

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The winter season was much colder than normal with significant snowfall throughout the period. The first part of December was snowy with numerous low accumulation events. This was followed by a brief thaw before Christmas, then by a nor'easter on Christmas Day. All areas saw 9" or more of snow, with Liberty inundated with 31" that day. Overall, December was near average in temperature, with above average precipitation. January was brutally cold, with the average temperature 5°F below normal. Liberty had eight straight days with lows below zero, starting with lows of -9° on 18 and 19 January. Precipitation was near normal but nearly all of it fell as snow. February was one of the snowiest on record, mainly due to the Presidents Day storm that saw two feet of snowfall in some locations.

A remarkable 74 Red-throated Loons were found in Long Island Sound during the Bronx-Westchester CBC, nearly doubling the previous record count set in 2001.

The deep freeze in January made Bald Eagle numbers rise on the Hudson. Tom Fiore had 120 between Croton Point and Cold Spring on 20 January. John Askildsen had a count of over 90 between Croton Point and the Bear Mountain Bridge on 25 January, with another 50 at the Croton Reservoir, one mile from the Hudson.

John Haas found an odd looking gull 25 January at the Sullivan County Land Fill. After videotaping the gull and posting still shots on the Internet, the consensus was that the bird was a second winter "**Nelson's Gull**", a hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull. It was relocated on 27 January. Two Glaucous Gulls visited the landfill in late December and at least six different Iceland Gulls visited there in December and January.

Tom Burke found a single **Razorbill** off Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye on 21 December. The next day was the Bronx-Westchester CBC. To everyone's surprise, an incredible westward movement of Razorbills was seen off the sound shore. A total of 116 was counted. Why that many were that far west in the sound is anybody's guess. Good vantage points included Edith Read Sanctuary, Milton Point and Larchmont. Another 23 were seen the following day off Edith Read. This is only the second record for Westchester County. The first sighting was way back in 1927, when Kassoy and Kuerzi reported one from near the same location on 11 December.

An Eastern Phoebe was present at the Bashakill Melrose Farm on 14 and 16 December. Possibly the same individual was at the same location on 16 February, indicating it was surviving the harsh winter. There were two other phoebe

sightings in early January: on the Pawling CBC and at Kakiat Park, Rockland County. Only two Northern Shrikes were reported, both in Sullivan County, one on 24 December and the other 29 January.

American Crow numbers were way down on the Bronx-Westchester CBC, with 820, the lowest since 1983 when 715 were counted. But to keep it in perspective, American Crow numbers in the late 1990s had reached all time highs.

Carolina Wrens were reported in good numbers even from the northern part of the Region. Both the Eastern and Southern Orange County CBCs reported 36 birds, and there were numerous reports from Sullivan County feeders.

Kristin Smith found a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in her Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, yard in early December and called members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Allan and Barbara Michelin, Barbara Butler and Carena Pooth were able to confirm Kristin's identification. The bird remained through the season.

A male Pine Grosbeak was at a Liberty feeder on 3 February. It was the only report.

The Sullivan County "Big Year" ended with a total 219 species seen, with two new county records and five second records. The "Big Year" was used as a preparation for updating the Sullivan County checklist of birds.

Other notable sightings included: Red-necked Grebe, Northern Gannet, Greater White-fronted Goose, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat and Baltimore Oriole.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, John Balint, Beth Barker, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Bill Case, Mary Collier, Renee Davis, Larry Federman, Tom Fiore, Richard Fitzgerald, Valerie Freer, John Haas, Lois Head, Kevin Holcomb, Rodney Johnson, Phyllis Jones, Steven Kahl, Jeff Lucas, Barbara Mansell, Liz Martens, Ed McAndrews, Allan & Barbara Michelin, Alan & Jan Peterson, Carena Pooth, Beverly Simone, Selden Spencer, Herb Thompson, Joe Weise, John Yizarry.

ABBREVIATIONS

BWCBC – Bronx-Westchester CBC; CPP – Croton Pt P; DCCBC – Dutchess County CBC; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; EOCBC – Eastern Orange County CBC; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MLARCBC – Mohonk L/Ashokan Res CBC; PCBC – Peekskill CBC; RNC – Rye Nature Center; RTWBC – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club; SCLF – Sullivan County Land Fill; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; SOCBC – Southern Orange County CBC; WRNWR – Wallkill Ri NWR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 74 Long Island Sound 22 Dec (BWCBC), record count.

Com. Loon: max 14 Long Island Sound 22 Dec.

Horned Grebe: DCCBC 21 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: Neversink Res 22 Dec (JH); EGR 22 Dec (BWCBC).

N. Gannet: EGR 22 Dec (BWCBC).

Double-crested Cormorant: EOCBC 14 Dec; DCCBC 21 Dec.

Great Cormorant: max 87 Long Island Sound 22 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 24 EGR 13 Dec.

Black Vulture: 119 SOCBC 21 Dec; Congers 27 Dec; Pawling 28 Jan; 5 Poughquag 9 Jan; 3 Verbank 11 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: 28 New Paltz 21 Dec; 29 SOCBC 21 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Upper Kay's Pd 21, 24 Dec (BM, LM, A&JP, JL).

Snow Goose: 400 Milbrook 4 Dec; 5000 migrating Fraleigh Hill; 400 Norrie Pt 9 Jan.

Canada Goose: 3867 EOCBC 14 Dec; 8043 SOCBC 21 Dec; 3602 DCCBC 21 Dec; 3724 S. WEST 22 Dec.

Brant: 7 EGR 22 Dec; 5 Larchmont 22 Dec.

