honeywood & D. Smith); records from BRON (PBP, max 3 15 Feb, P. Horan), KING (6 sites, max 28 Manhattan Beach 14 Feb, T. Preston), QUEE (9 sites, single digits), NASS (4 sites), SUFF (19 sites, max 23 Cedar Beach 17 Jan, M. Scheibel).

Least Sandpiper: GKP 19 Dec (K. Replogle), 1 Jan (E. Johnson).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Amityville Creek SUFF 5 Dec (MMcB, ph.).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Oceanside, So. Nassau CBC 2 Jan (S. Walter, ph.).

Wilson's Snipe: many reports RICH, NEWY, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; max 18 GCH 30 Jan (AColl) and 13 Feb (M. Doyle).

Spotted Sandpiper: Hendrix Creek QUEE 19 Dec (J. Malbin).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Goethals Bridge Pd RICH 6 Feb (R. Veit), OMNSA, So. Nass CBC 2 Jan (K. Fessler *et al.*).

Greater Yellowlegs: KING (2 sites), QUEE (8 sites), NASS (6 sites, thru), SUFF (17 sites, max 28, 5 Dec Amityville Creek [MMcB]).

Dovekie: KINGS: Plumb Beach 16 Jan (R. Manian, D. Hrehowsik); Dead Horse Pt. 16 Jan (K. Ewing et seq.); 2 Marine Parkway Bridge 16 Jan (R. Mandelbaum); QUEE: 3 Riis Landing 22 Jan (BF); FT 16 Jan (R. Bate); Rockaway Beach 25 Dec (J. Simmons); NASS: PL 16 Jan (BBE); 9 JBWE 16 Jan (P. Markee *et al.*); SUFF: 3 RMSP 15 Jan (JG); 3 RMSP 16 Jan (MMcB *et al.*; also one caught by PEFA); Cupsogue CP 15 Jan (DF); singles Shinn on 13, 15, 16, 18 Jan (K. Munroe *et al.*); Mecox Bay 18 Jan (AColl); GCH 25 Dec (CG *et al.*); Indian Wells 7 Dec (AnW); singles at MP and environs 19 Dec, 24 Dec, 1 Jan, 14 Jan (3, SSM, PJJ), 17 Jan.

COMMON MURRE: Shinn 30 Dec ("graichen & recer"), 5 Jan (P. Aitken); Jones In NASS 31 Dec (S. Camillieri *et al.*); RMSP 14 Feb (KF & SF), likely same bird found dead on beach RMSP 15 Feb (BBo), seen being consumed by PEFA (SSM, PJJ).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: MP 16 Dec (APe), under review by NYSARC; Jones In NASS 31 Jan (KF&SF); Coney I KING 6 Feb (R. Jett et seq.); Page Ave Beach RICH 7 Feb (S. Wollney); Noyack 12 Feb (CG *et al.*).

Razorbill: from 1 Dec (75, MP, D. Cartwright) thru; BPB 28 Feb (S. Cherry); multiple sites in RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; notable counts 42 JBWE 15 Jan (E. Becher), 56 RMSP 15 Jan (JG), 13 Oldfield Pt SUFF north shore 14 Jan (APe), 26 Smith Pt CP 20 Dec (K. Cashman), max 450 MP 15 Dec (APe), 86 MP 86 (AColl), 49 MP 20 Feb (DF).

Black-legged Kittiwake: SUFF only: 13 RMSP 13 Dec (SSM), 11 RMSP 9 Dec (JG), 27 Feb (1, JG), Huntington Harbor 18 Dec (unusual loc., A. Leidig), Smith Pt CP 2 Dec (K. Cashman), Shinn 11 Dec (APe), 22 Dec (B. Bull), 23 Jan (P. Markee); multiple reports MP from 8 Dec: high counts 13, 16 Dec (APe), 8, 14 Jan (PJL, SSM), 8, 20 Feb (DF, MMcB).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 2300 BPT 13 Dec (R. Mandelbaum); high counts include 180 Manhattan Beach P KING 19 Dec (J. Giunta), 300 PL 30 Dec (BBE), 940 RMSP 7 Dec (SSM), 3418 RMSP 20 Dec (PM, SSM *et al.*: Captree CBC).

