

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started out warm, leaving more open water than normal and little or no snow for the Christmas Bird Counts. The Region went into a short deep freeze on 20 and 21 December, with Poughkeepsie dropping to minus 1 each night. Lakes and ponds in the southern half of the Region that started to freeze were reopened by a warm rain two days latter, with Poughkeepsie reaching 61 on 23 December. The month ended up 1.3; degrees warmer than normal with average precipitation.

The new year started out very warm. The first two weeks of January were 9 to 10 degrees warmer than normal. Poughkeepsie reached a high of 64; degrees on 14 January. Many lakes, and even small ponds, remained open, especially in the southern part of the Region. The rest of the month did a complete turn, as the r Region went into a two and a half week deep, deep freeze. Open bodies of water froze just in time for the waterfowl count. Average temperatures for the last half of January were 10-11; degrees below normal. In Poughkeepsie, twelve of the last seventeen days the month had lows of less then 10; degrees, with half of them below zero. The city reached a low of minus 14 on 28 January. New Paltz reached minus 18 on the same day. Besides the cold, a snowstorm with blizzard conditions hit the Region on 22-23 January. Eight to fifteen inches of snow fell on the Region, with wind gusts over 50 mph. Newburgh Airport had a gust reaching 47 mph, Nyack had a gust at 51 mph, and Westchester County Airport reach 52 mph, all on the morning of the 23rd. In the end, the month averaged out with near normal precipitation and only 1-2; degrees colder than normal.

February mirrored January, with the first half warm followed by below normal temperatures. The month averaged out 1.5 to 3.3; degrees warmer than average. Precipitation was well below normal, with Poughkeepsie having only

1.5 inches, one full inch below normal. Three snowstorms on the 20-21, 24-25, and 28th dumped 5 to 9 inches each, to close out the season.

The highlight of the season was a Region 9 first. A freshly deceased **CAVE SWALLOW** was found by Tom Burke on 16 December, under the I-95 Thruway bridge next to the Rye train station in Westchester County. The bird apparently was roosting under the bridge for the night and froze to death.

The winter featured good numbers of Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, and Long-eared Owl at Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge and Croton Point Park. There were only three reports for Northern Shrike. Winter finches were generally absent except for scattered reports of Purple Finch and Pine Siskin, with single sightings of Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak.

The two Greater White-fronted Geese on Silver Lake in North White Plains stayed until at least 11 December, but did not stay for the Greenwich Christmas Bird Count. Another Greater White-fronted Goose was found in Pine Plains in February. Many counts did contribute to many of the rarities this season.

The 50th annual Peekskill CBC [NYPE], conducted on December 18th, totaled 97 species, surpassing last year's previous high count of 93. Ducks and soaring raptors were notably lacking, as was woodland bird activity. The highlight of the count was an immature Lark Sparrow found by Charlie Roberto at a Croton-on-Hudson feeder. It was present the next day as well, but was not reported thereafter. A number of half-hardy species were found, undoubtedly owing to the fact that no significant snowfall had occurred prior to the count day. Other finds included; Snow Goose, 55 Brant, 12 Black Vultures, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 2 Short-eared Owls, 2 House Wrens, and four White-crowned Sparrows.

The East Orange CBC [NYEO] recorded 80 species, including Wilson's Warbler and two Common Yellowthroats.

Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir CBC [NYML] recorded 64 species, including 35 Black and 47 Turkey Vultures and had two count week Iceland Gulls.

The Monticello count [NYMT] held 26 December had 53 species. Highlights included a Snow Goose and Pine Siskin.

The Pawling-Hidden Valley count [NYHV] found 75 species, with 26 Black Vulture, a Golden Eagle, and a Pine Siskin.

The Westchester portion of the Bronx-Westchester CBC included 93 of the 111 species for the whole count. The best birds were in the Bronx, which included Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warblers, and Ovenbird, see the Region 10 report. An additional Pine Warbler was found by Joe and Ellen O'Connell two days after the count at their Yonkers feeder, and survived the entire winter. Other finds included a Great Egret in Larchmont, and two Eurasian Wigeon, one on Premium Mill Pond and the other in Rye. White-winged Scoter and Northern Gannet were off Edith G. Read Sanctuary also in Rye.

