

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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December was generally mild with little snow. Temperatures remained in the mid twenties to mid thirties until the end of the month, when it plunged to -4°. January was cold and snowy. Temperatures ranged from -15° in mid month to 54° on 31 Jan, giving us a slightly colder January than normal. February was cold and snowy but with fluctuating temperatures. It was slightly warmer than a year ago. The Hudson River was frozen but had many open leads as the ships keep the ice broken up in the channels. Ducks were seen throughout January and February. By February they were moving northward as the ice broke up. Bald Eagles were observed along the Hudson and many wintered at Rondout and Mongaup Reservoirs and at Iona Island.

An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron that was found huddled along the Hudson River at Beacon 28 Feb by Marion VanWagner was a surprise. Eagles and Short-eared Owls were a treat for those who took the time to go see them. An immature Gyr Falcon was found on 4 Dec with an injury to its wing not far from the area in Dutchess Co. where one wintered last year. Taken to Dr. Heinz Meng in New Paltz, it may be released if it becomes strong enough. Another flying along the Hudson River was seen from the train by Dick Guthrie on 23 Feb. No Snowy Owl was reported in the entire Region. The twelve White-winged Crossbills that paid a brief visit to a yard in Dover Plains on 18 Dec was the only report of these interesting northern birds. There was only one report of Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks for the whole Region. Pine Siskins took over many feeders but Evening Grosbeaks were scarce in most areas. American Robins were scarce and many hearty Eastern Bluebirds wintered.

The winter food crop seemed fairly abundant. However, poison ivy berries were in short supply and were pretty well depleted by mid winter. Multiflora rose and Bittersweet seemed plentiful and supported the usual mockingbird population. For some reason sparrows were scarce in most areas.

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Abbreviations: BCBC-John Burroughs Natural History Society Christmas Bird Count, 19 Dec; OCBC-Orange County Christmas Bird Count, 19 Dec; SCBC-Sullivan County Christmas Bird Count, 27 Dec; WCBC-Waterman Bird Club Christmas Bird Count, 19 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: two Cornwall Bay 12 Dec; one Rio Res 1 Jan; one 3 Dec. Wappingers L (BM). Horned Grebe: 25 BCBC. **Great Cormorant**: two imm 9 Dec. Washington L (ET BS), imm 27 Dec. Cornwall Bay (DK), first verified report locally. Double-crested Cormorant: one 3 & 10 Dec. Poughkeepsie and New Hamburg WBC. Great Blue Heron: several throughout winter DUTC; 12 WCBC, two BCBC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Mute Swan: 16 Cornwall Bay 19 Dec, good numbers wintered in DUTC. Snow Goose: one OCBC, two DUTC 7 Dec, three 13-28 Dec. Brant: 84 Hudson R WBC 10 Jan. Canada Goose: wide spread, large numbers throughout Region. Wood duck: four OCBC, one DUTC 10 Jan. Am. Black Duck: 65 Rondout Res 9 Jan, 96 OCBC, 33 WCBC, 27 BCBC; good numbers throughout Region. Mallard: numerous on all CBC and good winter population. N. Pintail: four OCBC second winter record, four DUTC

10 Jan, five Sylvan L 20 Feb (HM). Gadwall: three to six Wappingers L mid Dec. Am. Wigeon: one 11 Feb (TH). Canvasback: few seen all winter, 410 OCBC. Ring-necked Duck: ten OCBC was unusual, up to 50 wintered at Sylvan L in area kept open by the Canada Geese. Greater Scaup: five New Hamburg 13 Dec (BM). Com. Goldeneye: six OCBC, one Rondout Res 2 Jan, 20 Hudson R 28 Feb, ten WBC 10 Jan. Bufflehead: 13 OCBC; one Wappingers Creek 13 & 19 Dec, three on 28 Feb; one Rondout Res 2 Jan. Hooded Merganser: four Rhinebeck 13 Dec (AJ), eight OCBC, three Rio Res 1 Jan, one WCBC, three BCBC, three DUTC 24 Feb. Com. Merganser: 259 OCBC, 125 Rondout Res 9 Jan, many on Hudson R Jan and Feb. Ruddy Duck: last five OCBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: three all winter Pawling, one 20 Feb Galesville Airport, returned most areas 20-22 Feb. Bald Eagle: widely scattered along major rivers, DEC located 50, one or two New Hamburg and Rhinebeck along Hudson R Feb. N. Harrier: scattered females ORAN, SULL, one WCBC, one BCBC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: scattered reports throughout Region, many at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: one OCBC, one PUTN 13-27 Dec, 3 Jan 2 Feb (FB), three at feeders SULL Jan, one Millerton 20 Dec, four scattered throughout DUTC and WEST. N. Goshawk: ad Blue Hill SULL 10 Jan, imm window injury Roscoe 4 Jan rehabilitated and released 10 Feb, none wintered in ORAN (JPT). Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers on all CBCs. Rough-legged Hawk: only reports singles DUTC 13 Dec, 31 Dec, scarce. **Golden Eagle:** imm Rondout Res 31 Jan, two ad 6 & 7 Feb (GW). Am. Kestrel: 21 OCBC was encouraging return to normal winter numbers, six BCBC, very low DUTC. **Gyr Falcon:** *intro*. Ring-necked Pheasant: seven OCBC, higher than usual, nine WCBC, one BCBC. Ruffed Grouse: seven OCBC, four singles SULL Jan, three Feb WBC, five BCBC. Wild Turkey: excellent population SULL, ORAN and DUTC, seem to have overwintered well in ULST. Am. Coot: two wintered at Sylvan Lake. Killdeer: three or four all winter DUTC. Com. Snipe: one Salt 7 Dec, three 22 Dec Point (MVW), one Millerton 31 Jan, one BCBC. Am. Woodcock: one Claryville 3 Dec (JW). Ring-billed Gull: several thousand overwintered at Regional landfills and malls. Herring Gull: 328 BCBC, 1000 ± OCBC. Iceland Gull: imm Rondout Res 31 Jan (JO). Great Black-backed Gull: one WCBC, 100 Rhinecliff 31 Jan (AJ), 25 New Hamburg (JMK), two Kiamesha L SCBC, two BCBC.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: numerous at feeders throughout Region. E. Screech-Owl: five WCBC, numbers seem down throughout Region. Great Horned Owl: reported from places in DUTC, four BCBC. Barred Owl: one killed 21 Jan as it was chased by crows and was hit by a car on Rt 17 (ML); four WCBC, one BCBC. Long-eared Owl: none. Short-eared Owl: widely noted in ORAN from Pine Island, Campbell Hall, Warwick, one 20 Dec Bashakill, up to 15 Galesville Airport (mob). N. Saw-whet Owl: one SULL 5 Dec (AJ). Belted Kingfisher: normal numbers, fewer in the bitter cold of Jan and Feb. Red-headed Woodpecker: only three during period (JPT), one Rhinebeck 13 & 19 Dec. Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two Vassar College 13 Dec, one 25 Dec; one Norrie Point 26 Feb (MVW). Downy Woodpecker: 90 WCBC, 87 BCBC. Hairy Woodpecker: usually reported as half the number of Downy. N. Flicker: seem to have wintered well throughout the Region. Pileated Woodpecker: up to three reported each month DUTC, one Wurtsboro Hills 13 Jan, six BCBC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: good numbers all season Warren Sod Fars, 200 on 27 Feb (JPT); up to 300 Red Hook; also good numbers Amenia, Verbank and Millerton. Am. Crow: 3500 WCBC, mostly at a roost near Poughkeepsie. Fish Crow: the usual two or three near Poughkeepsie. Com. Raven: four Claryville 8 Dec, then singles thereafter at various Catskill locations. Black-capped Chickadee: 749 OCBC, over 3-400 each WCBC and BCBC, lower numbers in Jan and Feb. Tufted Titmouse: seem to have wintered well at most feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 43 BCBC, few most areas. Brown Creeper: reported throughout Region in fair numbers. Carolina Wren: five OCBC; two during period Middletown, encouraging (JPT); reported from the Poughkeepsie-Pleasant

