

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The winter of 1997-98 was warm, generally cloudy, and wet. As reported from the Albany County Airport, December's mean temperature was 29.8°F, 3.3° above normal, with no below-zero days. Sunshine averaged 46%, 7% above normal. There were 2.10 inches of precipitation, 0.83 inches below normal, and 14.7 inches of snow. January was a warm month, averaging 28.9°F, 8.3° above normal. There was only one sub-zero day, January 1. It was a cloudy month, with only 34% sunshine, 12% below normal. Precipitation was 3.80 inches, 1.44 inches above normal, with 13.5 inches of snow. February was also warm, averaging 31.8°, 8.3° above normal, with 42% sunshine, 10% less than normal. Precipitation measured a slightly above normal 2.58 inches, with 6 inches of snow.

Comments echo last year's, with generally open water and good wild food crops. Birds remained dispersed throughout the period. The 11 reporting CBCs had high counts both of species and individuals, with several records set. The Federation January Waterfowl Count again produced only 13 species and 7850 individuals. Bald Eagle again wintered locally in good numbers, but numbers of immature birds were down from last year. Gulls were, as usual, concentrated in the Colonie landfill/Cohoes areas of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers. Lingered landbirds were well represented on CBCs, with E. Phoebe, Carolina and Winter wrens, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Field, Fox, Swamp and **Lincoln's** sparrows being reported. The winter finch invasion was evident throughout the period, with all 9 regular winter finch species reported on area CBCs, as well as 3 Hoary Redpoll reports. The 123 species reported included 28 species of waterfowl, 12 species of hawks, 7 species of gulls, 6 species of owls, 8 species of sparrows, and 10 species of finches.

Contributors: Ken Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Beth Bidwell, Brad Bidwell (BBi), Bob Boehm (BBo), Carol Budliger, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Jane Graves, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Jim Sotis, Douglas Steele, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: ACCBC - Albany County CBC, 21 Dec; CBL - Coxsackie Boat Launch, GREE; ChCBC - Chatham CBC, 20 Dec; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; FPCBC - Fort Plain CBC, 28 Dec; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GCBC - Galway CBC, 3 Jan; GI - Green Island, ALBA;

