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As reported from the Albany International Airport, December's mean temperature was 33.7°F, 7.2° above normal. Sunshine averaged 46%, 7% above normal. There was 1.04" of precipitation, 1.89" below normal, with only 3.2" of snow. January was a slightly warmer than normal month, averaging 21.8°. It was a cloudy month, with only 29% sunshine, 18% below normal. Precipitation was 4.78", 2.42" above normal, with 20.4" of snow. February was also warm, averaging 28.2°, 4.7° above normal, with a nearly normal 50% sunshine. Precipitation was again below normal, measuring 1.50", with 5.8" of snow.

Comments echo last year's, with generally open water during the early part of the season and good wild food crops. Birds remained dispersed throughout the period. The earlier CBCs had large numbers of lingering waterfowl. Bald Eagle again continued to winter locally in good numbers, with numbers of immature birds up from last year. Gulls were, as usual, concentrated in the Colonie landfill/Cohoes areas of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, as well as the Catskill and Coxsackie areas. A Herring x Great-Blacked Gull hybrid spotted at the Colonie Landfill by Walter Ellison on February 20 provided interest for gull watchers.

Lingering landbirds were well represented on CBCs and at feeders. Greater Yellowlegs, E. Phoebe, House and Winter wrens, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped and Pine warblers, Chipping, Field, Savannah, Fox, Swamp and White-crowned sparrows, and Baltimore

Oriole were reported, and a very surprising Osprey was on the Chatham count. The 130 species reported included 27 species of waterfowl, 12 species of hawks, 6 species of gulls, 7 species of owls, 9 species of sparrows, and 7 species of finches. Unusual birds reported included Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Snowy Owl, and Long-eared Owl.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm (Bbo), Carol Budliger, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Craig Fosdick, Jane Graves; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN): William Lee; Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Frank Murphy, Tom Palmer, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Jim Sotis, Alison Van Keuren, Mark Wolfe, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACCBC - Albany County CBC, 20 Dec; CBL - Cocksackie Boat Launch, GREE; CCCBC - Catskill-Cocksackie CBC, 22 Dec; ChCBC - Chatham CBC, 19 Dec; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; FPCBC - Fort Plain CBC, 27 Dec; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GCBC - Galway CBC, 2 Jan; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HFCBC - Hudson Falls CBC, 19 Dec; GL - Galway Lake, SARA; HR - Hudson River; JGCBC - Johnstown-Gloversville CBC, 27 Dec; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PP - Papscanee Preserve, RENS; SCBC - Salem CBC, 26 Dec; ScCBC - Schenectady CBC, 19 Dec; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SPd - Stanton Pond, ALBA; SRCBC - Southern Rensselaer CBC, 27 Dec; SSCBC - Saratoga Spa CBC, 19 Dec; StFl - Stillwater Flats (includes Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TCBC - Troy CBC, 2 Jan; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: 4 ACCBC; 1 SSCBC CW, only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Hillsdale 2 Dec; 2 ACCBC; 1 ScCBC; 2 SSCBC; 1 TCBC.

Horned Grebe: 7 HFCBC; 2 L7 17 Jan, 1 still there 23 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 CCCBC, only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: 1 CCCBC,

only report.

Great Blue Heron: 32 on 10 CBCs; no Jan, 2 Feb reports.

Turkey Vulture: 1 Albany 7 Dec; 1 CCCBC.

Snow Goose: 12407 on 7 CBCs; high count 6604 SSCBC.

Canada Goose: high counts 9300 SCBC; 6677 CCCBC; 2000 HR T Schodack 24 Feb.

Mute Swan: max 101 CCCBC; 1 WR 12-19 Dec; 1 Schoharie Creek SCHE 29 Dec-19 Jan; 1 HR Stillwater 11, 30 Jan, 6, 10 Feb; 34 CBL 21 Feb; 24 Dutchman's Landing Catskill 27 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 11 GL 13 Dec (FM); 1 HR Stillwater 11, 13 Jan (RB); 3 lower Hoosic R RENS 7, 12, 16 Feb (JS, BEN).

Wood Duck: 4 on 3 CBCs.

Gadwall: 61 on 6 CBCs; high counts 30 SSCBC, 21 ACCBC.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 ACCBC.

Am. Wigeon: 6 GL 13 Dec (FM); 7 ACCBC; 14 SCCBC; 3 L7 24 Dec.

