

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

The first three weeks of December were much colder than normal. A deep, deep freeze arrived early on 14 - 15 December, with lows each day in the single digits in Westchester, -5° in Poughkeepsie and -9° in Rock Hill, Sullivan County. Many bodies of water froze early and remained frozen for the first weekend of Christmas Bird Counts. It looked like it was going to be a long, hard, cold winter. But then, the last week of December started a long warm trend that lasted into February. Lakes and ponds started to melt out on the last two weekends of bird counts. December still ended 2.6° colder than normal with slightly above precipitation. January was extremely warm. It was one of the warmest on record. Temperatures were spring-like and the weather acted as so. Spring-like blustery cold fronts hit on the morning of 15 January and the day of 18 January. The passage of these fronts brought high winds with gusts reaching over 50 miles per hour. Many trees were felled. White Plains had only three days of below average temperatures and Poughkeepsie only four. It hit sixty or above in both cities on 18, 21, and 30 January. The month averaged

8 to 9° warmer than normal. Precipitation was above normal, but no real snow fell in most of the Region. As expected, the state waterfowl count saw more open water than in years past. Even small ponds iced out in the southern parts of the Region.

Winter returned with a vengeance as a major snowstorm hit the New York City area on 11, 12 February. Over twenty inches of snow accumulated, mainly in the southeast section of Region 9, east of the Hudson and south of Dutchess County. Westchester County saw 15 to 20 inches, while amounts in Putnam County ranged from 18 inches at Putnam Lake to 24 inches in Brewster. By contrast Poughkeepsie saw only 2 inches.

Despite the storm, February was still dry and warm. Poughkeepsie saw only an inch of rain. Normal is 2.5 inches. Temperatures were 1.3 to 3.3° warmer than normal for the month.

The most interesting bird of the season was a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** found on the first of the year by Chet Vincent. The bird was in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds ready to go to roost at Thompson Pond. Dutchess County has five previous records of Yellow-headed Blackbird. This is the first since 1989.

Long-tailed Duck made a few appearances inland. The only report of Eurasian Wigeon came from Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye. The sanctuary also hosted 2-3 Red-necked Grebes in December, and a Great Egret lingered to mid December. Two Red-necked Grebes were on the Pawling Count.

Merlins made a few appearances this winter. One was found on the Rockland CBC. Two of the four reported from the Bronx-Westchester CBC were in Region 9. In January there was a sighting in Dobbs Ferry on the 25th and another in Pawling the same day.

Dunlin and American Oystercatchers made the Bronx-Westchester Count. John Haas reported seven Iceland Gulls at the Monticello Landfill on 17 December. There were four first winter, one second winter, one third winter, and one adult. Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Glaucous Gulls also made appearances at the land fill. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found by Chet Vincent in Dutchess in February, representing the second record for the county.

Northern Shrikes made numerous appearances in Sullivan County, but the birds were not reported elsewhere. An unidentified swallow was the highlight of the Bronx-Westchester count. The bird was seen briefly in New Rochelle 26 December, but it failed to cooperate for long enough views to permit identification.

Half-hardies were very evident on the CBC's. Eight of ten count circles had **Gray Catbird** for a Region total of **136**. All counts had **Carolina Wrens** totaling a whopping **500** birds. Three circles had new high counts for Hermit Thrush. Seven Chipping Sparrows were reported on the Rockland count. Two Rose-breasted Grosbeak lingered into December, the first at feeder in Wappinger Falls on 13 December and a second on the Rockland CBC on 18 December. John Haas had a Lapland Longspur in Chester, Sullivan County on 24, 25 January.

Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeaks made numerous appearances in Sullivan County. Only a few redpolls and siskins strayed further south and east.

CONTRIBUTORS

Leonard Abramson, Janet Allison, Trudy Battely, Doug Bloom, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Charles Breiner, Gene Brown, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Steve Chorvas, