

## REGION 10 – MARINE

### **Seymour Schiff**

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550.

[syschiff@optonline.net](mailto:syschiff@optonline.net)

### **Alvin Wollin**

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

The season started with large amounts of very early snow tapering off as the season progressed. While December was only a bit colder than normal, it was considerably wetter. Most of the precipitation came as snow, 19.8" in all, with 11" falling on 7 December. January was very cold, averaging 7.4°F below normal. The precipitation for the month was half of normal, but almost all came as snow, 9.2", with 6" falling on 27 January. February was about average in temperature and had 21 days of temperatures below freezing. Despite the cold and somewhat below normal precipitation, most fell as rain, with less than 1" falling as snow.

The combination of early snow and sustained cold differed markedly from our recent winters. The cold desolation of the ocean beaches was highlighted by the stark silhouettes of dying and leafless Japanese pines against the snow. What impact this ongoing destruction will have on the birds migrating on the barrier beaches remains to be seen.

Fall and early winter brought large numbers of American Goldfinches and scattered small groups of Common Redpolls to the ocean pines, but both species became increasingly scarce as the winter proceeded. Other changes from previous years included widely scattered Red-breasted Nuthatches, compared with last year's virtual absence, and very few Red-necked Grebes this season in contrast with last year's large and widespread invasion. Bonaparte's Gulls were virtually absent or scarce everywhere, as were Little and Black-headed gulls.

A **Ross's Goose** was found in the Snow Goose flocks at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 20 December. It, or another, was seen from Breezy Point that day on the Brooklyn CBC. The Jamaica Bay bird was seen again on the 21st but not relocated thereafter. On 21 February, a Green-winged Teal thought to be of the "Eurasian or Common" race was seen at Hempstead Lake State Park. Subsequent observations concluded that this bird exhibited features of both *A.c. crecca* and *A.c. carolinensis*. Sightings of any "Eurasian" forms should be reviewed carefully

for any indications of mixed parentage. The drake Barrow's Goldeneye returned to Bayville. It was usually seen off Ransom Beach, a mile west of Bayville from 23 December on. Another, or possibly the same, was reported at Caumsett State Park on 24 December.

On 19 December, Jim Clinton found a **Brown Pelican** at the fishing docks on the west side of Shinnecock Inlet. This bird was subsequently seen on the Quogue Watermill CBC on 20 December and the Sagaponack CBC on 21 December.

On 17 February, Robert Adamo spotted a **Black Vulture** over Mill Road in Riverhead. The last Osprey of the season was seen on the Sagaponack CBC 21 December and the first spring arrival was at Shelter Island 26 February. This winter saw an extremely large concentration of Bald Eagles in the Hudson River to the north of New York City. Tom Fiore saw 132 on 29 January while birding from The Bronx to north of Peekskill in Region 9. In addition, there were numerous sightings throughout the season in Suffolk County. This indicated that there were one or more wintering birds at Connetquot River State Park and/or Gardiners or Shelter Islands.

On 11 January, Tom Burke and Andy Guthrie found a **Black Rail** resting on a block of ice in a canal between Dolphin Lane and Docker's Restaurant along Dune Road in Quogue. Also seen in the immediate vicinity were two Virginia Rails, a Marsh Wren and a Seaside Sparrow.

Late shorebirds included two Willets seen on the Southern Nassau CBC at the Massapequa Preserve on 3 January and on the Smithtown CBC on 27 December. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was also seen on the Southern Nassau CBC on 3 January.

Late terns included a Common Tern at the marina west of the ferry terminal at Orient Point on 5 December and a Forster's Tern on the Central Suffolk CBC at Forge River on 27 December.

Two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds remained from last season and survived the 7 December snows. Both birds appeared to be immature females. The one in Orient was reported to 22 December and the other, in East Hampton, was reported to 9 January. Both have tentatively been identified as **Rufous Hummingbirds**. The records and photos await NYSARC review.

