

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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Winter came in early this season. December started unusually cold and snowy, with temperatures dropping well below freezing between 2 and 9 December. Most still water froze, even in the southern sections of Region 9. Katonah had 18" of snow on 6 December, and the Region was hit with another snowstorm on 14 December. The deep snow made many passerines move farther south, resulting in lower than average numbers for the Christmas Bird Counts. Fortunately, most of the count period was blessed with warmer weather, resulting in normal or slightly above average temperatures for the month. January and most of February were very cold and very dry. Sullivan County reached -12°F on 10 January, with White Plains dipping to -2° that day. Liberty had 12 days below zero in January, with five of them - 9° or lower. The month ended with average temperatures 5° to 7° below normal. Liberty was slightly below normal for precipitation for the month, but Poughkeepsie had only 1.9" of rain, 1.3" below normal. White Plains was even drier, with 1.5" of rain, 2.8" less than normal. Dry weather continued into February, with most locations 1" to 1.5" of precipitation below normal. Most of February was colder than normal, but a warm spell at the end moderated the month's temperatures to just below normal.

It was a great season for winter finches and others visitors from the north, with numerous reports of Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk. There were two reports of Bohemian Waxwing from Ulster County and a few reports of Northern Shrike, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak.

As usual, many highlights of the season resulted from the area Christmas Bird Counts. The Peekskill CBC recorded 93 species on 20 December, a new all-time record. Highlights included: 64 Brant, Tundra Swan, Redhead and two Northern Pintails in Shrub Oak, Red-breasted Merganser at Annsville Creek in Peekskill, 210 Ruddy Ducks, 31 Turkey Vultures and 29 Black Vultures at a roost in Cortlandt, a count record 32 Bald Eagles (15 ad, 17 imm), light morph Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin at Georges Island Park, Long-eared Owl, Common Raven in Yorktown Heights, 13 American Pipits and Pine Warbler at Croton Point Park. Possibly the same Pine Warbler was relocated at Croton Point on 17 and 24 January. The Tundra Swan stayed into January only to be joined by many others. Charlie Roberto found an incredible 10 Tundra Swans on 24 January, making it a bit easier for those seeking that elusive previous single bird.

The Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir CBC, held 20 December, had a very late **Osprey** at Mohonk Preserve, New Paltz, reported by Paul Huth. The count also had three Pine Grosbeaks in High Falls. The Eastern Orange CBC recorded 75 species on 20 December. Highlights were Eastern Phoebe and Northern Shrike. Other Northern Shrikes for the season included one in Ellenville in December and February and others in Ulster Heights and White Sulphur Spring.

Dutchess County CBC reported 79 species also on 20 December, with a Greater White-fronted Goose in Pleasant Valley; two were then located near and on Hunns Lake in January.

The Sullivan County CBC recorded 60 species on 28 December. Highlights included: 37 Bald Eagles, Northern Goshawk, dark phase Rough-legged Hawk, several Red-shouldered Hawks, Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls and three Iceland Gulls a day before count. The Sullivan County Landfill and nearby Kiamesha Lake continue to be the place to look for white-winged gulls. Various Iceland and Glaucous gulls were present until sub-zero temperatures in January pushed most of the gulls out of the county.

The Southern Orange CBC on 27 December recorded 83 species. Highlights were a late Green Heron in the Black Dirt region and a Merlin. The count also recorded 101 Black Vultures and 52 Turkey Vultures. The Putnam CBC on 3 January also had high numbers of vultures, with 63 Black and 41 Turkey vultures. The count also recorded a count week Baltimore Oriole. Andrew Block had male and female first fall Baltimore Orioles at his feeders in Bronxville 5 January. The female disappeared by 8 January, with the male remaining until the 13th. Results in the Region 9 area of the Bronx-Westchester CBC on 28 December included: a House Wren in White Plains and Eurasian Wigeons in New Rochelle and Mamaroneck. An additional Eurasian Wigeon was found in the Croton River in February.

Ruth Greenwood had an unusual junco that appeared 18-20 January in Billings, Dutchess County. Barbara Butler described it as overall pale brown with nearly white tail, primaries and secondaries. It appeared to be an extreme color variation or perhaps had some form of pigment deficiency. John Winkler, Jr. was able to photograph the bird and post photos on the web.

Other highlights included Lesser Black-backed Gull and Red-headed Woodpecker

CONTRIBUTORS

Daved & Jeanne Arner, John Askildsen, Gail Bensen, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Leah Boyd, Al Brayton, David Burg, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Mary Ann & Warren Cairo, Bill Chase, Steve Chorvas, Alex Chervio, Judy Cinquina, Mary Collier, Johnny Cuomo, Mark Damian, Renee Davis, Lin Fagan, Dot Fleury, Barry Freed, Valerie Freer, Wes Gillingham, Ruth Greenwood, Andy Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, John Haas, John Hannan, Paul Huth, Kelli Jewell, Rob Jet, Tait Johansson, Rodney Johnson, Art Jones, Edward Korth, Berna & Stan Lincoln, Sandra Marraffino, Phil Meisner, Allan Michelin, Frank Murphy, Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Bob & Ev Rifenburg, Charlie Roberto, Starr Saphir, John Scavetto, Tracey Shimer, Andrew Sigerson, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Jane Vecchione, Chet Vincent, Bill Wallace, Hans Weber, Carol Weiss, John Winkler Jr.

