

ped Chickadee: max 626 ECBC. Boreal Chickadee: max 3 SLCBC, 2 Newcomb feeder entire for *sixth* consecutive winter (A & WC). Tufted Titmouse: 2 reports Champlain Valley, low. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 66 SLCBC. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 31 ECBC. Brown Creeper: max 8 PCBC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 17 ECBC. E. Bluebird: 4 males Essex 23 Dec, 2 males, 1 female Westport 18 Jan, and several Essex 10 Feb, late. Am. Robin: max 30 n Fran 12 Jan (HW). N. Mockingbird: Ticonderoga 15 Jan only report. N. Shrike: 6 reports. Eur. Starling: max 581 PCBC.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: Elizabethtown 3 Dec late (JP).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: max 23 PCBC, 2 females wintered Inlet, Hami. Fox Sparrow: 1 PCBC unusual. Song Sparrow: max 6 PCBC. White-throated Sparrow: max 2 SLCBC. Dark-eyed Junco: max 101 PCBC. Red-winged Blackbird: max 5 PCBC. Rusty Blackbird: Tupper L feeder 1-29 Dec late (CD, JDD, JED). Purple Finch: max 44 PCBC. House Finch: max 202 PCBC. Red Crossbill: max 35 PCBC. White-winged Crossbill: max 8 ECBC. Pine Siskin: max 48 PCBC. Am. Goldfinch: max 136 PCBC. Evening Grosbeak: max 331 ECBC. House Sparrow: max 259 PCBC.

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There is no Region 8 report because we have no Region 8 Editor.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

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Although there were a few very cold days this winter, there were no extremely cold or warm periods of any duration. The Hudson River never froze solid in the Region, although much floe ice drifted down from farther north. On occasion ice jams formed at bends where the river courses through the Highlands, but there were many open places where Common Merganser and Canvasback could dive for food. The floes had melted pretty well by mid-February, and only the deepest lakes and reservoirs had ice at the end of the period. Snows came once or twice a week but were of little depth, less than four inches at any one time. Melt and runoff occurred throughout the period. By its end, the drought of the last several years was over. Reservoirs which had been empty seas of grass at the start of the period were now filled and flooding through their spillways.

Although there were signs last fall of an invasion of northern visitors, they failed to show in the hoped for numbers. Every species was reported but mostly in singles and small flocks. Four Pine Grosbeak on the Rockland CBC were the only report away from the northern counties, and the best count was 22 at Lock Sheldrake on 8 Dec. Purple Finch was scarce, with widely scattered reports of one or two birds, mostly at feeders. The only reports of Red Crossbill were six at Butler Sanctuary on 20 Dec and 12 at Purdy's Station on 10 Jan. Even fewer White-winged Crossbill were found: one at Croton Point 22 Jan, three at Rhinecliff on 11 Jan and three females in Dutchess Co. on 18 Jan. The very few reports of Pine Siskin included two in Wurtsboro in early December, several at a Monroe feeder for much of the period, and the maximum a flock of 30-40 at Monticello on 16 Feb. Evening Grosbeak was reported often early in the season but were scattered and scarce at the end. The best count was 85 at Hankins, Sullivan Co., during February.

The 32nd Federation Waterfowl Count from 11-19 Jan produced 18,031 birds of 21 species, only a thousand less than last year's all time high. The majority were the 9,278 Canada Geese, only 2,000 less than last year's record count. Eight thousand of these were in the shallows along the Hudson River or feeding in nearby corn fields. Mute Swan hit an all time high of 316, double last year's count and three times that of the year before. Mallard and Am. Black Duck were scarcer than last year, but still plentiful at 2,595 and 427, their usual ratio. Nine Gadwall, the same as last year, were good considering that they were first reported in 1979. The 3,585 Canvasback were almost four times the total from each of the past two years. Eighty-six Bufflehead was a good total, many times the average, and Common Merganser, although well below the highs of the past two years, also was well above average.

Raptors made an excellent showing this winter. A good birder easily could find 20-30 Red-tailed Hawk and a half dozen Rough-legged Hawk in a full day of birding in the farm lands of the Region. The Mearns CBC in eastern Orange Co. produced a whopping 105 Red-tails on 21 Dec, while the Rockland CBC had a new high of 48, an excellent number for suburbia. Northern Harrier also worked the farms and pastures in excellent numbers by day. They were replaced by good numbers of Short-eared Owls at night, including four along Purgatory Road, Hamptonburgh, all period and one over Warren Sod Farm on 4 Jan. Six at the Galeville Airport on 19 Jan had increased to 11 by 23 Feb.