Black-headed Gull: Randall's I and CP NEWY 31 Jan-21 Mar (RBA); Ditch Plains SUFF 28-30 Dec (APe); Setauket/Oldfield 14 Dec (PD), 28 Dec, 30 Dec (probable return from previous years); JBWE 29 Dec (DF), 1 Jan; 2 JBWE 9 Jan (MMcB); BPT 27 Dec (CF *et al.*); Shirley Chisholm SP 27 Feb (R. Almonte, F. Murray); 2 imm at piers and PP KING 1 Dec (ABk), thru; ad Gravesend Bay to Plumb Beach (1 Dec 20 Feb, (L. Ewing et seq).

Laughing Gull: Many reports before 15 Dec; 1 Wolfe' Pond P RICH 27 Dec (ACi); Coney I Creek KING 25 Dec (DGo); FBF 25 Dec (DGo); Riis P (QUEE) 18 Dec (T. Remy); JBWE 24 Dec (C. Illemassene), 28 Dec (S. Billerman, M. B. Billerman); Valley Stream NASS 2 Jan (S. Blodgett); 3 HSP 30 Dec (M. Ferrara); 2 Amityville NASS 30 Dec (B. Edwards); MP 18 Dec (APe).

COMMON GULL: imm. Bush Army Terminal Pier 4 KING 7 Dec (ABk), continuing there to 28 Feb and in PP 9-25 Feb (DGo, m. ob.).

SHORT-BILLED GULL: ad Bush Army Terminal Pier 4 16 Dec (DGo).

COMMON/SHORT-BILLED GULL: ad Orient Pt SP 6 Feb (J. Sep, ph.).

Ring-billed Gull: max 2800 BBP 11 Dec (R. Gochfeld, DGo).

Iceland Gull: singletons at 4 sites in RICH, 2 NEWY (but 2 CP 13 Jan, D. Aronov), 3 KING, 4 QUEE, 2 NASS, 13 SUFF; max 3 CMB SUFF 23 Jan (JG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 12 sites in RICH, 1 NEWY (Randall's I. 6 Jan, J. Keane), 9 KING (max 3 Plumb Beach 21 Feb, PP), 7 QUEE, 4 NASS, 24 SUFF (high counts 6 RMSP 1 Dec, KF & SF; 6 Smith Pt CP 13 Dec, (K. Cashman); 3 Ditch Plains 28 Dec (APe).

Glaucous Gull: RICH: 1 Ft. Wadsworth 24 Jan (ACi), 1 Olympic P 5 Feb (S. Wollney); KING: at least 2, multiple sites 5 Jan-13 Feb; NASS: Kings Pt 12 Jan (P. Shure); PL/JBSP 30 Dec (K. Munroe *et al.*), 19 Jan (B. Belford); SUFF: Cedar B 20 Dec (B. Van Doren *et al.*); CMB 6 Jan (KF&SF), 25 Jan (MMcB); 1 HSP 31 Dec (L. Nasta); Cedar Beach (Brookhaven) 7-16 Feb (MMcB et seq); Cupsogue CP 12 Dec (APe); Shinn 8 Dec (APe), 16 Jan (S. Biasetti); L. Montauk In 5 Jan (H. Akçakaya); Ditch Plains 28 Dec (L. DiNapoli *et al.*).

Herring X Glaucous Gull: Flax Pd, Oldfield SUFF 23 Dec (J. Nizza and eBird reviewer); CMB 13 Feb (TJS); BBP 25 Feb (M. Yu).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 375 CMB SUFF 13 Feb (TJS).

Royal Tern: FT 11 Dec (P. Sweet *et al.*); BPT 13 Dec (HL, M. Yu).

Black Skimmer: 13 juvs Ft. Wadsworth RICH 2 Dec (CB); 3 24-29 Dec (CB); 2 Jan (M. Shikman); ad. CIC KING 12 Jan (R. Payne).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 250 MP 27 Dec (A. Weiss).

Common Loon: max 55 Shagwong Pt SUFF 19 Dec (T. Dunn, TH).

Northern Gannet: max 800 BPT 4 Dec (M. Yuan).

Great Cormorant: max 47 Fort Wadsworth RICH 12 Dec (ACi).

Brown Pelican: 1 IHP 16 Jan (D. Hannay *et al.*).