ABBREVIATIONS

BWCBC – Bronx-Westchester CBC (Westchester Only); CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PCPC –

Peekskill CBC; PP – Piermont Pier; RCBC – Rockland CBC; SCCBC – Sullivan County CBC; SCL – Sullivan County Landfill; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWR – Wallkill Ri NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Pleasant Valley 20 Dec; 2 Hunns L DUTC 7, 17, 18, 21 Jan (DF, AJ).
Snow Goose: 234 Stump Pd SULL 5 Dec; Lomontville 20 Dec; blue phase Middletown 27 Feb.
Brant: 64 CPP 20 Dec; 23 EGR 23 Jan, 3 Feb.
Tundra Swan: CPP 20 Dec-23 Feb (MB, KJ); 10 CPP 24 Jan (CR); 7 CPP 25 Jan-1 Feb.
Wood Duck: 5 Van Cortlandt Manor 11 Feb.
Eurasian Wigeon: Mamaroneck 28 Dec-6 Jan (BWCBC, AB); Premium Mill Pd 28 Dec; Croton Ri 8 Feb (E&JO).
N. Pintail: 2 Shrub Oak 20 Dec; 2 Croton 9 Feb; Croton 11 Feb.
Canvasback: 24 PP 3 Dec.
Redhead: Shrub Oak 20 Dec; 2 CPP 17 Jan-26 Feb; Port Ewen 28 Feb.
Greater Scaup: max 200 EGR 7 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 24 EGR 29 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: 1-6 EGR 19 Dec-7 Jan.
Black Scoter: Rye 28 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: max 100 EGR 28 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 89 EGR 5 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 185 EGR 5 Dec; Peekskill 20 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: 210 CPP 20 Dec.
Red-throated Loon: EGR 28 Dec, 1 Jan, 20-21 Feb.
Com. Loon: max 4 EGR 28 Dec.
Horned Grebe: Ashokan Res 20 Dec.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 28, 31 Dec.
N. Gannet: EGR 3, 27 Dec; 2 EGR 1 Jan.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 30 EGR 3 Dec.
Great Cormorant: max 12 EGR 31 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: max 20 EGR 8 Dec.
Green Heron: Black Dirt region 27 Dec

(JT, MA, WC).

Black Vulture: 29 Cortlandt 20 Dec; 101 S ORAN 27 Dec.

Turkey Vulture: 31 Cortlandt 20 Dec; 52 ROCK 20 Dec; 52 S ORAN 27 Dec.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Mohonk Preserve, New Paltz 20 Dec (PH), very late.
Bald Eagle: 32 PCBC 20 Dec; 37 SCCBC 28 Dec; 25 Georges I P 18 Jan; 100+ Hudson Ri after 15 Jan; many scattered reports away from the Hudson.
N. Harrier: 5 SGNWR 2 Jan; 10 SGNWR 12-19 Jan; 9-10 WRNWR 12-25 Jan; 5 SGNWR 16-23 Feb; 6 WRNWR 16-23 Feb; 6 Thompson Pd 29 Feb.
N. Goshawk: SCCBC 28 Dec; EGR 6 Jan; Claryville 17 Jan.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Yulan 4 Dec; Devine Corners 20 Dec; High Falls 20 Dec; Monticello 26 Dec; sev SCCBC 28 Dec; Woodstock 1 Jan; 2 Gardiner 28 Jan thru; Stormville 11 Feb; imm Goldens Bridge 18 Feb; Verbank 8, 18 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: common this winter; Woodbourne 6 Dec; CPP 20 Dec, 6 -28 Feb; SCCBC 28 Dec; Claryville 2 Jan; SGNWR 12-19 Jan; 2 WRNWR 12-19 Jan; 1-2 Rhinebeck 28, 31 Jan; 2 SGNWR 1-7 Feb; 5 SGNWR 16-23 Feb; 3 WRNWR 16-23 Feb.
Golden Eagle: Thompson Pd 7 Jan; 1-2 Stissing Mt 18 Jan, 3, 14, 23 Feb; Croton Res 7 Feb.
Merlin: Georges I P 20 Dec; Wickham L 27 Dec; CPP 24 Jan; DUTC 3 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: EGR 10, 15, 27 Dec; CPP 24 Jan; Mid Hudson Bridge 5, 22 Feb; Rhinebeck 28 Feb.
Clapper Rail: CPP 9 Feb.
Virginia Rail: 3 MC 28 Dec.
Greater Yellowlegs: EGR 5 Dec.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 EGR 25 Dec.
Purple Sandpiper: 96 EGR 25 Dec.
Dunlin: 24 EGR 25 Dec.
Wilson's Snipe: Pawling 1 Jan.
Am. Woodcock: arr MC 24 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: 12 EGR 22 Dec; 62 EGR 1 Jan.
Herring Gull: 1100 Kiamesha L 1 Dec.
Iceland Gull: 1st winter SCL 1-4 Dec; 2nd winter SCL 3-6, 8, 16 Dec, 2 Jan; 3 Kiamesha L 27 Dec; 1st winter EGR 31 Dec; 2 Blue Chip Farm 2 Jan; ad & 2nd winter SCL 10 Jan; CPP 24 Jan; SGNWR 8 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: PP 3 Dec (JCI); Glen I 18 Jan (TB).
Glaucous Gull: 1st winter SCL 1-6 Dec; ad SCL 10 Jan.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 2 New Rochelle 1 Jan.
Long-eared Owl: CPP 20 Dec; 3 CPP 14 Feb; 6 SGNWR 24 Feb (MD); 5-6 Domin Farm 27 Feb (CV).
Short-eared Owl: 8-12 SGNWR 28 Dec-16 Feb; 9 WRNWR 12-19 Jan; 2-6 CPP 1-28 Feb with max 6 on 14 Feb; 10 SGNWR 16-28 Feb; 2 WRNWR 16-23 Feb.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Black Rock Forest thru Dec; Livingston Manor 8 Dec; Greenfield P 5 Jan; Thompsons Pd 14 Feb thru; Pawling Nature Preserve 29 Feb.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-2 Blue Chip Farm 19 Jan, 14 Feb (RG); 2 Loughran Rd Marsh, Esopus 21 Jan (SC).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: E Orange CBC 20 Dec; MC 1 Jan (TB).
N. Shrike: E Orange CBC 20 Dec; Ellenville 24 Dec; Ulster Heights 31 Dec; White Sulphur Spring 19 Jan; Ellenville 8-9 Feb.
Am. Crow: numbers continue to decline; 33 year low on BWCBC, with similar results on others.
Fish Crow: DUTC 2 Feb.
Com. Raven: numerous reports thruout Reg; max 9 Stissing Mt 19 Jan.

