

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Winter 2001–2002 was mild and dry with little snow. As reported from the Albany International Airport, December's mean temperature was 34.1°F, 7.6° above normal. Sunshine averaged a near normal 40%. There were 1.95" of precipitation, 0.98" below normal, with only 7.8" of snow, most falling on the 8th and 9th. January was warm, averaging 31.3°, 9.1° above normal, with only 28% sunshine, 20% below normal. Precipitation was a near normal 2.77", with 22.9" of snow. February averaged 31.6°, 6.61° above normal, with 52% sunshine. Precipitation measured 1.61", 0.66" below normal, with only 3.4" of snow. The continuing mild temperatures meant that water bodies remained open through December, resulting in an excellent variety and high numbers of waterfowl on CBCs.

In the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks, public reservoirs in Albany County were closed to fishermen and birders. The CBC team that covered the Alcove Reservoir had to be accompanied by a security officer.

For the fourth year in a row, a pair of Peregrine Falcons set up housekeeping on the Dunn Memorial Bridge in Albany. With greatly decreased meadow vole populations, Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl numbers were significantly lower than in previous years. The two Red-headed Woodpeckers that appeared on the Fort Plain CBC were a welcome surprise. Upon inquiry, I was told that a pair had nested on a farm near Stone Arabia, Montgomery County, last summer and that the two young had lingered at least through December.

Lingering landbirds were well represented on CBCs and as overwinterers. Carolina, Winter and Marsh wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping, Field, Fox, Swamp and White-crowned sparrows were reported.

Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds overwintered in good numbers and arrived back from their wintering grounds earlier than usual. Paul Connor reported a flock of 500 mostly glossy, singing, strutting male Common Grackles on 29 January in Brookview, Rensselaer County. Winter finches were represented by good numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls. Purple Finches were notable by their almost complete absence.

The 122 species reported included 23 species of waterfowl, 12 species of hawks, six species of gulls, seven species of owls, eight species of sparrows and eight species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kenneth Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm (Bbo), Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Mark Fitzsimmons, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Ruth Lamb, William Lee, Nancy Martin, Andy Mason, Peter Nye, Tom Palmer, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACCBC – Albany County CBC 16 Dec; AR – Alcove Res ALBA; BLCBC – Bolton Landing CBC 16 Dec; CBL – Coxsackie Boat Launch GREE; CCCBC – Catskill-Coxsackie CBC 18 Dec; ChCBC – Chatham CBC 22 Dec; CL – Collins L SCHE; FPCBC – Fort Plain CBC 29 Dec; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward area WASH; FtM – Fort Miller WASH; GI – Green I ALBA; HFCBC – Hudson Falls CBC 29 Dec; HR – Hudson Ri; JGCBC – Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 22 Dec; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; LG – L George WARR; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NR – Niskayuna RR Station SCHE; NRP – Nott Rd P, Guilderland ALBA; NWW – Niskayuna Wide Waters SCHE; RL – Round L SARA; SCBC – Salem CBC 28 Dec; ScCBC – Schenectady CBC 15 Dec; SI – Simmons I, Cohoes SARA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical P SARA; SRCBC – Southern Rensselaer CBC 22 Dec; SSCBC – Saratoga Spa CBC 15 Dec; TCBC – Troy CBC 29 Dec; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; WR – Waterviet Res ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: Copake L 1 Dec; only report.

Com. Loon: 2 ACCBC; CCCBC; FPCBC; SCBC; 7 SSCBC; 6 TCBC; only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: Copake L 1 Dec; L7 31 Dec-10 Feb; only reports.

Horned Grebe: Copake L 1 Dec; ACCBC; FPCBC.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 ACCBC; 2 SSCBC.

Great Cormorant: 3 Coxsackie 2, 21 & 23 Dec; 2 Embough Bay 18 Dec; ad ChCBC; Germantown 3 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: 37 on 9 CBCs; max 20 ScCBC; 6 Jan & 3 Feb reports.