American Bittern: BPB 7-13 Dec (R. Aracil et seq.); Brant Pt Wildlife Sanctuary QUEE 7-8 Dec (Y. Cheng et seq.); JBWR 14 Dec (DGo); South Line I NASS 2 Jan (T. Preston, L. DeMarco); 4 Jan JBWE (WildLab); JFK Wildlife Sanctuary NASS 13-21 Feb (L. Wollerstein et seq.); Shirley Marina SUFF 26 Dec (B. Bull); Fireplace Neck Wetland SUFF 26 Feb (R. Haimes); DR 11 Jan-27 Feb (m.ob.).

Great Egret: 3 sites RICH, 1 Dec-1 Jan; Randall's I NEWY 2 Dec (E. Schwartz); 2 SMNC 8 Jan (L. Ewing), Shirley Chisholm SP KING 4 Dec-26 Jan (P. Sweet et seq.); 12 sites

in NASS, to 13 Feb; >37 sites in SUFF, many thru.

Snowy Egret: Westhampton 27 Dec (KF); Speonk 14 Jan (P. Aitken), Quogue Wetland Reserve 16 Jan (J. Rand, S. Biasetti).

Tricolored Heron: JBSP 2 Jan (TH).

Green Heron: Hendrix Creek KING 12-13 Jan (K. O'Hearn, HL, M. Epstein).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-2 birds at 1 site in RICH, 3 in NEWY, 1 in BRON, 4 in KING, 4 in QUEE; 11 sites in NASS (high counts 17 Hewlett Bay P 30 Dec [S. Blodgett], 42 Millburn Pd P 27 Jan [J. Landesberg], 58 Cammann's Pd, Merrick 2 Jan [MMcB]; 14 in SUFF (max 20 Ketcham's Creek Wetland 14 Dec (E. Mutchnick).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Randall's I NEWY 11 Dec-16 Jan (C. Jones et seq.); Cammann's Pond NASS 2-18 Jan (MMcB et seq.).

Black Vulture: 5 sites in BRON, to 25 Feb; 3 in NEWY (IHP 13 Feb; CP 29 Jan; 2 Tompkins Sq P 25 Feb); >20 sites in RICH (max 15 Amboy Rd 15 Dec, G. Bouquio); 3 sites in KING (to 21 Jan); 3 sites in SUFF (max 3, Riverhead 14 Feb, 3 Southampton 22 Jan).

Turkey Vulture: many sites throughout Region; max 50 Riverhead 15 Jan (J. Klein).

Osprey: Edgemere Landfill QUEE 20 Dec (CF *et al.*).

Northern Goshawk: Shinn 20 Jan (S. Biasetti).

Rough-legged Hawk: PBP 20 Dec (P. Horan); JBWR 21 Feb (J. Malbin); 1-2 BPT 12-14 Feb (J. Salas et seq.); Cow Meadow P NASS 2 Jan (MMcB); JBSP 27 Feb (J. Landesberg); 2 JFK Sanctuary NASS 13-26 Feb (L. Wollerstein et seq.); HSP 21 Feb (I. Thirkannad); SCFED 29 Dec (R. Shea); 3 EPCAL 17 Feb (PD *et al.*); 2 Shinn 17 Feb (E. Schwinn, M. Higgiston); North Fork LI 29 Dec (J. Rand); Orient 26 Dec (P. Polshkek); Gardiner's I 19 Dec (AnW).

Snowy Owl: NEWY: 1 CP 27 Jan-27 Feb; KING: 3 sites; QUEE: 2 sites; NASS: JBWE (max 3, 27 Dec, V. Whitney *et al.*); SUFF: 11 sites (max 3, Smith Point CP 13 Dec, K. Cashman).

Barred Owl: BRON: 1 PBP 1 Dec-5 Jan (R. Aracil *et al.*); 1 neighborhood (eating rat) 11 Feb (S. Charles); NEWY:IHP 12 Dec-1 Jan (N. O'Reilly et seq.); Riverside Drive P 5 Dec-10 Jan (S. Chang et seq.); CP 2 Dec thru (m. ob.); 2 CP 13-17 Jan (D. Barrett, M. B. Kooper).

Long-eared Owl: IHP 13 Feb (D. Karlson et seq.); CP 15 Dec (D. B. Yelton *et al.*); JFK

Sanctuary NASS 2 Jan (S. Camillieri, M. Murgitroyd); HSP 9 Jan (D. LaMagna *et al.*).