This was the best winter yet for Bald Eagle. Lois Bautz of the DEC reported 58 birds (39 adults and 19 immatures) wintering in Ulster, Sullivan and Orange Cos. On 9 Jan the Keys observed two at Mongaup, 21 at Rio and two more at Rondout for a total of 25. At least five wintered near Iona Island. There were many reports of single birds throughout the Region.

Northern Cardinal did well in the southern part of the Region, with 188 on the Mearns CBC and 199 on the Rockland CBC. White-crowned Sparrow was present in astounding numbers. Nine on the Warwick Valley CBC increased to 29 by 9 Jan and remained there in a small group through February on a farm along Upper Wisner Road, Warwick. Six were in Dover 31 Jan. Information from eight CBCs is found within the report.

Among the rarities for the period are: Great Cormorant, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Surf Scoter, Golden Eagle, Iceland and Glaucous Gull, Varied Thrush, Northern and Loggerhead Shrike, Cape May Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Western Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Brewer's Blackbird and Northern Oriole.

Contributors: Fred & Wava Abbott, John Askildsen, Al Brayton, Frank Brown, Judy Cinquina, Bill Cox, Robert F. Deed, Stan DeOrsey, Peter Derven, Valerie Freer, Carol Jack, Alice Jones, Jim & Mary Key, Jed Kiel, Marbara Michelin, Ed & Lana Mills, Victor Schwartz, Bob Slechts, Selden Spencer, Robert Terwilliger, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, John & Barbara Voigt.

Abbreviations: BCBC – Burrough CBC Ulst 21 Dec; MCBC – Mearns CBC Oran 21 Dec; PeCBC – Peekskill CBC 21 Dec; PuCBC – Putnam CBC 4 Jan; RCBC – Rockland CBC 22 Dec; SCBC – Sullivan CBC 28 Dec; WCBC – Waterman CBC 27 Dec; WVCBC – Warwick Valley CBC 29 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: RED-THROATED LOON: one at Croton Pt 14 Dec (JK), always rare in winter. **Pied-billed Grebe:** singles Iona Is 29 Dec, Danskammer 24 Jan, only two on Federation Waterfowl Count. **GREAT CORMORANT:** im at Rockland L Landing on the Hudson 24 Dec, sixth Rock record; all previous records were Oct or Nov (PD). **Great Blue Heron:** WCBC had its second record in 28 counts. **TUNDRA SWAN:** one New Croton Falls Dam 4 Jan (JA). **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** two on Sylvan L Dutc 27 Dec reappeared on 10-12 Feb (AJ, JMK). **Snow Goose:** 17 N Clarkstown 22 Dec was the sixth RBCBC record; singles were at Rondout Res 27-30 Dec, Rhinecliff in Jan and Sylvan L Dutc 10 Feb. **Canada Goose:** a new high of 3,115 on RCBC. **N. Pintail:** overwintered on Rio Res, Sull, always unusual in winter. **Blue-winged Teal:** last Wappingers L 7 Dec. **Am. Wigeon:** one at Stissing Dutc 28-30 Jan, an unusual late winter record. **Canvasback:** more than a thousand at Stony Pt on 30 Dec. **Redhead:** five on the Hudson at Peekskill 21 Dec (Henry Turner). **Ring-necked Duck:** 150+ on Kenozia L, 1 Dec, was an excellent number for so far north; over 50 Sylvan L 27-28 Feb coincident with thaw. **SURF SCOTER:** imm on Hunn's L Dutc 10-12 Dec, first Dutc winter report in eight years. **Com. Goldeneye:** 50+ on L Kenozia 1 Dec, while 16 on MCBC was a record high. **Bufflehead:** max 2550 on Cornwall Bay 21 Dec. **Hooded Merganser:** 110 on PuCBC was an excellent number.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one in T of Ramapo 22 Dec, first in 38 RCBCs; reported every month across the northern counties. **Accipiters:** more reports of all three species than usual, many working bird feeders. **Red-tailed Hawk:** an all white bird wintered along the Palisades Parkway between Exits 10-12 (mob). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** ad Rio all winter; another ad Constitution I 7 Dec. **Am. Kestrel:** numbers continue low. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one at the Tappan Zee Br persisted thru the period, another seen regularly along Purgatory Rd in Hamptonburgh. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** small numbers in the Warwick Valley all period, up to 18 Dutc in Feb. **Wild Turkey:** continues in good numbers, three flocks of 14-27 Dutc in Dec. **Killdeer:** none in Jan, but four in Dutc dur Feb. **ICELAND GULL:** singles (second yr bird) at West Nyack Dump 22 Dec (PD), West Haverstraw Dump 16 Jan, and T of Ulster landfill for more than a month in mid-period (RT). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** one T of Ulster landfill in Jan (RT).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: high on most CBCs; MCBC had 1,073. **E. Screech-Owl:** at least six reports from Dutc in Jan; PuCBC had 18 and PeCBC had 46. **Great Horned Owl:** started calling dur Dec in Dutc; nine on PeCBC was excellent. **SNOWY OWL:** only report one 5 Dec at Ashokan (RT). **Long-eared Owl:** singles Sauger-ties 3 Jan and another heard at Westmoreland Sanct 31 Dec; two more heard in the Peekskill area 21 Dec, scarce in recent years. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one standing on a feeder at Wappingers Falls 17 Feb; three wintered at Brinton Brook Sanct, Croton on Hudson.