On 3 January, Mike Shanley and Chris and Lauren Nuzzi found a *Tyrannus* flycatcher at Mt. Loretto Park on Staten Island. It was identified as a Western Kingbird.

On 1 February, Dorothy Poole and Gaye Fugate found a **Bohemian Waxwing** along the entrance road into Camp Hero State Park, Montauk. It was not relocated.

On **16 January**, Michele Claeys and Hugh McGuinness saw a **Cape May Warbler** feeding on the stone paths at the Ross School, East Hampton, only the second state record after December. Pine Warblers were found on four CBCs in Suffolk County and also appeared elsewhere during the winter, including at several New York City parks. While wintering Pine Warblers are not atypical, the combination of severe weather and such large numbers is a bit unusual.

On 7 December, John Fritz, Gerta Fritz and Patricia Lindsay, during an afternoon drive down Ocean Parkway on the Jones Beach strip, found a single Clay-colored Sparrow and a Grasshopper Sparrow in a patch scraped bare by snow plows just west of Cedar Beach. Both species are very rare at this time of year. Other birds seen in similar patches in early December included Horned Lark, American Pipit and various more expected sparrows. On 3 December, at Jones Beach West End, Al Wollin and Sy Schiff found a very late Lincoln's Sparrow on the pine edge to the east of the Coast Guard Station entrance. Finally, on 20 December, Peter Stoutenburgh found a **Harris's Sparrow** on Gardiners Island during the Montauk CBC. Because of restricted access to the island, no follow-up was possible.

Northern finches this season consisted mainly of rather small numbers of Common Redpolls and lesser numbers of Pine Siskins. Both species were widely scattered throughout the Region. An Evening Grosbeak appeared at a Central Park feeder on 8-9 December. Seth Ausubel noted a modest flight of finches and late migrants at Jones Beach West End on 3 December that yielded 55 Common Redpolls, 15 Pine Siskins and small numbers of American Goldfinches and Purple Finches. The flight also included 20 American Pipits, a few Horned Larks, about 500 Red-winged Blackbirds and 12 Rusty Blackbirds.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Adamo, Ken Allaire, Jim Ash, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Bobby Berlingeri, Rich Berube, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Andrew Block, Ardith Bondi, Jean & Ron Bourque, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Michele Claeys, James Clinton Sr, John J. Collins, Ed DeBellevue, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Michael Farina, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, John J. Fritz, Gaye Fugate, Joe Giunta, John Gluth, Andrew Guthrie, Brian Hart, Gene Herskovics, Mike Higgiston, Joel Horman, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, David W. Klauber, Norm Klein, Arthur H. Kopelman, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Robert McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, Jack Meyer, Lauren Miller, Alison & Karlo Mirth, Shai Mitra, Steve Nanz, Chris & Lauren Nuzzi, Al Ott, Pat Pollock, Dorothy Poole, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir (SSa), Mike Shanley, Seymour Schiff, Marty Sohmer, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit & Rex Stanford, Paul Stoutenburgh, Steve Walter, Linda Waters, Christina Wilkinson, Alex Wilson (AIW), Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW), Seth Wollney.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BP – Breezy Pt; CB – Cedar Beach; CLP – Clove L P; SI; CP – Central P; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; HP – Hook Pd, Southampton; In – Inlet; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; MEB – Mecox

Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; RMSB – Robert Moses SP; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; VCP – Van Cortlandt P BRON.

**Christmas Bird Count Designations:** (Note: these 4 letter identifiers are the official assigned codes as used in the *American Birds* Christmas Count Issue). NJLH-Lower Hudson 14 Dec; NYBR-Brooklyn, 20 Dec; NYBW-Bronx-Westchester, 28 Dec; NYCA-Captree, 14 Dec; NYCS-Central Suffolk Co, 27 Dec; NYMK-Montauk, 20 Dec; NYNN-Northern Nassau Co, 27 Dec; NYOR-Orient, 3 Jan; NYQU-Queens, 20 Dec; NYQW-Quogue-Watermill, 20 Dec; NYSG-Sagaponack, 21 Dec; NYSI-Staten Island, 20 Dec; NYSM-Smithtown, 27 Dec; NYSN-Southern Nassau Co, 3 Jan.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1 or more various sites E LI mid Dec-31 Jan; 2 CLP 19 Feb thru.