Short-eared Owl: 3, Richmond Creek RICH 30 Dec (ACi); Shirley Chisholm SP KING 19 Dec (S. Nanz); Manhasset NASS 8-10 Feb (S. Perreault); JBWE 1-13 Jan (TJS *et al.*); DR 1 Jan (KF & SF *et al.*); Wainscott Pd SUFF 24 Feb (KF); EPCAL 31 Dec-27 Feb (m. ob.); Orient Beach SP 23-26 Dec (P. Polshkek et seq.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Governor's I NEWY 10-11 Dec (L. Beausoleil); CP 15 Feb (M. B. Kooper *et al.*); FBF 12 Dec (R. Payne); Mitchell's Creek NASS 3 Jan (MMcB); 3 JBWE 2 Jan (BBo, TJS); 12 Jan (A. Gilbert); 28 sites in SUFF, max 6 Napeague 19 Dec (APe).

Red-headed Woodpecker: WPP 25 Jan (S. Wollney); 1 or 2, Paumanok Trail, Manorville SUFF 2 Dec thru (m. ob.); Cedar Point CP SUFF 7 Jan-26 Feb (AColl et seq.).

Pileated Woodpecker: RICH: High Rock P (M. Shanley et seq., 23 Dec-27 Feb); Moravian Cemetery 7-23 Jan (ACi); Bucks Hollow 6 Feb (J. Ottesen); BRON: 1 VCP 16 Feb (M. Waldron). Uncommon in Region.

Monk Parakeet: 6 PBP 16 Jan (R. Aracil); 5 Bronx R Pkwy 22 Dec (BBo); Hudson Greenway NEWY 13 Dec (T. Olson), Battery P NEWY 1 Dec (T. Olson), Sixth St NEWY 22-24 Dec (L. Beausoleil); multiple sites, KING, max 30, GwC 28 Dec (P. Thompson); many sites in s NASS and sw SUFF, max 100 Merrick Rd P 23 Dec (M. Stubblefield).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: 4 Dec Conference House P RICH (A. Ferino); GwC 6-13 Dec (R. Bate *et al.*); Bayswater P QUEE 2-3 Dec (L. Schepcke); JBWE 13 Dec (S. Whitmore *et al.*); Nissequoque R SP SUFF 4-9 Dec (R. Cartwright et seq.).

Western Kingbird: Montauk Downs SP SUFF 19 Dec (BBo).

Eastern Phoebe: Olympia Blvd RICH 9 Jan (ACi); Stuyvesant Town NEWY 20 Dec-10 Jan (E. Goodman et seq.); Garden City NASS 18 Dec (P. Joannidis); 16 sites in SUFF, to 21 Feb; 1-2 GCH, thru (m. ob.), observed catching fish (J. Ross); *intro* and see p. 125.

Blue-headed Vireo: 1 JBWE 13 Dec (L. Wollerstein, S. Whitmore).

Common Raven: abundant throughout, e.g. >21 sites in KING, ca. 20 on QUEE, >63 in

NASS, >150 in SUFF; max count 20, Flax Pd SUFF 4 Dec, perhaps near roost (N. Strycker).
Horned Lark: max 500 Sagg Main St, Bridgehampton SUFF 18 Dec (J. Fitzgerald, M. Stokowski).

Tree Swallow: BPt 30 Jan (CF *et al.*); 2 Floral Park NASS 14 Feb (K. Meyfahrt); Theodore Roosevelt Mem. P NASS 13 Dec (G. Campos); 4 JBSP 24 Feb (A. McInerney); 2 Overton Pres SUFF 23 Jan (A. Jordana); East Islip SUFF 15 Feb (E. Calamasso).

Tufted Titmouse: unusually high counts in city parks, max 101 CP 20 Dec (A. Burke, R. Zucker), 42 CP 17 Feb (L. Brock), 30 GwC 13 Dec (K. O'Hearn).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: many records throughout; high counts include 30, Paumanok Trail, Manorville SUFF 2 Dec (PD); 23 RMSP 11 Jan (KF & SF); 52 JBWE 2 Jan (S. Whitmore, L. Wollerstein); 36 JBWE 10 Jan (K. Munroe).

House Wren: Ocean Breeze P RICH 12 Dec (ACi); WPP 29 Dec (V. Koczurik); SMNC 12 Dec (HL); BBP 3 Dec (H. Wolf); Nissequogue R SP SUFF 4 Dec (R. Cartwright); Stony Brook 27 Dec, 8 Jan (K. Coyle).