Am. Black Duck: 3867 on 11 CBCs; high count 1618 SSCBC.

Mallard: 5152 on 11 CBCs; max 2177 SSCBC, 1323 FPCBC.

N. Pintail: 5 GL 13 Dec; 1 ACCBC; 11 SCCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 CL outlet Scotia 7 Jan; 1 L7 27, 29 Dec, 7 Jan.

N. Shoveler: 2 ACCBC; 38 CCCBC.

Green-winged Teal: 20 GL 13 Dec; 38 on 5 CBCs; max 33 ACCBC.

Canvasback: 1 L7 5 Dec; 250 Inbocht Bay GREE 13 Feb; 2 FtM 14 Feb; only reports.

Redhead: 2 GL 13 Dec; 1 TCBC; 2 Crescent 18 Jan; 11-12 HR Stillwater 6, 10 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 10 GL 13 Dec; 65 ACCBC; 31 CCCBC; 23 SSCBC; 2 SRCBC; 12 HR Stillwater 30 Jan, unusual numbers for that date.

Greater Scaup: 4 GL 13 Dec; 20 SSCBC; 3 Cohoes Commons 18 Jan; 4 HR Stillwater 30 Jan-27 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 40 SCBC; 1 CCCBC CW; 1 HR Stillwater 30 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: 1 L7 28 Dec-23 Jan, moved to Tibbets Ave 24 Jan.

Oldsquaw: 2 ACCBC; 1 L7 17-23 Jan

(RY).

Bufflehead: 3 GL 13 Dec; 8 ACCBC; 3 SSCBC; 1 GI 18 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: 776 on 6 CBCs; max 58 ACCBC; 31 MR Colonie 18 Jan; 125 HR Stillwater 30 Jan, displaying.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 ad m HR Stillwater 6 Feb (WE, NM).

Hooded Merganser: 508 on 5 CBCs; max 385 SSCBC; 4 HR Stillwater 1 Jan; 8 lower Hoosic R RENS 7 Feb; 8 Brant L 15 Feb; pr GI 27 Feb; 1 overwintered L7.

Com. Merganser: high counts 250 Nassau L 20 Dec; 907 SSCBC, 352 ScCBC; 80 Colonie 18 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1 TCBC; 1 GI 10 Jan, presumably same bird.

Ruddy Duck: 3 Nassau L 2 Dec; 25 GL 113 Dec; max 179 ACCBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 ChCBC.

Bald Eagle: 9 ad, 2 imm on 5 CBCs; at least 16 ad, 12 imm HR, MR, L George, Battenkill R, Hoosic R all season; no reports from Conklingville Dam.

N. Harrier: 133 on 11 CBCs; 9 Cocksackie 12 Dec; 17 present FtE thru; 6 BCM area 18 Feb; 25 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 42 on 10 CBCs; 21 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 30 on 10 CBCs; 22 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 imm PP 15 Dec (MW); 1 JGCBC; 1 ScCBC; 2 SSCBC; 1 TCBC.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 CCCBC; 1 SSCBC CW; 1 Austerlitz 8 Jan (ADBC); 1 ad, 1 imm Saratoga 5 Feb (G. Hanson); 1 Saratoga 7 Feb (BP); 1 Grapeville GREE 7 Feb, pair observed in area 27 Jan, 4, 27 Feb (PC).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 122 FPCBC; 101 TCBC.

Rough-legged Hawk: 29 on 9 CBCs; 12 FtE 8, 31 Jan; 3 T Canajoharaie 23 Jan; 2 Rt. 146 T Clifton Pk 24 Jan; 20 Cocksackie 31 Jan; 3 Blatnik Pk, 2 T Duanesburg SCHE (RP); 15 reports of singles.

Am. Kestrel: 39 on 10 CBCs; 18 reports of singles.

Merlin: 1 CCCBC; 1 GI 18 Jan (WE, NM);

1 SUNYA 12 Feb, same bird Guilderland 20, 28 Feb (WE, NM); 1 probable Schenectady 16 Feb (WL).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 ACCBC; 1 SCBC; 2 SRCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 MR Crescent 27 Dec (WL); 1 MR Colonie 27, 28 Dec; 1 Albany 30 Dec; 1 imm Rip Van Winkle Bridge 30 Jan (BC); 1 Slingerlands 16 Feb (AV); 1 2nd yr f SI 27 Feb.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 1 CCCBC, only report.