**Snow Goose:** 100s wintered JBWR; others.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** JBWR 20-21 Dec; NYBR, BP 20 Dec.

**Barnacle Goose:** 1 or more various E LI sites 1 Jan-late Feb; the provenance of recent sightings of this species in NYS remains unknown; single birds continue to be seen throughout the NE and continue to create problems for various state records committees; are all of these birds from escaped or feral stock?

**Tundra Swan:** South Fork LI early Dec thru.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 2 Marratooka L Mattituck 27 Dec; NYSN 3 Jan; West Sayville 11 Jan thru; FBF 18 Jan thru; West L Patchogue 22 Feb.

**Blue-winged Teal:** NYCS 27 Dec; NYSM 27 Dec.

**Green-winged "Common" Teal:** Spring Creek KING 20 Dec.

**"Common" x "American" Green-winged Teal, hybrid:** HLSP 21 Feb thru (BB); showed characteristics of both races.  
**King Eider:** f continued JBWR; PL mid Dec-mid Feb; small numbers MP mid Dec thru; others.

**Com. Eider:** 2 then 1 PL mid Dec-early Jan; several 1000 wintered MP.

**Harlequin Duck:** up to 11 PL; MP; a few

others.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Ransom Beach, Bayville 23 Dec thru; Caumsett SP 24 Dec, possibly the same bird.

**Wild Turkey:** Riverside P Manhattan 13-14 Dec; NYQW 20 Dec; 20 NYSG 21 Dec; 110 NYCS 27 Dec; 45-50 former Navy/Grumman airfield 16 Feb.

**N. Bobwhite:** East Hampton feeder 2, 11 Jan; 7 hills north of Theodore Roosevelt County P Montauk 5 Feb; 4 Eastport exit Sunrise Hwy 15 Feb.

**Red-necked Grebe:** few and scattered this winter, a more normal pattern.

**BROWN PELICAN:** SHIN 19 Dec (JC); NYQW 20 Dec; NYSG 21 Dec; a single bird is assumed.

**Great Egret:** 2 Cutchogue 16 Dec; JBWR 1 Jan; NYQU 20 Dec; NYQW 20 Dec; Dune Rd SHIN 1- 6 Jan; Orient & Mashomack NYOR 3 Jan.

**Snowy Egret:** NYSM 27 Dec.

**BLACK VULTURE:** Riverhead 17 Feb (RA).

**Turkey Vulture:** a few mid Dec-late Jan; scattered throughout early Feb thru.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** last NYSG e of Sagaponack 21 Dec; arr Shelter I 26 Feb.

**Bald Eagle:** on ice floes in Hudson Ri, seen from vantage points BRON & Manhattan & flying over CP; numerous SUFF thru, indicated 1 or more wintering Connetquot Ri SP and/or Gardiners or

Shelter Is.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 5 JBCH strip 2 Feb; 6 both light and dark morphs SI landfill 21 Dec-4 Feb.

**Black Rail:** Quogue 11 Jan (TB, AG).

**Virginia Rail:** 2 Dune Rd Quogue 11, 17 Jan.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** to early Jan.

**Willet:** 2 NYSN Massapequa Preserve 3 Jan (A&KM); NYSM 27 Dec.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** NYSN 3 Jan.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** PL 19, 28 Dec, 3 Jan; 15 Orient Beach SP 12 Dec; 25 Springs 1 Jan; Three Mile Harbor 1 Feb; 10 Accabonac 16 Feb; South Beach SI 16 Feb.