Turkey Vulture: 2 HFCBC; NL 28 Jan;

Clifton Park 3 Feb; Albany 4 Feb; 8 Albany 20 Feb; 6 Guilderland 23 Feb; 25 Albany 25 Feb.

Snow Goose: 650 S. Schodack 12, 16 & 19 Dec; max 6052 SSCBC; 4025 TCBC; very large numbers for winter.

Canada Goose: high counts 16,011 TCBC; 15,074 SCBC.

Brant: CCCBC; only report.

Mute Swan: 158 CCCBC; 9 ChCBC; ScCBC; 8 SRCBC; 65 Clermont SP COLU 13 Jan; 6 NL 28 Jan.

Tundra Swan: TR 25 Dec; TCBC; Claverack 24 Feb.

Wood Duck: ChCBC; HFCBC; 4 SCBC; SSCBC; SRCBC; 2 TCBC.

Gadwall: 15 on 2 CBCs; MR Cohoes 6 Jan; L7 10 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: 32 ACCBC; TCBC; Germantown 16 Feb; Claverack 28 Feb; only reports.
Am. Black Duck: 1706 on 12 CBCs; high count 348 CCCBC.
Mallard: 7742 on 12 CBCs; max 1533 TCBC; 2168 waterfowl count 13 Jan; 1101 L7 10 Feb.
N. Shoveler: 15 ACCBC; only report.
N. Pintail: 21 on 5 CBCs; 5 Cocksackie 2 Dec; 2 L7 9 Feb; 4 T Northumberland 28 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: 79 on 6 CBCs; Cocksackie 1 Jan; NR 23 Feb.
Canvasback: ACCBC; HFCBC; Stuyvesant 13 Jan; only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: 75 NL 16 Dec; 436 on 8 CBCs; max 172 ACCBC; 9 NR 24 Feb.
Greater Scaup: 43 on 3 CBCs.
Lesser Scaup: 10 NL 16 Dec; 12 on 3 CBCs; only reports.
Bufflehead: 63 on 6 CBCs; only reports.
Com. Goldeneye: 566 on 8 CBCs; max 230 SSCBC; 40 FtM 12 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: 50 Copake 2 Dec; 49 on 10 CBCs; max 142 ACCBC; 12 T Moreau 28 Feb.
Com. Merganser: 2155 on 12 CBCs; max 817 TCBC.
Red-breasted Merganser: TCBC.
Ruddy Duck: 41 Copake L 1 Dec; 154 NL 4 Dec; 325 on 3 CBCs.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 35 (26 ad, 9 imm) on 9 CBCs; ad & imm Colonie 8 Dec; ad MR Rexford 30 Dec; 2 imm Jefferson 2 Jan; 4 ad & 3 imm Waterford 4 & 17 Jan; ad & imm T Northumberland 4 Jan; imm Gallupville 12 Jan; ad & imm Stockport 13 Jan; 4 ad & 3 imm Germantown 13 Jan; ad Battenkill R T Jackson 14 Jan; ad Gallupville 16 Jan; 2 ad Canajoharie 20 Jan; ad L7 10 Feb; 2 ad Crescent 18 Feb; 2 ad Cohoes 24 Feb; 3 imm Schodack Ldg 24 Feb; 4 ad & 1 imm Half Moon 24 Feb.
N. Harrier: 107 on 11 CBCs; 6 FtE thru;