Woodpeckers: most CBCs had twice as many Red-bellied as Pileated; avg eight to ten of the former to four or five of the latter. Dutc had nine dur Feb. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: very few, two 28 Dec in P'kpsie, six on MCBC was excellent. Downy Woodpecker: Bob Deed had 11 in the Nyack area of the RCBC, eight of which were picking on the stalks of Phragmites in the Hackensack Sw. A strange activity for them. N. Flicker: Dutc reported 26 dur Feb, an unusually high number.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: flocks of 200-300 wandered thru the Warwick Valley dur the period; MCBC had 439 and more than a thousand were ob at Red Hook on 14 Dec. Am. Crow: largest roost 10,000+ at Middletown. Fish Crow: two or three overwintered in the Hyde Park area. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only three reports of wintering birds, Dutc, scarce. Brown Creeper: max 32 PuCBC. Carolina Wren: on all CBCs, max seven PeCBC; good survival over winter and populations should be high in the coming year. Hermit Thrush: seven PuCBC and four both PeCBC and RCBC, high. Am. Robin: no large wintering flocks, most restricted to a half dozen or more; numbers increased by end of period. **VARIED THRUSH**: an unpublicized report of one on BCBC at Mohonk (no details). Gray Catbird: two at Stonykill, Dutc 12 Feb. Cedar Waxwing: 269 on BCBC was unusually high and 247 on WCBC was a record for that count. N. **SHRIKE**: one unpublicized bird in the T of Ulster (no details); one in Dutc 18 Feb; one at Pound Ridge from last Nov overwintered. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one at Iona 12 Feb (ELM), only report. Eur. Starling: max 11,915 RCBC.

VIREOS-WARBLED: **CAPE MAY WARBLER**: one well described at Yorktown 2 Dec (Vince McGrath). Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported on most CBCs, one to three every month in Dutc. **COM. YELLOWTHROAT**: one at New City on 22 Dec was the fourth RCBC record (VS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **W. TANAGER**: a bright female at Croton Pt. 7-14 Dec (JA). **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK**: female or im in the New City area 22 Dec (VS), second for RCBC. Field Sparrow: 50 along Upper Wisner Rd., Warwick 9 Jan, an exceptionally large number (JC); five at Stonykill 1 Jan. **VESPER SPARROW**: two PeCBC, usually unreported in winter. Savannah Sparrow: last two at Stonykill 1 Jan. Fox Sparrow: one at Woodridge, Sull in early Jan, another in P'kpsie 5-9 Dec, rarely found in winter. Song Sparrow: good numbers on all CBCs. Swamp Sparrow: five on BCBC was unusually high. **LAPLAND LONGSPUR**: one Warwick after late Dec; one at Gretna, Dutc 6 Jan and three more at Redhook 7-12 Jan, two on WCBC was their fifth census record in 28 years. Snow Bunting: the few reports were of sizeable flocks scattered thru the region, max 300-500 in the Warwick Valley in Feb. E. Meadowlark: eight in the Purgatory Rd. area of Hamptonburgh; 12 in the Wisner Rd area of Warwick, flocks of seven or eight at several Dutc locations, high for this dwindling species. Rusty Blackbird: very few reports, max 30-40 at Stissing all winter. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: a beautiful glossy male studied for 20 minutes at 20 yds in a manured field along Lower Wisner Rd, Warwick on WVCBC (ET, DM, BC). N. **ORIOLE**: a female fed daily on suet in Monticello from 16 Nov-8 Dec, another at Pleasant Valley on 4, 5, 22 Dec; one in a Mt. Kisco cemetery 21 Dec. Am. Goldfinch: high in Dutc but down elsewhere.

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The Region 10 report had not arrived in time for this issue of *The Kingbird*.