**Red Knot:** 23 NYSN 3 Jan; JBWE 8 Feb; absent in Dunlin flocks along JBCH strip this winter.

**Purple Sandpiper:** small numbers on rock jetties SI, BP, both sides Jones Inlet, Georgica, Orient Pt, L Montauk.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Massapequa Preserve 1 Dec; last NYSN 3 Jan.

**Laughing Gull:** SHIN 19, 22 Dec; JBCH NYSN 3 Jan.

**Little Gull:** SI 26 Mar.

**Black-headed Gull:** NYMK 20 Dec, 27 Dec; FBF 18 Jan; Bergen P 8 Feb.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** scarce everywhere, as were the small rarer gulls associated with them.

**Iceland Gull:** 3 NYMK 20 Dec; NYSG 21 Dec; NYCS 27 Dec; SHIN 19, 30 Dec, 17, 19 Jan, 3 on 18 Jan; NYSN 3 Jan; Montauk 17, 24 Jan; Southampton 8-11 Feb; Argyle L Babylon 22 Feb; HLSP 22 Feb; others.

**Glaucous Gull:** Mecox 19 Dec; NYQW 20 Dec; CP 24-27 Jan; SHIN 24 Jan; Great Kills Harbor SI 1 Feb; L Patchogue 21 Feb.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 5180 on pelagic trip out of Belmar NJ to both NJ & NY waters 13 Dec.

**Com. Tern:** marina west of ferry terminal Orient Pt 5 Dec (PS).

**Forster's Tern:** NYCS Forge Ri 27 Dec.

**Dovekie:** several in NY waters, pelagic trip 13 Dec; NYMK 20 Dec, 2 on 2 Jan, 1 on 2 Feb.

**Razorbill:** NYQU East Rockaway Inlet 20 Dec, first on count; 46 NYMK 20 Dec; NYSG 21 Dec; 2 JBWE 29 Dec; 6 MP 30 Dec; 10 MEB 30 Dec; 2 SHIN 30 Dec; 17 NYSN 3 Jan; 40 MP 2 Jan, 4 Jan; 1 MP 24 Jan; 8 MP 30 Jan; 35 MP 1 Feb; 20 MP 7 Feb; others MP thru; PL 14 Feb; others.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Barn Owl:** NYMK Gardiners I 20 Dec; NYQU 20 Dec; CP 5-26 Jan; 4 NYSN 3 Jan; JBCH strip 17 Jan; SI 22 Feb; others.

**Great Horned Owl:** JBWE 27 Dec (RB), unusual at the beach.

**Long-eared Owl:** up to 4 CP 7 Dec-25 Jan; PP mid to late Dec; NYBW East Bronx 28 Dec.

**Short-eared Owl:** 2 NYMK 20 Dec; NYQU 20 Dec; NYBR 20 Dec; NYSG 21 Dec, same area 27 Dec; JBWE 28 Dec; Dune Rd SHIN 9, 10, 12, 17 Jan, 1 Feb; JBWR 1, 18 Jan; East Quogue 8 Jan.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** NJLH CP 14 Dec; NYMK Accabonac 20 Dec; NYBW East Bronx 28 Dec; 2 NYSG Northwest Woods 21 Dec; CP 5-13 Jan; MP 3 Jan; SI 21 Feb.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Orient thru 22 Dec; East Hampton thru 9 Jan; both from last season; tentatively identified by observations and ph; final determination awaits NYSARC review.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** JBWE 16 Dec; PP 26 Dec; 3 NYMK Gardiners I 20 Dec; NYCS Brookhaven National Lab 27 Dec; NYSN 3 Jan; NYOR Shelter I 3 Jan, 8 Jan; Brooklyn Botanic Garden 4 Jan; Manorville 10 Jan.

**Western Kingbird:** Mt. Loretto P SI 3 Jan (MS, C&LN).

**N. Shrike:** Brookhaven National Lab 11 Dec; Amagansett 13 Dec; NYMK Napeague 20 Dec, 31 Jan-7 Feb; NYSN

intersection Loop Causeway & Meadowbrook Pkwy 3 Jan.