Sedge Wren: Greenpoint Marsh SUFF 20 Dec (MMcB).

Marsh Wren: Oakwood Beach RICH 10 Dec (ACi); PBP 7 Dec (R. Aracil); 5 sites, 2 Jan, in NASS; 15 sites in SUFF, 1 Dec-20 Feb (GCH, D. Quinn, J. Rand).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: MP 1 Dec, 13 Dec, 1 Jan (R. Cartwright).

Veery: BBP 15 Dec, 19 Dec (H. Wolf *et al.*).

Swainson's Thrush: Union Square P NEWY 8 Dec (L. Schlesinger).

Wood Thrush: Bryant P NEWY 2 Dec-16 Feb (P. Shure).

VARIED THRUSH: Ridge (SUFF) 3-10 Feb (J. Burke).

Gray Catbird: February records at 8 sites in RICH, 9 in NEWY, 4 in BRON, 5 in KING, 9 in QUEE, 28 in SUFF, ca. 105 in SUFF.

Brown Thrasher: February records at 1 site in RICH, 1 in NEWY, 2 in BRON, 1 in KING, 1 in QUEE, 1 in NASS, 27 in SUFF.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 IHP 1 Dec (N. O'Reilly).

American Pipit: high counts, by county: 10, GKP 2 Feb (A. Ferino), 1 PBP 27 Dec (m. ob.), 8 Manhattan Beach P KING 11 Dec (HL, M. Yu), 40 Edgemere Landfill QUEE 29 Jan (L. Scheppeke), 11 Baldwin Harbor P NASS 11 Jan (ABk), 60 Water Mill SUFF 23 Dec (M. Stokowski).

Evening Grosbeak: Moravian Cemetery RICH 13 Feb (ACi); 2 FBF 12 Dec (M. Epstein); Montauk airport 19 Dec (TH, T. Dunn); Camp Hero SP SUFF 19 Dec (CG); Stony Brook SUFF 31 Jan-4 Feb and beyond (N. Henderson *et al.*).

Purple Finch: single-digit counts only, in 12 sites in RICH, 2 in NEWY, 3 in BRON, 7 in KING, 3 in QUEE, 12 in NASS, 32 in SUFF, throughout period.

Common Redpoll: RICH: 6 sites, high counts 15 High Rock P 10 Feb (C. Barron), 21 Goethals Bridge P 24 Feb (J. Stetson); BRON: 3 sites, 1 or 2 each; NEWY: 2 sites, 1 or 2 each; KING: 7 sites, max 32 Plumb Beach 20 Feb (HJ Kim, B. Washburn); QUEE: 4 sites, max 2 APP 25 Jan (S. Walter); NASS 11 sites, max 32 Manhasset 20 Dec (S. Perreault); SUFF 27 sites, max 80 Caumsett SP 18 Jan (KF & SF).

Red Crossbill: single-digit counts at 3 sites in RICH, 2 in QUEE; 11 Dec-10 Jan BFB, max 19, 11 Dec (HL, M. Yu); many reports JBSP 21 Dec-26 Feb, high 28, 30 Dec (S. Billerman *et al.*), 57, 30 Dec (J. Wooten *et al.*); 20 sites in SUFF, high counts 80 RMSP 16 Jan (PJJ, SSM), 60 RMSP 23 Feb (L. Wollerstein); reports throughout (1 Dec-24 Feb) at Paumanok Trail, Manorville (*see intro*).

White-winged Crossbill: Manhattan NEWY 31 Dec, 5 Jan, 21 Jan (C. Michel); 5 JBWE 4 Jan (A. Andersen); 3 HSP 7 Jan (JG, K. Coyle).

Pine Siskin: mostly single-digit counts at 8 sites in RICH (max 30 Staten Island Academy 26 Jan, M. Shanley), 8 in KING (max 22 GwC 22 Jan, P. Sweet), 10 in QUEE, 13 in NASS (max 46 Hume Estate 23 Dec, S. Miller), 29 in SUFF (max 25 Northport 6 Feb, J. Panzeca).
American Goldfinch: max 400 JBWE 7 Dec (S. Walter).