13 Cocksackie Flats 20 Jan; 10 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 34 on 10 CBCs; 22 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 23 on 10 CBCs; 26 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: Schodack 9 Dec (PC); CCCBC; ChCBC; FPCBC; JGCB; Indian Meadows 3 Feb (RP).
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 ACCBC; Chatham 12 Jan; Delmar 23 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: 714 on 12 CBCs; max 100 FPCBC; 93 TCBC.
Rough-legged Hawk: 28 on 4 CBCs; 3 FtE 22 Jan & 12 Feb; 3 Northumberland 3 Jan; 4 MONT 16 Jan; 6 Cocksackie Flats 20 Jan; 7 reports of singles.
Golden Eagle: ad SCBC.
Am. Kestrel: 25 on 9 CBCs; 21 reports of singles.
Merlin: TCBC; Chatham 21 Dec; Glenco Mills T Taghkanic COLU 30 Jan; Queensbury 28 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: ad m FtE 7 Dec; ACCBC; CCCBC; HFCBC; 3 SRCBC; Glens Falls 25 Dec; Brookview 16 Jan.
Ruffed Grouse: 33 on 11 CBCs.
Wild Turkey: 1096 on 19 CBCs; max 229 FPCBC; 231 TCBC.
Am. Coot: 40 Copake L 1 Dec; 16 NL 16 Dec; 57 on 4 CBCs; 42 Stuyvesant 13 Jan.
Killdeer: Stuyvesant 13 Jan; SUNYA 19 Feb; Guilderland 28 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: displaying Livingston 20 Feb (Will Yandik).
Ring-billed Gull: 4868 on 11 CBCs; max 2451 TCBC; 285 Hudson 13 Jan; ~1500 lower MR 24 Feb.
Herring Gull: 3202 on 11 CBCs; max 1400 TCBC; 197 Stuyvesant 13 Jan; 200 lower MR Cohoes/Colonie 24 Feb.
Iceland Gull: 2 ACCBC; 2 Cocksackie 21 Dec & 21 Jan; Cohoes 6 Jan; Cocksackie 7 Feb; 2 Colonie 21 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 TCBC; ad MR Crescent 16 Feb; only reports.
Glaucous Gull: ACCBC; CCCBC; MR Crescent 16 Feb; only reports.

Great Black-backed Gull: 724 on 10 CBCs; max 522 TCBC; 500 lower MR Cohoes/Colonie 24 Feb.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: high counts 1990 TCBC; 1046 FPCBC; 1074 HFCBC.

Mourning Dove: high counts 673 ScCBC; 496 ChCBC.

E. Screech-Owl: 20 on 6 CBCs; 2 reports of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 24 on 10 CBCs; 17 other reports.

Snowy Owl: LG 20 Dec; Glens Falls 30 Dec; possibly same individual.

Barred Owl: 7 on 5 CBCs; 3 Jan reports; no Feb reports.

Long-eared Owl: Schodack Ctr 13 Dec (PC); only report.

Short-eared Owl: 2 FPCBC; HFCBC; FtE 2 Jan.

N. Saw-Whet Owl: Amsterdam 5 Dec (TP); Schodack Ctr 19 Dec (PC); ScCBC.

Belted Kingfisher: 32 on 10 CBCs; 12 Jan reports; 2 Feb reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 FPCBC.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 156 on 10 CBCs; high count 37 ChCBC; 19 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 9 on 3 CBCs; Livingston 3-4 Jan; Feller Rd T Taghkanic COLU 3-4 Jan.

Downy Woodpecker: 677 on 12 CBCs; max 106 ACCBC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 200 on 12 CBCs; max 28 ScCBC.

N. Flicker: 188 on 11 CBCs; max 48 CCCBC; 9 Jan reports; 10 Feb reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: 68 on 12 CBCs; max 16 ACCBC; 22 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 7 on 6 CBCs; only 4 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: 2472 on 12 CBCs; good numbers.

Am. Crow: 18,335 on 12 CBCs; max 5719 TCBC.

Fish Crow: ACCBC; 2 TCBC; 4 Jan reports; 13 Feb reports; max 10 Amsterdam 10 Feb.

Com. Raven: 47 on 11 CBCs; continues to be widely reported throughout Reg.

Horned Lark: 547 on 6 CBCs; max 173 FPCBC; 150 FtE 15 Feb; numbers down from last year.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 698 ChCBC; 666 ACCBC; 631 JGCBC.

Tufted Titmouse: max 142 ScCBC; 36 SSCBC.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 125 on 12 CBCs; max 44 JGCBC.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 845 on 12 CBCs; max 102 ACCBC.