HFCBC - Hudson Falls CBC, 20 Dec; HR - Hudson River; JGCBC - Johnstown-Gloversville CBC, 27 Dec; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; NYSWC - New York State Waterfowl Count, 11, 18 Jan; SCBC - Salem CBC, 27 Dec; ScCBC - Schenectady CBC, 20 Dec; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SPd - Stanton Pond, ALBA; SRCBC - Southern Rensselaer CBC, 28 Dec; SSCBC - Saratoga Spa CBC, 20 Dec; StFl - Stillwater Flats (includes Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TCBC - Troy CBC, 3 Jan; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: 1 SL 3 Dec, 2 SL 7 Dec; 1 Germantown 11 Jan; 1 NYSWC; only reports.
Horned Grebe: 1 ACCBC, only report.
Red-necked Grebe: 2 Hague Bay WARR 5 Dec, only report..
Double-crested Cormorant: 1 GI 5 Dec, only report.
Great Blue Heron: 47 on 9 CBCs; high count 19 ScCBC; reported thru.
Turkey Vulture: 1 Rt. 90 bt. Exits 24-25 5 Feb (SA), very early.
Snow Goose: 2060 on 3 CBCs; 4000+ Stillwater 13 Dec (JS); 75-100 StFl 4 Jan; 1 NYSWC; 75 HR Stillwater 28 Feb.
Canada Goose: high counts 7218 TCBC, 2915 NYSWC; 960 T Florida MONT 21 Feb; 1900 Stillwater-Half-Moon 28 Feb.
Brant: 1 CL/MR SCHE 2 Dec thru.
Mute Swan: max 51 e. side HR bt. Stuyvesant Landing/Dome Pd. 11 Jan; 1 SPd 27 Dec, 4-28 Feb; 6 CBL 21 Jan.
Wood Duck: 6 on 3 CBCs; 2 StFl 28 Feb.
Gadwall: 1 ACCBC; 2 TCBC.
Am. Wigeon: 6 SL 3 Dec (WL); 7 ACCBC.
Am. Black Duck: 1698 on 11 CBCs; 244 NYSWC.
Mallard: 8077 on 11 CBCs; 1105 NYSWC; 50 Brant L 29 Jan, 6 Feb.
N. Pintail: 11 on 4 CBCs; 1 Clarks Mills WASH 22 Feb (JS); widely reported after that date.
Green-winged Teal: 1 TR 6 Dec; 1 NRP 22 Feb, only reports.
Canvasback: 120 ChCBC; 3000 NYSWC; one Half Moon 28 Feb.
Redhead: 2 Stillwater 17 Jan (WE, NM); one CBL 26 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: 130 ACCBC; 4 HFBCB; 4 TCBC; 2 NYSWC; 75 Alcove Res 1 Jan; 3 Stillwater 17 Jan.
Greater Scaup: 1 Cohoes Commons 6 Dec; 5 NYSWC; 1 HR COLU 26 Jan; 1 Half Moon 28 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: 1 SSCBC CW; 1 GI TCBC, 22, 25 Jan, 11, 16 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: 2 SSCBC.
Black Scoter: 12 ChCBC.
Oldsquaw: 1 ACCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 m MR Colonie 10 Jan; 1 HR COLU 26 Jan; 1 f GI 28 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 100 SL 3 Dec; 1 FtM 9 Feb; arr 2 StFl 28 Feb (WE).
Com. Goldeneye: max 200 SL 3 Dec; 246 on 6 CBCs; 212 NYSWC; 117 FtM 17 Jan; 55 Stillwater 17 Jan; 93 Stillwater 28 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 200 SL 3 Dec (WL); 6 NYSWC; 3 HR Stillwater 17 Jan (WE, NM); 3 HR Spier Falls Rd 28 Feb.
Com. Merganser: high counts 300 MR Waterford 4 Dec; 306 NYSWC; 20 Schodack Landing 22 Feb (PC).
Red-breasted Merganser: 1 Waterford 4 Dec; 1 SRCBC, only reports.
Ruddy Duck: 1 CL 3 Dec; 21 ACCBC; 1 SCBC, only reports.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 16 on 6 CBCs; at least 20 ad, 8 imm Conklingville Dam, HR, MR, L George, Battenkill R, Hoosic R all season.
N. Harrier: 21 on 7 CBCs; 6 present FTE thru; 5 NB 7 Jan; 4 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 36 on 11 CBCs; 20 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 22 on 7 CBCs; 17 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 GCBC; 2 SSCBC; 1 Conklinville 16 Dec (WL); 1 Westerlo 22 Jan (AV).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 FPCBC; 1 GCBC; one Rt. 50 SARA 31 Dec, 7 Feb; 1 Ballston Spa 22 Jan (probably same bird); 1 Bloomfield Rd. SARA 21 Dec; 1 Duaneburg 26 Jan.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 139 FPCBC; 113 TCBC.

Rough-legged Hawk: 38 on 8 CBCs; max 14 FPCBC; 8-12 FtE thru; 6 Van Epps Rd. area MONT 2 Jan; 3 Bacon Hill SARA 4 Jan; 18 reports of singles.

Golden Eagle: 1 imm m found Ft Ann WASH 29 Dec, died 1 week later (DEC); 1 imm Chatham 22 Feb (RG).

Am. Kestrel: 19 on 8 CBCs; 18 reports of singles.

Merlin: 1 SRCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 Niskayuna 14 Jan (WL); 1 Delmar 13 Feb (BEN).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 ACCBC; 1 SSCBC CW; 1 ad ScCBC; 3 SRCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 ad m CL 22 Dec (RP); 1 Scotia 24 Dec (RP); pr Dunn Memorial Bridge 29 Dec (RB, CB); 1-2 seen along HR

Albany/Cohoes/Troy area thru; 2 Corning Tower Albany 10 Feb (S. Gooding to BEN); 1 imm Reist Sanctuary 27 Feb (RP);

Ring-necked Pheasant: 6 on 3 CBCs; one other report.