A Tufted Duck was reported by Pat Pollock, Chuck McAlexander, and Jeff Kimball at Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye, on 20 January mixed in with the huge scaup flock on the lake. It could not be relocated the next day. A Razorbill was found by Andy Guthrie off Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary on 9 January and stayed for at least 3 days. Two Razorbills were off nearby Milton Point on 17 January. Chet Vincent found a Bohemian Waxwing in a huge flock of Cedar Waxwings in Pleasant Valley on Tower Hill Road off US 44, on 29 January. Les

Line found Dutchess County's first winteran Orange-crowned Warbler at his feeder on 5 February, and it stayed into March. This is Dutchess County's first winter record. Lapland Longspurs were found in January at Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary and in Florida, NY.

Other notable species include: Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Black Scoter in Sullivan County, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Red-headed Woodpecker.

Contributors

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Abbreviations

CPP – Croton Point Park, EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, HM – Hook Mountain, MC – Marshlands Conservancy, NYBW – Bronx-Westchester CBC, NYDC – Dutchess County CBC, NYEO – East Orange CBC, NYPE – Peekskill CBC, RNC – Rye Nature Center, SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, WRNWF – Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 North White Plains 1-11 Dec; Pine Plains 25 Feb (CV).

Snow Goose: CPP 18 Dec; NYEO 18 Dec; 6 North East 19 Dec; NYMT 26 Dec; 4 Stanford 28 Dec; Wurtsboro 15 Jan.

Brant: 100 Poughkeepsie 5 Dec; 55 CPP 18 Dec; 1301 Long I Sound 26 Dec (NYBW); 147 EGR 16 Jan, 16 Feb.

Canada Goose: 3000 Pine Plains 25 Feb.

Wood Duck: 2 Salt Pt 25 Feb.

Eurasian Wigeon: Rye 26 Dec (NYBW); New Rochelle 26 Dec (NYBW).

Northern Shoveler: 3 NYPE 18 Dec.

Northern Pintail: 6 Pine Plains 21 Dec.

Eurasian Green-winged Teal: Tuckahoe/Yonkers 10-28 Feb (AB,MB,KJ,SM)

Canvasback: low numbers on CBCs.

Ring-necked Duck: 143 NYDC 18 Dec; 138 Beekman 22 Dec.

Tufted Duck: EGR 20 Jan (PP,CM,JK).

Greater Scaup: 4000 EGR 10,15 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: 400 EGR 7.,10 Jan.

Surf Scoter: EGR 10 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: Rye 12,26 Dec, 1,7,17 Jan.

Black Scoter: Kiamasha L 11,12 Dec (JH).

Long-tailed Duck: 31 Rye 26 Dec (NYBW); 140 EGR 16 Feb.

Common Merganser: 390 Sprain Res, Yonkers 26 Dec; 800 Lake De Forest 15 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: 11 NYDC 18 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: 60 Beekman 31 Dec.

Wild Turkey: 161 NYDC 18 Dec; 176 NYEO 18 Dec; 91 NYML 18 Dec; 131 NYHV 18 Dec; 30 NYMT 26 Dec; 38 NYBW 26 Dec.

Red-throated Loon: 12 Rye 26 Dec (NYBW); 16 EGR 11 Jan.

Common Loon: 8 EGR 12 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: Wallkill R, New Paltz 10 Mar (CG).

Horned Grebe: Ashokan Res 18 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: EGR 7,0,17 Jan.

Northern Gannet: 7 EGR 12 Dec; EGR 26 Dec, 1 Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: 4 NYPE 18 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: 18 EGR 3 Jan.

Great Egret: Larchmont 26 Dec (NYBW).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: EGR 12,24 Dec, 1,3,11 Jan.

Black Vulture: 12 NYPE 18 Dec; 35 New Paltz, NYML 18 Dec; 26 NYHV 18 Dec; 2 Pine Plains 20 Feb; 1 Vassar Farm 3 Feb; Town of LaGrange 22 Feb; 3 Pine Plains 25 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: 41 New Paltz, NYML 18 Dec; moving north late Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 20 Georges I 29 Jan; 81 Dunderberg Mountain roost 13 Feb.

Northern Harrier: 5 SGNWR 19 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 NYPE 18 Dec.

Red-tailed Hawk: albino Rosendale/High Falls 26 Dec; albino Shaupeneak Ridge 26 Dec (PR).

Rough-legged Hawk: SGNWR 12 Dec; SGNWR 10 Jan; 3 SGNWR 18 Jan; 2 CPP Jan-Feb; 2 Chester 28 Jan; 3 SGNWR 28 Jan; 13 SGNWR 20 Feb.

Golden Eagle: Stissing Mtn 3 Dec; 2 Stissing Mtn 11,28 Dec; NYHV 18 Dec; 3 Stissing Mt 13 Feb; 2 Stissing Mtn 27 Feb.