**Tree Swallow:** Big Reed Pd Montauk 17 Jan.

**House Wren:** NYMK 20 Dec; NYSN 3 Jan.

**Marsh Wren:** 4 NYMK 20 Dec; 2 NYSG at HP 21 Dec; NYSN 3 Jan; NYOR Mashomack 3 Jan; SHIN 11 Jan.

**Am. Pipit:** JBCH 7 Dec after snow; NYQU 20 Dec; VCP 22 Dec; 3 NYMK 20 Dec; 4 NYQW 20 Dec; 5 NYSG 21 Dec; 6-7 JBWE 27 Dec; PL 1 Jan; NYSN 3 Jan; 20 JBWE 13 Jan; 14 Mecox 1 Feb; PP 7 Feb; FBF 8 Feb.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** Camp Hero SP Montauk 1 Feb (DP, GF).

### WARBLERS

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** JBWE 16, 28 Dec; 2 NYBR 20 Dec; NYSM 27 Dec; Flax Pd Old Field 26-27 Dec; BP 3 Jan; NYSN 3 Jan; Brookhaven 10-31 Jan, 15 Feb.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Ross School East Hampton 16 Jan (MC, HMG), 2nd state record after Dec.

**Pine Warbler:** 3 NYMK 20 Dec; NYQW 20 Dec; 2 NYSG 21 Dec; NYOR, Southhold 3 Jan; PP feeders 6-25 Jan; Quogue mid Jan; NY Botanical Garden 21 Jan.

**Palm Warbler:** Riverhead Dec 8; Napeague Dec 9; Lazy Pt Napeague Dec 25; 3 NYSN 3 Jan; NYOR 3 Jan.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** NYMK 20 Dec; NYOR 3 Jan; FTT 23 Feb.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** NYMK 20 Dec; 2 NYSG 21 Dec; 2 H 1 Jan; MP 3 Jan.

### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Chipping Sparrow:** wintered CP & PP; a few others.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** spot scraped bare by snow plows west of CB JBCH 7 Dec (JF *et al*).

**Vesper Sparrow:** NYQU 20 Dec;

Culloden Pt Montauk 24 Jan.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** spot scraped bare by snow plows west of CB JBCH 7 Dec (JF *et al*).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** none reported.

**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 9 NYSN 3 Jan; Dune Rd East Quogue 24 Jan; MNSA Feb.

**Seaside Sparrow:** NYMK 20 Dec; SHIN marshes 17 Jan.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** JBWE 3 Dec (AW, SS).

**HARRIS'S SPARROW:** NYMK Gardiners I 20 Dec (PS).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 77 NYSG 21 Dec, probably a winter max for Reg.

**Lapland Longspur:** mostly singles SI, KING, JBWE (max 10), Farmingdale, Riverhead, Calverton, Watermill, Sagaponack, Cutchogue.

**Dickcissel:** 2 Montauk 19 Dec; Montauk feeder 15 Jan; Peconic feeder 15 Jan; Sag Harbor feeder 6 Feb.

**E. Meadowlark:** 12 north of Riverhead 13 Dec; NYQU 20 Dec; 6 Riverhead 1 Jan; FTT 23 Feb.

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** resident in and around JBWR, SHIN, JBCH.

**Baltimore Oriole:** 2 Elmont 13 Dec; Southhold feeder 19-20 Dec; PP 26-27 Dec; Brooklyn Botanic Garden 4 Jan.

**Com. Redpoll:** CP mid Dec; then scattered throughout, small numbers frequented feeders; 55 JBWE 3 Dec & 60 Weld Nature Conservancy property Nissequogue were the largest groups.

**Pine Siskin:** a few at feeders CP thru; others at feeders, less as season progressed.

**Evening Grosbeak:** CP feeder 8-9 Dec.

### CORRIGENDUM

Delete: **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Orient Pt SP 23 Sep 2004; reported in error.