Ruffed Grouse: 38 on 8 CBCs; 4 Amsterdam 24 Dec, 21 Feb; 6 reports of singles.

Wild Turkey: high counts 245 ChCBC; 335 FPCBC.

Am. Coot: 1 HR WASH 12 Dec; 5 ACCBC; 1 SSCBC CW; one Livingston 8, 28 Feb.

Killdeer: arr Livingston 27 Feb; 2 Slingerlands 28 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Troy 8 Dec (AV).

Ring-billed Gull: max 300 Coxsackie 21 Jan.

Herring Gull: max 3344 TCBC; 4000 MR Colonie 10 Jan (WE).

Iceland Gull: 6 Colonie/Cohoes 6 Dec; 1 FPCBC; 12 TCBC; 1 NB 7 Jan; 9 Colonie 10 Jan; 2 Cohoes 2 Feb; 1-5 CBL 28 Jan-26 Feb; 1 Binnekill 29 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-2 Colonie/Crescent area 4 Dec-28 Feb; 1 MR Niskayuna 18 Dec; 1 Bethlehem HS 10 Jan.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 950 TCBC; 1000 MR Colonie 10 Jan, 400 28 Feb.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: high counts 2007 TCBC; 1009 ScCBC.

Mourning Dove: high counts 909 SRCBC; 852 HFCBC.

E. Screech-Owl: 20 on 9 CBCs; 8 other reports.

Great Horned Owl: 46 on 9 CBCs; 10 other reports.

Snowy Owl: no reports.

Barred Owl: 11 on 6 CBCs; 4 other reports.

Short-eared Owl: 7 FtE 12 Dec-17 Jan, 1 still present 9 Feb; 2 W. Ames Rd. T Canajoharie MONT 7 Feb; 1 Duaneburg Rds. SCHE 9 Feb thru (*vide* RP); present Staleyville Rd T Sharon SCHOE thru.

Long-eared Owl: 1 ACBC; 1 Kinderhook 17-31 Jan (Cris Winters); 1 FR 20 Feb (DS).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 FPCBC; 2 GCBC; 2 JGCBC; 1 ScCBC; 3 reports of singles.

Belted Kingfisher: 33 on 8 CBCs; max 10 ChCBC; 8 Jan, 4 Feb reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 94 on 11 CBCs, high count 32 ChCBC; 16 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 ChCBC; 1 SRCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 Austerlitz 1 Jan; 2 Delmar 10 Jan (Amy Budliger); 1 NRP 22 Feb.

Downy Woodpecker: 697 on 11 CBCs; max 128 ChCBC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 206 on 11 CBCs; max 36 TCBC.

N. Flicker: 155 on 10 CBCs; max 26 ScCCBC, TCBC; 4 Jan, 4 Feb reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: 69 on 11 CBCs; 18 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 1 ACCBC; 1 ChCBC; 1

Battenkill RENS 7 Feb; 1 Coxsackie 9 Feb; 1 Watervliet 10 Feb.

N. Shrike: 11 on 6 CBCs; max 6 GCBC; 7 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: 3173 on 11 CBCs; numbers up significantly from last year.

Am. Crow: max 18106 TCBC; 7309 ScCBC.

Fish Crow: 6 ChCBC, TCBC; 4 Jan and 2 Feb reports.

