

REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

MICHAEL BOCHNIK
86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

The Region's weather was marked by unusual warmth and lack of snow. The average temperature at Westchester County Airport for December was 37.8 degrees, four degrees above average. January's temperature was near normal coming in at 28.0 degrees. February warmed up to 37.3 degrees, 5.5 degrees above average. Precipitation was near normal each month with a combined 9.33 inches. Only 3.7 inches of snow were recorded at the Westchester County Airport. Higher amounts were found in areas farther north and south.

During 17-19 January, the only major deep freeze occurred. All fresh water and many of the salt water bays were frozen as the result of this cold snap. Lakes and reservoirs in the southern part of the Region started to open up as early as the second week of February.

The most notable bird was a Sandhill Crane found in Goshen, Orange County in and around 6 1/2 Station Marsh. It was discovered 30 November and was present until 3 January.

A Snowy Owl appeared at a shopping center in Poughkeepsie and stayed for the entire period. Another Snowy Owl made a brief afternoon appearance at Read Sanctuary in Rye on 25 January.

White-winged gulls made an exceptional appearance in Ellenville, Ulster County where up to six immature Icelands and at least one Glaucous Gull spent most of December and January around a pond in back of the Fallsview Hotel.

An unusually high number of Winter Wrens, 48, was found on the Westchester side of the Bronx-Westchester CBC 29 December. It appears to be a localized event.

An **Indigo Bunting** was present at a Cold Spring feeder throughout the winter. It was not identified until Lew King, a neighbor and birder, photographed it in late March.

A variety of warblers were found during the warm December, including: Orange-crowned, Nashville, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow-rumped. A **Wilson's Warbler** surprised a birder in downtown Hastings on 2 January.

Contributors: Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Eugene Brown, Tom Burke, Linda Lawson Fagan, Fred Hubbard, John Burroughs Natural History Society, Ulster County(JBNHS), Lew King, Jeff Main, Phil Meisner, Doris Metraux, Drew Panko, Gerhard Patsch, Jim Previdi, Rockland Audubon Society (RAS), Joe Scordats, Al Schaut, Selden Spencer, Edward Treacy, Alison Van Keuren, Mans Weber, Carol Weiss

Abbreviations: BCF - Blue Chip Farm, ULST; BWCBC - Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count, only WEST birds reported; CPP - Croton Point Park; EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; FVH - Fallsview Hotel, Ellenville, ULST; GA - Galeville Airport; GSP - Goshen sewage pond; JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society, ULST; LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line; MARCBC - Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir Christmas Bird Count; MC - Marshlands Conservancy; PCBC - Peekskill Christmas Bird Count; PCCBC - Putnam County Christmas Bird Count; Pine I - Pine Island, sod farms and vicinity; PP - Piermont Pier; RASCBC - Rockland Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count; RL - Rockland Lake; RNC - Rye Nature Center; RSPP - Rockefeller State Park Preserve; SCCBC - Sullivan Co. Christmas Bird Count; SSM - 6-1/2 Station Marsh; WCF - Woodbourne Correctional Facility, SULL; WPS - Westhampton (Mid-Hudson) Psychiatric Center, Goshen.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** one Plum Cove, ORAN 10 Dec. **Red-necked Grebe:** one off Glen Island 29 Dec; one EGR 18 Dec, 8 and 21 Feb. **Double-crested Cormorant:** one Garrison 4 Jan. **Great Blue Heron:** 21 EGR 29 Dec. **Great Egret:** one Rye 29 Dec (BWCBC). **Mute Swan:** 50+ Saugerties 6 Feb. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one Pine I 24 Dec; seven Westtown 11 Feb. **Snow Goose:** one CPP 26 Dec; three blue morph Pine I 25 Jan. **N. Pintail:** four SSM 21 Dec; RL 20 Feb; NBSP 25 Feb. **N. Shoveler:** 12 SSM 14 Dec. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Rye 11 Dec - 8 Feb. **Redhead:** three EGR 18 Dec; three Ridgebury 6 Feb. **Oldsquaw:** six SSM 14 Dec. **White-winged Scoter:** three EGR 29 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** four Fort Montgomery 21 Dec; three Bear Mountain 6 Jan; four Pomona 2 Feb (FB). **Bald Eagle:** many reports of 20 to 30 along Hudson River from Croton Point to Bear Mountain Bridge; max 39