Merlin: Beacon 11 Dec; Arlington 19 Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 NYPE 18 Dec; Mid-Hudson Bridge 21 Dec, 1,13 Feb.

Virginia Rail: 2 MC 26 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper: 71 Rye 26 Dec.

Common Wilson's Snipe: Town of North East 9 Dec.

American Woodcock: Beacon 17 Feb (ES).

Bonaparte's Gull: 15 Rye 12 Dec.

Iceland Gull: Sullivan Co Landfill 8 Dec (JH); 2 Sullivan Co Landfill 18 Dec (JH); Rondout Creek, Eddyville 21 Dec (LF); EGR 1 Jan (TB); 3 Sullivan Co Landfill 15 Jan (ABO,JH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Sullivan Co Landfill 20 Jan (JH).

Glaucous Gull: Monticello 15 Jan (ABO,JH); 2 Sullivan Co Landfill 20 Jan (JH).

Razorbill: EGR 9,10,11 Jan (AG,TB); 2 Rye 17 Jan (TB).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: 3 SGNWR 18 Jan (JV); NYDC 18 Dec; 2 CPP 5 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: 12 SGNWR 12, 30 Dec (CG); 2 CPP 18 Dec (MB,KJ); NYEO 18 Dec; Montgomery 10 Jan (JH); 4 SGNWR 10 Jan (JH); 5 CPP 15 Jan (RJ); 3 SGNWR 18 Jan (JV); Redhook 31 Jan (TC,RW); 6 CPP 27 Feb (GD).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Blue Chip Farms 10 Jan, 20 Feb (JH); Scarsdale 24 Dec (NYBW).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Northern Shrike: White Sulfur Spring 5 Dec (R & MGo); SGNWR 30 Dec (Abr, MGr); Swan Lake 15 Jan (ABO,JH, RD).

American Crow: 4000 Downing Park, Newburgh 14 Dec; 12000 Poughkeepsie roost 10 Feb; 1000 Baird Park 9 Feb.

Fish Crow: 2 Rhinecliff 26 Feb; 2 Beacon 27 Feb.

Common Raven: building nest on side of Stissing Mt 20 Feb (RG).

Horned Lark: 40 Millbrook 27 Dec; 60 Montgomery 10 Jan; 25 EGR 14 Jan; 100 Florida 28 Jan; 25 Salt Point 2 Feb; 40 Gretna 2 Feb.

CAVE SWALLOW: under I-95 Thruway bridge next to the Rye train station WEST 16 December (TB), found dead, 1st Regional record.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: scattered reports throughout rRegion.

House Wren: 2 NYPE 18 Dec.; Purchase 19 Dec.

Marsh Wren: Larchmont 26 Dec.

American Robin: high numbers on most CBCs.

Gray Catbird: 2 Vassar Farm 4 Dec; Kingston 1 Jan.

Brown Thrasher: NYPE 18 Dec.

American Pipit: 40 Amenia 9 Dec; 8 CPP 18 Dec.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: Smithfield 5 Feb-thru, 1st winter record for DUTC (LL,BB).

Pine Warbler: Yonkers 28 Dec thru (J&EO).

Common Yellowthroat: 2 NYEO 18 Dec.

Wilson's Warbler: NYEO 18 Dec.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: Claryville 2 Dec (RS); Pound Ridge 1 Jan (JA).

Lark Sparrow: Croton-on-Hudson 18,19 Dec (CR).

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 CPP 18 Dec; 4 NYEO 18 Dec; North East 4,20 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: EGR 14 Jan (TB); 2 Florida 28 Jan (JH).

Snow Bunting: 3 Hunter Rd 17 Dec (JW); 5 NYEO 18 Dec; 2 Hunter Rd, Dutc 4 Jan.

Northern Cardinal: high counts on most CBCs.

Red-winged Blackbird: 105 NYHV 18 Dec; 300 Mashomack 2 Feb, 300 Coleman Station 17 Feb.

Eastern Meadowlark: 2 CPP 18 Dec; 10 SGNWR 30 Dec.

Rusty Blackbird: NYDC 18 Dec; 2 NYEO 18 Dec; 15 NYHV 18 Dec; 2 Florida 28 Jan.

Common Grackle: 1723 NYEO 18 Dec; 400 Coleman Station 17 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 995 NYEO 18 Dec.

Common Redpoll: Lenoir Preserve 7,8,9 Jan (MB,KJJ).

Pine Siskin: Poughquag 6 Dec; 2 NYDC 18 Dec; NYHV 18 Dec; NYMT 26 Dec; MC 28 Dec; 3 Greenfield Park 5 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: Ellenville 4 Dec (PM).

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