Ruffed Grouse: 48 on 11 CBCs; no other reports (except for 1 being eaten by Cooper's Hawk).

Wild Turkey: high counts 114 ChCBC, 284 FPCBC.

Am. Coot: 2 CCCBC; 3 HFBCB; 11 SCBC; 1 ScCBC; 2 GI/Crescent Dam 18 Jan, 20, 27 Feb (WE); 2 L7 10 Jan (WL).

Killdeer: 6 CCCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 heard Crescent 17 Jan (RY); arr Guilderland 18 Feb.

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 FPCBC.

Com. Snipe: 1 CCCBC; 1 CL outlet 26 Dec (RY).

Am. Woodcock: 1 CCCBC CW; 1 HFBCB.

Ring-billed Gull: max 953 CCCBC; 300 Dutchman's Landing Catskill 13 Feb.

Herring Gull: 1400 MR Colonie 5 Dec; max 1658 ACCBC; 1577 CCCBC; 1494 TCBC; 2000 MR Colonie 20 Feb, 1270 still present 27 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: 1 ACCBC; 4 TCBC.

Iceland Gull: 2 MR Colonie 5 Dec; 3 ACCBC; 3 CCCBC; 1 ScCBC; 2 TCBC; 1 imm Crescent 7 Jan; 4 CBL 7 Feb (CF); 1 PP 11 Feb (MW); 1 Cocksackie 27 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Crescent 27 Dec; 7 Jan (WE); 1 ad Colonie landfill 27 Dec (RY); 1 TCBC; 1 Colonie 20 Feb (WE).

Great Black-backed Gull: 250 MR Colonie 5 Dec; max 612 TCBC; 400 MR Colonie 20 Feb, 265 27 Feb.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: high counts 1544 HFBCB; 1296 TCBC; 1033 ScCBC.

Mourning Dove: high counts 903 SSCBC; 744 ScCBC; singing began 10 Feb.

E. Screech-Owl: 34 on 9 CBCs; 1 Schodack Ctr. 11 Dec (PC); 1 Tygert Marsh

21 Feb, only reports.

Great Horned Owl: 58 on 9 CBCs; max 15 GCBC; 15 other reports.

Snowy Owl: 1 Glenville 19 Jan (fide RY); 1 Rt. 146 T Clifton Pk. 19 Jan (RY).

Barred Owl: 7 on 4 CBCs; 1 PP 11 Feb (MW), only reports.

Short-eared Owl: 10 FtE 16 Dec (BP); 10 FPCBC; 16 HFBCB; 2 ScCBC (Meadowdale); 1 Krumkill Rd. ALBA 21 Jan.

Long-eared Owl: 1 Gallupville 14 Dec-mid Feb (Bbo).

N. Saw-Whet Owl: 2 JGCBC, only report.

Belted Kingfisher: 40 on 11 CBCs; max 7 FPCBC; 4 Jan, 2 Feb reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 98 on 12 CBCs, high count 35 ChCBC; 13 reports of singles, inclu. 1 overwintering at Berne feeder.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 NB 4 Dec; 2 CCCBC; 1 ACCBC; 1 Austerlitz 1 Jan (ADBC).

Downy Woodpecker: 655 on 11 CBCs; max 116 ChCBC; 11 NRP 20 Feb.

Hairy Woodpecker: 165 on 11 CBCs; max 26 FPCBC.

N. Flicker: 140 on 11 CBCs; max 29 CCCBC; 3 Jan, 6 Feb reports; max 5 E. River Rd. RENS 24 Feb.

Pileated Woodpecker: 76 on 11 CBCs; max 10 JGCBC; 18 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 1 ACCBC, only report.

N. Shrike: 6 on 5 CBCs; 3 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: 2050 on 11 CBCs, numbers down from last year.

Am. Crow: max 12690 TCBC.

Fish Crow: 1 ACCBC; 1 CCCBC; 10 TCBC; 5 Jan, 11 Feb reports.

Com. Raven: 17 on 6 CBCs; continues to be widely reported throughout Region.

Horned Lark: 1496 on 7 CBCs; max 761 TCBC; numbers up from last year.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 758 JGCBC, 623 ScCBC; 588 ChCBC; 519 CCCBC; 37 NRP 20 Feb; no irruption JL.