Canvasback: low numbers all winter
Redhead: EGR 13 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: 70 Beekman 13 Dec; 76 DCCBC 21 Dec.

Greater Scaup: 260 EGR 13 Dec, low; 4 Greenwood L 21 Dec; 4000 EGR 4 Jan; 5000 EGR 13 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: 4 EGR 8 Dec, low; 200 EGR 13 Jan.

Surf Scoter: EGR 22 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: 3 EGR 22 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: max 20 EGR 13 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 40 EGR 7 Dec.

Hooded Merganser: max 68 EGR 8 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: high numbers on Long Island Sound; 260 EGR 7, 13 Dec; 200 EGR 2 Jan.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 9 L Tappan 10 Jan; 120 Hudson Ri 20 Jan (TF); 90 Hudson Ri 25 Jan (JA); 50 Croton Res 25 Jan (JA).

N. Harrier: 12 WRNWR 19 Dec; 19 SOCBC 21 Dec; 11 WRNWR 6 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: Claryville 7 Dec; Sylvan L 8 Dec; Rondout Res 9 Dec; 2-4 WRNWR 21 Dec thru; Rhinebeck 6 Jan; Red Hook 22 Jan; 1-3 CPP Jan thru; 1-2 SGNWR 15 Jan thru.

Golden Eagle: 3 Thompson Pd 29 Dec; 2 Mashomack DUTC 14 Jan; Cold Spring 20 Jan; 2 Stissing Mt 25 Jan; Roscoe 16 Feb.

Merlin: WRNWR 10 Dec (SK); S. WEST 22 Dec (BWCBC); Pine Plains 1 Jan (BM).

Peregrine Falcon: Mid-Hudson Bridge thru; EGR 22 Dec.

Wild Turkey: 47 MLARCBC 21 Dec, single flock.

Clapper Rail: MC 22 Dec.

Virginia Rail: 2 MC 22 Dec.

Am. Coot: 70 Sylvan L 8 Dec; 28 Greenwood L SOCBC 21 Dec; 35 DCCBC 21 Dec.

Greater Yellowlegs: 4 EGR 4 Dec; 2 EGR 2 Jan.

Ruddy Turnstone: Rye 1, 11 Jan.

Purple Sandpiper: 79 EGR 22 Dec; 13 Larchmont 22 Dec.

Dunlin: 18 Rye 22 Dec; 4 Larchmont 22 Dec.

Bonaparte's Gull: 97 Rye 22 Dec.

Iceland Gull: SCLF 14, 25 Dec, 11 Jan (JH); 3 SCLF 18 Jan (JH); Peekskill 20 Jan (TF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: imm EGR 7 Dec (TB); EGR 22 Dec (BWCBC); SCLF 20, 25 Dec (JH); 2 ad SCLF 28 Dec (JH); imm SCLF 15 Jan (JH).

Glaucous Gull: Al Turi Land Fill 21 Dec (SOCBC); 1-2 SCLF 20, 24 Dec (JH, RD); Kiamesha L 16 Feb (VF, MC, BBa).

"Nelson's" Gull: SCLF 25, 27 Dec (JH), *intro*.

RAZORBILL: 1 EGR 21 Dec; 116 Long Island Sound 22 Dec (TB, mob); 26 EGR 23 Dec, *intro*.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: West Nyack 28 Jan.

Long-eared Owl: Norrie Pt 8 Jan.

Short-eared Owl: 2-6 SGNWR 1 Dec-2 Feb; 2-8 WRNWR 1 Dec-1 Feb.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 4 EOCBC 14 Dec; Blue Chip Farm 5 Jan; Vanderbilt Mansion 5 Jan; Norrie Pt 8 Jan; 3 Esopus late Feb.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: more numerous than Downy Woodpecker in S. WEST.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: near Bashakill 14, 16 Dec, 16 Feb; Pawling CBC 1 Jan; Kakiat P 5 Jan.

N. Shrike: SULL 24 Dec; Bethel 29 Jan.

Horned Lark: 50 Millbrook 4 Dec; 12 WRNWR 19 Dec; 119 Black Dirt Region SOCBC 21 Dec; 42 Millbrook 12 Jan; 40 Poughquag 1 Jan; 25 Verbank 12 Jan; 100 Red Hook 22 Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: very low numbers.

Marsh Wren: Bashakill 8 Dec; 4 MC 22 Dec.

E. Bluebird: 106 SOCBC 21 Dec; 141 DCCBC 21 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: found on many CBCs.

Am. Pipit: 15 CPP 20, 25 Jan.

Brown Thrasher: 2 S. WEST 22 Dec.

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: at feeder Congers 24, 26 Dec (FB).

Ovenbird: Mount Kisco PCBC 14 Dec.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Larchmont 22 Dec (BWCBC).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Rhinebeck 12 Dec thru (KS, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: SGNWR 19 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: 31 Black Dirt Region SOCBC 21 Dec; many other reports.

Snow Bunting: EGR 7 Dec; EOCBC 14 Dec; Neversink Res 11 Jan; few CPP 20 Jan; 6 Red Hook 22 Jan.

E. Meadowlark: Youngsville 11 Dec.

Rusty Blackbird: 12 EOCBC 14 Dec; 7 Hastings-on-Hudson 22 Dec; 2 New Rochelle 22 Dec.

Baltimore Oriole: Greenburgh Nature Center 22 Dec (BWCBC).

Pine Grosbeak: m Liberty feeder 3 Feb (EM).

Pine Siskin: S. WEST 11 Dec.