Lapland Longspur: 1 GKP 16 Dec (R. Veit); Plumb Beach KING 2 Jan (M. Yu); BPt 19 Dec (M. Epstein *et al.*); 1-2 NB 11 Dec-17 Feb (m. ob.); JBWE 31 Dec-14 Feb (m. ob.); 3 19 Dec (S. Yale); 1 RMSP 13-21 Feb (DF *et seq.*).

Snow Bunting: all counties, many reports along shores. High counts 110 BPt 12 Jan (CF); 85 JBWE 18 Dec (E. Becher, W. Hollweg); 100 NB 12 Feb (P. Ribolow, A. Simmons); 173 RMSP 7 Dec (SSM); 90 RMSP 10 Feb (S. Mutchnick).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

SPOTTED TOWHEE: f found 2 Jan, Baldwin Harbor P NASS, PJJ, SSM; *intro* and see p. 126.

Eastern Towhee: 5 sites in RICH, 2 in BRON, 4 in NEWY, 7 in KING, 6 in QUEE, 12 in NASS, 62 in SUFF.

American Tree Sparrow: max 110 GKP 6 Dec (R. Veit).

Chipping Sparrow: single-digit reports from 6 sites in RICH, 4 in NEWY, 9 in KING, 6 in QUEE, 9 in NASS, 17 in SUFF, through to 28 Feb (GwC, K. Toomey).

Vesper Sparrow: Shirley Chisholm SP KING 10 Dec (A. Bacchiochi), EPCAL 11 Dec (K. J. Klein), 7 Jan (MMcB), 8 Feb (B. Bull); 1 Sagaponack 14 Feb (TJS).

Lark Sparrow: FT 30 Jan-6 Feb (CF et seq.)

LeConte's Sparrow: WPP 19 Dec (M. Shanley [ph.] and CBC team, et seq. to 2 Jan); BPt 16 Feb (DGo); 17 Feb (CF, TH).

Seaside Sparrow: RICH 19 Dec (J. Ramírez-Garofalo, R. Zucker); 3 DR 31 Jan (AColl); 2 DR 13 Feb (J. Rand, S. Biasseti); 2 15 Feb (MMcB).

Nelson's Sparrow: DR 9 Dec (APe).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: DR 31 Jan (AColl).

Lincoln's Sparrow: CP 11 Dec-28 Feb (M. B. Kooper et seq.); Bryant P NEWY 20 Dec-12 Jan (A. Burke et seq.); Union Sq NEWY 1 Dec-8 Jan (E. Goodman); BBP 1 Dec (A. Bacchiochi, R. McGrady); FT 19 Dec, 30 Jan (P. Sweet); JBWE 21 Dec (J. Wilson), 27 Dec (R. Zucker).

White-throated Sparrow: max 296 CP 20 Dec (A. Burke, R. Zucker).

White-crowned Sparrow: single-digit records (mostly single birds) at 2 sites in RICH, 2 in BRON, 3 in KING, 2 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 27 in SUFF (max 10, Riverhead sod farms 28 Jan, E. Goodman).

Yellow-breasted Chat: FBF 13 Feb (HL, M. Yu); Jamaica Bay QUEE 19 Dec (anon. and E. Miller); MP 8-19 Dec (APe); Smith Point P 27 Dec (MMcB); Lindenhurst SUFF 14-27 Dec (E. Mutchnick).

Eastern Meadowlark: 5 sites in RICH (max 31 Freshkills P 17 Jan, J. Ramírez-Garofalo); 4 in KING (max 9 Shirley Chisholm SP 11 Feb, DGo); 1 in QUEE (10, Edgemere Landfill 29 Jan, L. Schepke); 3 in NASS (max 6 JBSP 19 Jan, V. Glasser); 12 in SUFF (max 35 EPCAL 13 Dec, N. Strzyker).

Baltimore Oriole: single birds at 5 sites in NEWY (Dec only); 4 in KING to 21 Feb (R.

Mandelbaum) and 26 Feb (P. Sweet); 1 in QUEE (Powell's Cove 20 Dec, D. Schulman *et al.*); 9 in NASS, latest New Hyde Park 28 Feb (D. Cioffi); 4 in SUFF (latest GCH 28 Feb (AColl, B. Horwith).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1500 Horsemill La Southampton 9 Feb (C. Tiemann).