(13 adults, 26 imm.) 15 Feb (FB). **N. Goshawk**: one Mongaup Falls 1 Feb. **Red-tailed Hawk**: pair with nest in a white pine on Route 119, Tarrytown 31 Jan (ET). **Rough-legged Hawk**: two Pine I 10, 13 Dec; one Garrison 4 Jan; one Carmel 4 Jan; one Pine I 11 Jan; one CPP 11 Jan; three BCF 9 Feb. **Golden Eagle**: two Stissing Mt 15 Dec; three Stissing Mt 30 Jan. **Merlin**: one Mahopac 4 Jan (PCCBC). **Peregrine Falcon**: one Pine I 15 Dec; one Bear Mt 6 Jan. **Wild Turkey**: 29 MARCBC 21 Dec; 11 MC 4 Dec. **Clapper Rail**: two Rye 29 Dec. **Virginia Rail**: two MC 29 Dec; one MC 27 Jan. **Sandhill Crane**: one SSM 1 Dec -3 Jan (mob) **Killdeer**: two PP 15 Feb. **Com. Snipe**: one PP 25 Jan (RAS). **Am. Woodcock**: one MC 21 Feb; six MC 23 Feb; New Paltz 22 Feb. **Iceland Gull**: up to six imm FVH Dec -Feb (ET, MB), max six on 8 Feb (MB); three Kingstone Point Beach 13 Dec; one WCF 29 Dec; two 6SS 5 Jan.(ET); three GSP 6 Feb.(ET, JS). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one EGR 25-26 Dec, 13 Jan, 4 Feb, 23 Feb; one WCF 29 Dec; one GSP 6 Feb (ET, JS). **Glaucous Gull**: one FVH 8 Feb (MB); one New Hampton Psychiatric Center 3 Feb (ET); one SSM 5 Jan.(ET).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Snowy Owl**: one Poughkeepsie 14 Dec thru; one EGR 25 Jan (JM). **Long-eared Owl**: one MC 27 Jan. **Short-eared Owl**: one Pine I 13 Dec; one E.Orangetown 15 Dec; five GA 9 Feb. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one MARCBC 21 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Horned Lark**: several hundred Pine I 3 Dec (ET). **Tree Swallow**: ULST 26 Feb. **Com. Raven**: one Route 6 & 202 Overlook 22 Dec; 20 Claryville 1 Jan; three Ft. Montgomery 13 Jan (AS); three Doodletown Road 19 Feb (PM). **Brown Creeper**: two RSPP 6 Jan. **Winter Wren**: 48 BWCBC 29 Dec, unusually high number. **N. Shrike**: one PCCBC, Mahopac 4 Jan.

VIREOS-WARBLES: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one Yonkers 29 Dec (MB). **Nashville Warbler**: one CPP 21 Dec. **Cape May Warbler**: one Ossining 21 Dec (PCBC). **Black-throated Blue warbler**: one RSPP 24 Dec. **Black-and-white Warbler**: one Nyack 4 Dec. **Common Yellowthroat**: one Rye 29 Dec (BWCBC). **WILSON'S WARBLER**: one Hastings 2 Jan (FH). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Greenburgh 4 Dec - 15 Jan (DP).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **INDIGO BUNTING**: one Cold Spring feeder all winter, photo in March (LK). **Dickcissel**: one Yonkers 12 Dec. **Chipping Sparrow**: one Hastings 29 Dec; one MC 11-19 Jan. **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one MC 17 Dec. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one Rye 29 Dec. **Lapland Longspur**: three Pine I 3 Dec (ET); seven Pine I 13 Dec. **Snow Bunting**: two Pine I 3 Dec (ET); 30 Pine I 13 Dec; one EGR 16 Dec. **Com.**

Grackle: migrant flock Highland Falls 23 Feb (ET). **Baltimore Oriole:** one Nyack 3 Feb thru (EB). **Pine Grosbeak:** 11 PCCBC, Mahopac 4 Jan. **Purple Finch:** eight Harriman 8 Jan (JP). **White-winged Crossbill:** one RNC 28 Dec. **Pine Siskin:** four N. Clarkstown 15 Dec (RASCBC).

(914)785-3840 (work) (914)237-9331 (home)

76652.3224@compuserve.com