Valley areas, four BCBC. Winter Wren: one Claryville 27 Jan, one Pawling 1 Jan, one 6 Feb (Bob Schultz). Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers all areas. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two OCBC, one or two DUTC each month. E. Bluebird: 20 OCBC, very encouraging; wintered well in DUTC, 16 BCBC. Am. Robin: rather scarce throughout Region. Gray Catbird: one BCBC. N. Mockingbird: good numbers on all CBCs, wintered well. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers all winter. N. Shrike: singles Dover Plains 14 Dec, Hughsonville 22 Dec took a junco, Millbrook 7 Jan, Beacon 9 Jan, regularly visited yard Parksville. SULL. European Starling: thousands on CBCs.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: five OCBC, one Red Hook month of Jan. Com. Yellowthroat: one OCBC, the second local winter record (JPT).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: one Pleasant Valley 1 Dec (MVW), very late. Am. Tree Sparrow: very low in all areas, some people had none at feeders. Field Sparrow: singles OCBC, BCBC. Vesper Sparrow: one Pleasant Valley 5 Jan (EP), first winter record in many years. Savannah Sparrow: one Red Hook 5 Feb (EP, MVW). Fox Sparrow: two BCBC. Song Sparrow: 20 WCBC, 18 BCBC, seem scarce throughout Jan and Feb. Swamp Sparrow: two BCBC. White-throated Sparrow: numbers seem down this winter but good on CBCs, 12+ at feeder PUTN (FB) about average. White-crowned Sparrow: after wintering several years in DUTC none were reported this season. Dark-eyed Junco: on 90% of Jan feeders SULL, numbers down slightly DUTC, an albino noted in Wappingers Falls had black stripe on wing. Lapland Longspur: small numbers wintered with Horned Larks Warren Sod Farms, Pine Plains and Warwick. Snow Bunting: small numbers sporadic in several localities ORAN, scarce in DUTC, 50 Red Hook 14 Feb where 500 were seen in Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: few overwintered, first migrants mid Feb many areas of DUTC, appeared 27 Feb ORAN and ULST. E. Meadowlark: few overwintered, seven Galesville Airport 20 Feb; only two DUTC, both in Feb. Rusty Blackbird: one Poughkeepsie through Dec, 12 Millbrook through Jan, two Stissing 14 Jan (TH). Com. Grackle: none wintered or were not reported; first migrants three Clove Valley 22 Feb (EP), 27 Feb ULST and ORAN. Brown-headed Cowbird: 52 OCBC, few throughout period DUTC. N. Oriole: two WCBC. Pine Grosbeak: 25 Mongaup Falls Res 3 Jan only report. Purple Finch: scattered reports throughout period, few on CBC. House Finch: continues in good numbers all areas. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*. Com. Redpoll: one Balsam L 10 Jan, 25 Forrestdburg 9 Jan. Pine Siskin: widespread throughout period, at most feeders. Am. Goldfinch: good numbers, seem to have wintered well. Evening Grosbeak: good numbers in some areas of DUTC, scarce in ORAN, at 80% of feeders in SULL.

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[There is no Region 10 report because there is no Editor for that Region. Anyone interested in serving as regional Editor should contact the Editor of The Kingbird or Emanuel Levine.]