Com. Raven: 25 on 7 CBCs; max 13 SRCBC; widely reported thru.
Horned Lark: 584 on 7 CBCs; seen in moderate numbers Jan-Feb.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 846 JGCBC, 792 SRCBC, 635 GCBC; moderate irruption JL.
Tufted Titmouse: max 148 ScCBC, 130 ACCBC; 1 banded JL 14 Feb; unusual in that area.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 249 on 11 CBCs; max 42 ChCBC, JGCBC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 114 ChCBC.
Brown Creeper: 75 on 10 CBCs; max 11 ACCBC.
Carolina Wren: 10 on 7 CBCs; 1 W. River Rd. SARA 20 Dec; 1 Waterford 3 Jan; 1 Albany 27 Jan; 1 Schodack Center 24 Feb, at suet feeder;
Winter Wren: 1 MR e. of Amsterdam 18 Dec; 2 ScCBC; 1 JL 14 Feb; 1 PISP 28 Feb.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 63 on 10 CBCs; max 30 SRCBC; reported in small numbers thru.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 ChCBC, only report.
E. Bluebird: 603 on 11 CBCs; max 164 ChCBC; present in excellent numbers through period.
Am. Robin: max 774 ChCBC, 348 ScCBC; wintered widely.
Gray Catbird: 2 ChCBC.
N. Mockingbird: 52 on 7 CBCs; 6 Jan, 2 Feb reports.
European Starling: high count 13, 943 TCBC.
Bohemian Waxwing: 2 JGCBC.
Cedar Waxwing: high counts 322 JGCBC; 193 SRCBC; 179 FPCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Colonie 6 Dec (WE, NM), only report.
Com. Yellowthroat: 1 ScCBC, only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

N. Cardinal: high counts 96 ChCBC; 86 SRCBC; 22 at feeder Guilderland 14 Feb.
Am. Tree Sparrow: high counts 408 FPCBC; 429 SCBC; record numbers banded at T. Palmer's feeder (RY).

Field Sparrow: 1 ACCBC; 4 ChCBC, only reports.
Fox Sparrow: 1 ScCBC, only report.
Song Sparrow: 179 on 11 CBCs; high count 48 TCBC.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 FPCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 SRCBC.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 ChCBC, rare in winter.
White-throated Sparrow: max 120 ScCBC; 40 Guilderland 14 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 FPCBC.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 322 SCBC; 318 ChCBC.
Lapland Longspur: 30 FPCBC; "several" Van Epps Rd. MONT 2 Jan; 3 FtE 17 Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 324 FPCBC; 200 FtE 28 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: 40 on 4 CBCs; reported in small numbers after 9 Feb; 100's in trees Brookview RENS 22 Feb (PC); common after that date.
E. Meadowlark: no reports.
Com. Grackle: 11 on 2 CBCs; 100's in trees Brookview RENS 22 Feb (PC).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 49 on 4 CBCs; up to 12 FR thru.
Pine Grosbeak: 2 FPCBC; 9 JGCBC; 9 SRCBC; 7 Warrensburg 26 Dec; 20 Taborton 1 Jan; 12 Scotia 7 Jan; 5 Gloversville 12 Feb; 4 Guilderland 19 Feb.
Purple Finch: 75 on 6 CBCs; few Jan and Feb reports.
House Finch: max 435 SRCBC; 351 TCBC; scarce at feeders.
Red Crossbill: 2 JGCBC; 10 SSCBC CW; 14 5R 21 Jan.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 ChCBC; 1 FPCBC; 24 GCBC; 9 JGCBC; 3 SSCBC; 11 TCBC; 20 Warrensburg 17 Dec; 40 Delmar 23 Dec; 30 Slingerlands 7 Jan.
Com. Redpoll: max 1411 SCBC; 900 JGCBC; 800 TCBC; 551 HFCBC; excellent numbers thru.
Hoary Redpoll: 1 Jewel Red SARA 20 Dec (BBi); 1 Van Epps Rd MONT 2 Jan (BBi/KB); 1 f or imm Berne 7-12 Feb (KA); NYSARC reports requested.
Pine Siskin: max 15 Hague 5 Dec; 52 on 5 CBCs; almost completely absent Jan-Feb.
Am. Goldfinch: max 227 SSCBC; 237 ScCBC, low numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: max 713 JGCBC;
279 GCBC; 81 SRCBC; 56 FPCBC; 50
Warrensburg 30 Dec; 120 Greenfield 4
Jan; 50 Spier Falls Rd 28 Feb.

House Sparrow: max 616 FPCBC; 598
TCBC.

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