Horned Lark: 261 Black Dirt region 27 Dec; 120 ORAN Airport 14 Jan; 50 Blue Chip Farm 23 Jan; 50 Pine Plains 2 Feb; 17 Rhinebeck 14 Feb.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread and common.
HouseWren: White Plains 28 Dec.
Marsh Wren: MC 28 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: 2 Woodstock 15 Jan.
Am. Pipit: 6-18 EGR 8-15 Dec; 13 CPP 20 Dec.
Bohemian Waxwing: Rt 55/44 west of Minnewaska SP 25 Jan (AG, TB, GB); Grahamsville 14-16 Feb (VF, JHaa, ABo).

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: CPP 20 Dec (B&SL); CPP 17 Jan (DB); CPP 24 Jan (BW).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: EGR 29 Jan.
Fox Sparrow: good numbers; max 8 MC 3 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: numerous scattered Dec reports.
Lapland Longspur: EGR 10 Dec; Rhinebeck 14 Feb.
Snow Bunting: 20 Ellenville 2 Dec; 8 EGR 9 Dec; 16 Lomontville 20 Dec; 62 Monticello 2 Jan; 2 Stonykill 10 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: 3000 Dubois Rd, New Paltz at dusk 29 Feb.
E. Meadowlark: CPP 1 Jan.
Rusty Blackbird: 15-20 Rhinebeck Jan thru; 6 Indian L 24 Jan; 27 Georges I P 1 Feb; 1-3 Rhinebeck 7-18 Feb.
Baltimore Oriole: PUTN early Jan (PCBC); 2 Bronxville 5-7 Jan (ABl); Bronxville 8-13 Jan (ABl).
Pine Grosbeak: 3 High Falls 20 Dec (B&ER).
Purple Finch: more numerous than in last few years; 22 Livingston Manor 5 Dec; 50 Clinton Corners 6 Feb; 50 Upton L 13 Feb.
White-winged Crossbill: 4 Parksville 21 Jan (JHaa, ABo).
Com. Redpoll: 3 Claryville 20 Dec; 50 Claryville 5 Jan; 16 Woodbourne 5 Jan; 18 Ellenville 5 Jan; 30 Thompson Pd 7 Jan; 6

Bedford 24 Jan; 20 Bedford 4 Feb; 150
Katonah mid Feb; 10-30 Brewster Jan–mid
Feb; 50 Lexington 14 Feb; many other
scattered reports.

Pine Siskin: 10 Monticello 3 Dec; MC 24
Dec; 30 Forestburg 31 Dec, 10 Jan; 1-3

Bronxville 7, 29 Jan; common SULL,
DUTC, N. WEST Jan & Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: Rock Hill 5 Dec; 5-6
Parksville 5 Dec, 25 Jan (JHaa, ABo); 5
Scarsdale 28 Dec (BWCBC).