Brown Creeper: 69 on 12 CBCs.

Carolina Wren: 46 on 8 CBCs; high count 21 CCCBC; 24 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: Guilderland 6 Dec; 5 CCCBC; Livingston 9 Jan; Taghkanic COLU 9 Jan; only reports.

Marsh Wren: CCCBC; only report.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 96 on 10 CBCs; 5 Jan reports; 2 Feb reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 ChCBC; only report.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: ACCBC.

E. Bluebird: 832 on 11 CBCs; max 168 ACCBC; 136 SSCBC; in excellent numbers thru.

Hermit Thrush: 2 ACCBC; CCCBC; Amsterdam 1 Jan (TP).

Am. Robin: 10,687 on 11 CBCs; max 3889 ACCBC; 3216 ChCBC; widespread thru; singing began 22 Feb.

N. Mockingbird: 103 on 8 CBCs; 6 Jan reports; 3 Feb reports.

European Starling: high count 12,647 CCCBC.

Am. Pipit: 7 Amsterdam 1 Dec (TP).

Bohemian Waxwing: SRCBC.

Cedar Waxwing: 2091 on 11 CBCs; high count 672 SSCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: ACCBC; 19 CCCBC; only reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 1672 on 11 CBCs; high count 261 ACCBC; numbers down from last year.

Chipping Sparrow: 2 SCBC.

Field Sparrow: ACCBC; Chatham 8 Jan; only reports.

Fox Sparrow: Kinderhook 3 Dec; Ghent 16 Dec; Canaan 28 Feb.

Song Sparrow: 94 on 10 CBCs; high count 26 ACCBC.

Swamp Sparrow: ChCBC; 3 SSCBC; 1 singing MR Half Moon Beach SARA 21 Feb (BL).

White-throated Sparrow: 251 on 9 CBCs; high count 69 CCCBC.

White-crowned Sparrow: ChCBC; FPCBC; Chatham 2 Feb; only reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: 2686 on 12 CBCs; max 1426 SCBC; 364 ACCBC; numbers down from last year.

Lapland Longspur: no reports.

Snow Bunting: 542 on 3 CBCs; high count 445 FPCBC; 85 Glenville 2 Feb; 30 Jefferson 21 Dec; 150+ Niska Isle 10 Feb; 33 Gansevoort 12 Feb.

N. Cardinal: high counts 110 ScCBC; 105 TCBC; 97 ChCBC.

Red-winged Blackbird: 119 on 6 CBCs; 125+ Papscaanee Creek area 17 & 23 Jan; numerous after 16 Feb; 2 Wardsboro T Hague 21 Feb; singing on territory Cohoes 24 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: Delmar 9-10 Jan;

Chatham 5 Feb; only reports.

Com. Grackle: 53 on 7 CBCs; 500 Brookview 29 Jan.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 691 on 8 CBCs; high count 424 TCBC; 300 Brookview 29 Jan (PC).

Pine Grosbeak: 25 JGCBC; 8 SCBC; max 80+ Cherry Plain RENS 17 Jan; widely reported.

Purple Finch: 69 on 7 CBCs; few other reports.

House Finch: 2251 on 12 CBCs; max 397 SRCBC.

Red Crossbill: no reports.

White-winged Crossbill: 6 Cossayuna 6 Dec; New Salem 15-16 Dec; 3 JGCBC; SRCBC.

Com. Redpoll: 1477 on 12 CBCs; high counts 468 HFCBC; 305 FPCBC; max 1000+ Gansevoort 22 Jan (RB); widely reported.

Pine Siskin: 237 on 6 CBCs; high count 182 ScCBC; in small numbers at feeders Jan-Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: max 275 JGCBC; 226 TCBC; in small numbers Jan-Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: 396 on 5 CBCs; high count 308 JGCBC; 20-30 Stony Creek 10 Jan; 15 Jefferson 23 Jan; 10 JL 23 Jan; 45 Jefferson 6 Feb.

House Sparrow: max 425 FPCBC; 422 TCBC.

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