Rusty Blackbird: 4 sites in RICH (max 25 Staten I. 18 Feb, J. Stetson); 5 in BRON (max 16 BZ 27 Dec, T. Olson *et al.*); 2 in NEWY (1 CP thru, m. ob.); 4 in KING (singles, FBF thru, HL); 4 QUEE; 8 NASS (max 49 Shu Swamp 9 Dec, J. Wilson-Pines *et al.*); 26 in SUFF (max 27, Cedar Pt CP 9 Jan, AnW).

Common Grackle: many records throughout; high counts in e SUFF include 2000 Sound Avenue Pres 3 Dec (APe), 3200 EPCAL 13 Jan (BBe), 2260 Sag Harbor 6 Feb (BBB, TJS), 3000 Water Mill 10 Feb (CG).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 6 sites in RICH, 7 in QUEE (high counts 562 Charles Memorial P 20 Dec, R. Serio, 90 JBWR 7 Feb, CF); 9 in NASS (max 120 PL 1 Jan, S. and M. B. Billerman). 8 in SUFF (max 25 Captree SP 16 Jan, DF).

Ovenbird: In NEWY: single birds in City Hall P 6 Dec (C. McRea), Union Square P 7-17 Dec (A. Deutsch), Bryant P 18-20 Dec (m. ob.), Battery P 8-13 Dec (T. Olson), CP 19 Dec (A. Cunningham), Stuyvesant Town 22 Dec (R. Lulov), Madison Square P 8 Jan (C. McRea); 1 PP 19 Dec (M. Cook); 1 FMCP 19 Jan (L. Schepke); Stony Brook SUFF 18-20 Feb, ph, in snow (E. Maas).

Northern Waterthrush: FMCP 12-20 Dec (K. Mirth, I. Reznick); 1 Glen Cove NASS 6 Feb (M. Ventresca).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 IHP 1 Dec (M. Ross), 1 Randall's I (NEWY) 12 Dec-5 Jan (P. Shure et seq.); 1 Brooklyn Botanic Garden (KING) 13 Dec (A. Pufahi); 1 Spring Creek P (KING) 1 Dec (J. Malbin); 1 SMSPP 2-11 Dec (KF & SF et seq.).

Orange-crowned Warbler: 4 sites in RICH (to 20 Feb), 4 in NEWY (to 12 Jan), 6 in KING (to 20 Feb), 5 in QUEE (to 26 Dec), 2 in NASS (to 2 Jan), 5 in SUFF (to 10 Jan).

Nashville Warbler: Fort Washington P NEWY 8 Dec (M. Ross); Randall's I NEWY 8 Dec (M. B. Kooper); Pier 44 (KING) 24 Jan (R. Fleming); FMCP 13 Dec (CF); East Quogue SUFF 7 Dec (E. Schwinn).

Common Yellowthroat: Cedar Grove Beach 13 Dec (R. Veit); Swindlers Cove P (NEWY) 9 Dec (B. Bolliett); CP 8 Dec (A. Vinson); BBP 11-18 Dec (C. Allieri); Brooklyn 19 Dec (J.

Malbin); JBWR 3 Dec (CF); FMCP 12 Dec (J. Keane); World's Fair Marina QUEE 7 Dec (D. Schulman); HSP 1 Dec (V. Glasser); Hubbard SUFF Dec (J. Rand); GCH 13 Jan (B. Horwith).

Cape May Warbler: CP 6 Dec (R. Zucker), 9 Dec (A. Deutsch); IHP 6 Dec (W. Andermann); East Hampton SUFF 3-5 Dec (M. Doyle, D. Quinn).

Northern Parula: Hendrix Creek KING 13 Dec (J. Malbin); Southards Pond P SUFF 11 Dec (V. Glasser).

Yellow Warbler: BPdP 12 Dec (CF).

Blackpoll Warbler: IHP 2-6 Dec (D. Karlson et seq.).

Palm Warbler: Mill Creek RICH 1 Dec (ACi); CP 11 Dec (M. B. Kooper); CUNY NEWY 13 Dec (K. Roberts); 5 sites in KING, December, also Calvert Vaux P 26 Jan (T. Preston), SMNC 27 Jan (HL) Roy Wilkins P QUEE 12 Dec (CF); Lido Beach Passive Nature Area NASS 7 Dec (B. Belford), 13 Dec

(DF); 9 sites in SUFF (all in Dec except 1 Northville 30 Jan, ML Lamont).