Tufted Titmouse: max 154 ScCBC; 129 CCCBC; 18 NRP 20 Feb; continues at JL.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 139 on 11 CBCs; max 69 JGCBC.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 96 CCCBC.

Brown Creeper: 45 on 10 CBCs; singing BCM 6 Feb; NRP 20 Feb.

Carolina Wren: none reported on CBCs; 1 NB 3, 25 Dec; 1 Delmar 18 Jan; 2 NB 23 Jan; 1 FR 31 Jan; 1 McKownville ALBA 12 Feb; 1 NRRS 28 Feb; 1 coming to feeder Schenectady thru (SA).

House Wren: 1 ScCBC.

Winter Wren: 1 NB 3 Dec; 1 VF 4, 5 Dec; 1 PISP 5 Dec; 1 ACCBC; 1 CCCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 NR 7 Jan; 1 NRP 20 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 283 on 11 CBCs; max 53 ACCBC; numbers up significantly from last year thru winter.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Austerlitz 12 Dec; 1 CCCBC; 1 ScCBC.

E. Bluebird: 504 on 11 CBCs; max 101 SCBC; excellent numbers thru.

Hermit Thrush: 1 JGCBC.

Am. Robin: max 3502 CCCBC; 2503 ScCBC; 1763 ChCBC; wintered widely; singing SCHE 20 Feb; arr SARA 21 Feb.

Gray Catbird: 1 ACCBC.

N. Mockingbird: 69 on 9 CBCs; 2 Jan, 7 Feb reports.

European Starling: high count 10,279 SRCBC.

Cedar Waxwing: high counts 397 SCCBC; 232 ACCBC; 218 CCCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 29 CCCBC; 1 JGCBC; 1 Amsterdam 24, 27 Dec; 1 NB 27 Jan.

Pine Warbler: 1 Slingerlands 27 Jan-at least 10 Jan (D. Martin to BEN); 1 CCCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

N. Cardinal: high counts 111 TCBC; 109 SCCBC; 20 at feeder Guilderland 21, 23 Jan; singing Schenectady 17 Jan, Saratoga 9 Feb.

Am. Tree Sparrow: high counts 865 TCBC; 625 SSCBC; 424 FPCBC; 420 SCBC; numbers up from last year.

Chipping Sparrow: 1 ChCBC.

Field Sparrow: 1 CCCBC; 1 TCBC, only

reports.

Savannah Sparrow: 1 SSCBC.

Fox Sparrow: 1 NB 12 Jan (BEN); 1 S. Bethlehem 31 Jan (CB, RB).

Song Sparrow: 121 on 10 CBCs; high count 24 SCCBC.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 VF 6 Dec; 2 CCCBC; 2 ScCBC; 2 SSCBC; 1 Embought Rd. GREE 13 Feb.

White-throated Sparrow: max 124 CCCBC; 99 ScCBC; 75 ACCBC.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 SCBC; 1 imm Blackhouse Rd. FtE 10 Feb (WL), overwintered.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 802 TCBC; 588 CCCBC; 446 ChCBC.

Lapland Longspur: 1 T Canajoharie 23 Jan; 3 T FtE 27 Jan, only reports.

Snow Bunting: max 91 FPCBC; 80 Brookview RENS 11 Jan (PC); 60 Gansevoort 23 Jan (BP).

Red-winged Blackbird: 317 on 8 CBCs; 1 overwintered Guilderland (WE); 200+ Brookview RENS 16 Feb (PC).

E. Meadowlark: 1 S. Rensselaer 6 Dec, only report.

Com. Grackle: 6 CCCBC; arr 6+ Brookview RENS 22 Feb (PC).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 146 on 4 CBCs; arr 43 Brookview RENS 16 Feb (PC).

Baltimore Oriole: 1 Greenport 18 Dec (BC).

Purple Finch: 24 on 7 CBCs; no Jan, Feb reports.

House Finch: max 429 ScCBC; 341 CCCBC; 351 TCBC; scarce at feeders.

Pine Grosbeak: 5 JGCBC, only report.

Red Crossbill: 1 roadkill Rt 8 T Johnsburg WARR 14 Feb (RY), L.c. minor.

Com. Redpoll: 1 JGCBC.

Pine Siskin: no reports.

Am. Goldfinch: max 283 ChCBC; 224 ScCBC, good numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: 66 JGCBC; 12 Warrensburg 27 Feb, only reports.

House Sparrow: max 421 TCBC; 369 CCCBC.

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