

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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Overall, the season was colder than normal, with plenty of snowfall. December was much colder than normal, with above average precipitation. On 30 December, 13–20" of snow fell on the Region. The cold temperatures remained until the second week of January, with Montgomery reaching -7°F on 2 January. We then experienced above average temperatures for the last half of January and the first part of February. It was in the 50°s in the southern part of the Region, just after a heavy rainfall on 30 January. There was another significant snow a week later on 5 February that brought 6–25". Although there was more snow this season than in the last couple of years, totals for the season were not far above normal.

Some species, despite the snow, were plentiful this winter, with Killdeer, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle topping the list.

The Southern Orange County CBC broke its own incredible record for Black Vulture with 109 seen on count day, 23 December. The count also recorded 47 Turkey Vultures, a Greater White-fronted Goose and a Western Kingbird. The Pawling Count had a surprising five Black and nine Turkey vultures. That count also included an Eastern Phoebe in Patterson.

It seems each year there are more and more Bald Eagles on the Hudson River and at interior reservoirs. Up to 90 birds wintered on the Hudson this year. A Long-tailed Duck also made an appearance on the river at Piermont Pier on 19 December.

There were a fair number of Northern Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks and

Northern Shrikes reported, and there were single reports of both Iceland and Glaucous gulls inland. December warblers included a Pine in Bronxville and a Prairie at Croton Point Park. Another surprising report for the month was an Indigo Bunting in Yonkers. Horned Larks were plentiful this season and a Lapland Longspur was seen at Blue Chip Farms on 14 January.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR (Galeville Airport); SOCBC – Southern Orange CBC.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 4 Rye 22 Dec.
Red-throated Loon: 17 Rye 22 Dec.
Horned Grebe: 16 EGR 27 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: Rye 23 Dec.
N. Gannet: Rye 25 Dec.
Great Cormorant: 3 PP 18 Dec; 6 Stony Pt 11 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: 20 EGR 23 Dec.
Black Vulture: 109 SOCBC 23 Dec; many other reports, seen in each county
Turkey Vulture: 47 SOCBC 23 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: SOCBC 23 Dec.
Snow Goose: 90 Youngsville early Dec; imm Wurtsboro 16 Dec; Rye 23 Dec; 3 Harrison 23 Dec; 14 SOCBC 23 Dec; 3 Amenia 25 Jan.
Canada Goose: 1500 Sylvan L 17 Jan.
Brant: 59 EGR 31 Dec; 30 EGR 2 Jan.
Gadwall: 30 Mamaroneck 23 Dec.
Am. Wigeon: 129 Rye 23 Dec.
Canvasback: low numbers at EGR.
Redhead: EGR 1 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: 2 Round Pd DUTC 7 Jan; 2 Mt Pleasant 3 Feb; 2 Fishkill Cemetery Feb.
Greater Scaup: low numbers at EGR
Long-tailed Duck: PP 19 Dec (CW).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 17 Rondout Res 27 Jan; many Hudson River reports all season; max 90 on 28 Jan (TF); 35 Mongaup-Rio Res area 3-4 Feb (JA).
N. Harrier: 3 CPP 28 Dec; 3 CPP 3 Feb.
N. Goshawk: MC 5 Dec; Callicoon Center 8 Dec; SOCBC 23 Dec; CPP 24 Dec; Rhinebeck 14 Dec.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 Bashakill 27 Dec.
Red-tailed Hawk: albino Pine Plains 28 Jan (CV); albino Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 28 Feb (RD, MG).
Rough-legged Hawk: 5 SOCBC 23 Dec; EGR 1 Jan; CPP 21 Jan; 5 SGNWR 14 Jan; 6 Jan reports, 3 in Feb DUTC.
Golden Eagle: 1-3 Thompson Pd all

winter; south of Bear Mt Bridge 20 Jan;
Tomkins Cove 28 Dec.
Am. Kestrel: CPP 28 Dec; EGR 31 Dec.
Merlin: MC 22-23 Dec; Mamaroneck 22 Dec.
Peregrine Falcon: reports from DUTC.
Wild Turkey: 81 Domin Farm DUTC 22 Jan.
Virginia Rail: MC 23 Dec.
Killdeer: numerous in Dec.
Greater Yellowlegs: EGR 19 Dec.
Am. Woodcock: art West Pt 20 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 EGR 22 Dec; Rye 20 Jan.
Iceland Gull: I-87 Modena Rest Stop 26 Dec.
Glaucous Gull: ORAN 14 Jan.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: 2 Cornwall all winter.
Short-eared Owl: 2 SGNWR 7 Jan; 7 Oil City Rd ORAN 12 Jan.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Swan Lake 29 Dec
Red-headed Woodpecker: Shunpike all Jan (JB).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Patterson 1, 5 Jan (JK, JD).
WESTERN KINGBIRD: Chester 23 Dec (SOCBC).
N. Shrike: SULL 1 Dec; DUTC 20 Jan; Pine Plains 28 Jan (CV); Stony Pt P 28 Jan (TF); Kingston 10 Feb (MD).
Am. Crow: 4000 at roost Poughkeepsie 29 Jan.
Fish Crow: 25 CPP 1 Dec; Tarrytown 23 Feb.
Com. Raven: numerous reports.
Horned Lark: 75 Wallkill Valley 7 Jan; 50 DUTC 14 Jan; 40 Round Pd 24 Jan; 40 Pine Plains 28 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: low numbers, few scattered reports.
Carolina Wren: good numbers south

and a few reports from the northern counties.

Marsh Wren: Peekskill CBC 16 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: scattered Jan reports DUTC, more than usual.
Am. Pipit: 40 CPP 1 Dec; 60 Warwick 23 Dec; 3 CPP 28 Dec.
Cedar Waxwing: 300 MC 19 Dec.

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: Bronxville 16 Dec (ABl).
PRAIRIE WARBLER: CPP 1 Dec (TF, KW).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: CPP 28 Dec (RJ); Tarrytown 6 Feb (MB); Hennessey Lane DUTC 16 Feb (Jat, KJ).
Fox Sparrow: more than normal sightings.
White-crowned Sparrow: few scattered reports.
Lapland Longspur: Blue Chip Farms 14 Jan.
Snow Bunting: 32 SOCBC 23 Dec; 4 CPP 31 Dec; 30 Rudd Pd 14 Jan; CPP 20 Jan; 30 Greig's Farm DUTC 19 Feb.
INDIGO BUNTING: Yonkers 5 Dec (CJ).
E. Meadowlark: CPP 28 Dec.
Red-winged Blackbird: 200 MC 23 Dec.
Rusty Blackbird: Wurtsboro early Dec; 2 MC 23 Dec; DUTC 21-23 Jan.
Pine Siskin: early Dec reports from SULL; Rye 4 Dec; many Woodstock 13 Dec.
Evening Grosbeak: surprisingly, no reports.

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