Pine Warbler: Midland Beach RICH 3 Dec (ACi); KING 28 Dec (J. Thorp), KING 19 Dec (J. Malbin); FMCP 17 Jan-21 Feb (CF); BPT 23 Feb (S. Elmaghrahi); 4 sites in NASS, to 31 Jan (Hicksville, J. Purchacki); 17 sites in SUFF (to 28 Feb, GCH, B. Horwith).

Wilson's Warbler: Hendrix Creek KING 16 Dec (J. Malbin); E. 259 Street BRON 22 Jan (S. Keeton, T. Graves).

WESTERN TANAGER: Montauk 6 Dec (V. Bustamante); W. 22 Street NEWY 5-17 Dec, 24 Feb (M. B. Kooper et seq.), thru (T. Fiore); Carl Schurz P NEWY 15 Dec thru (m. ob.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lattintown NASS 9 Jan (S. Shore, at feeder for two weeks before).

PAINTED BUNTING: Culloden Pt (SUFF 18-19 Dec (APe et seq.)

=====



Hoary Redpoll, with Common Redpolls, Willsboro Research Farm, *Essex*, 12 Dec 2020, © Derek Rogers.

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 15th 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:

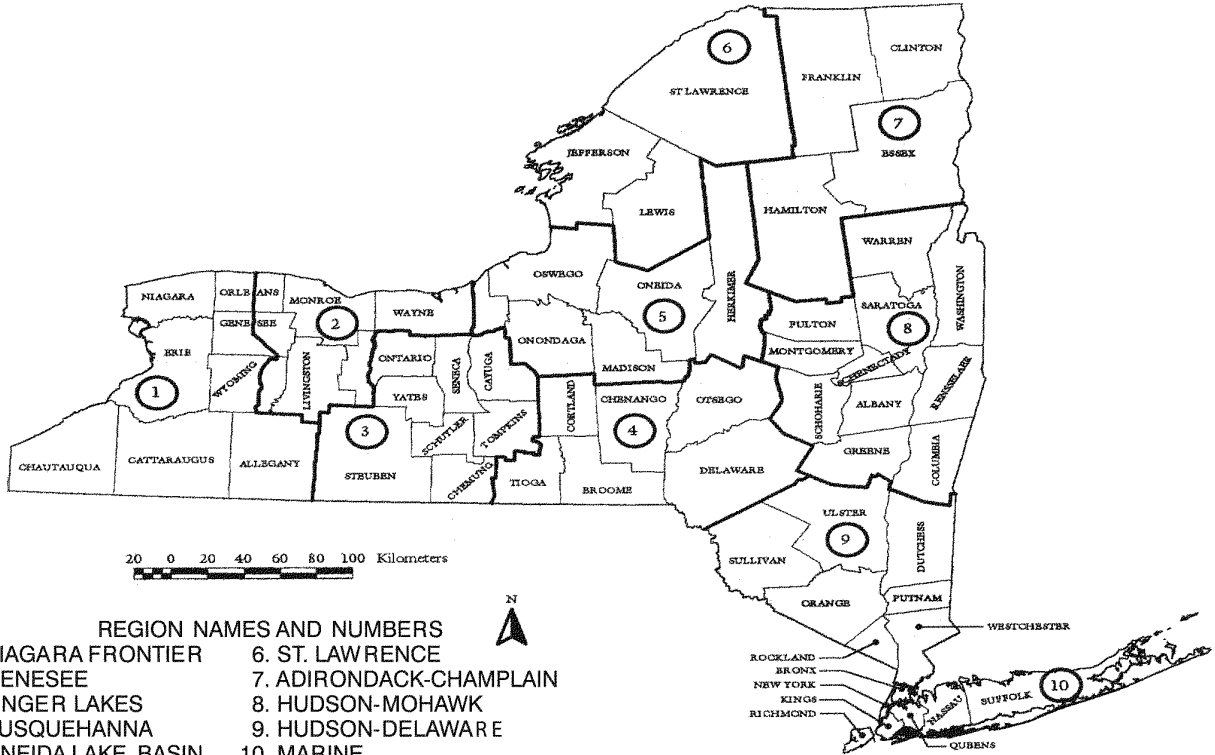
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

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.



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:

Shane Blodgett—shaneblodgett@yahoo.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, Tim Baird

Auditing:

Stephen Chang (Chair), Thomas W. Burke, Peter Capainolo

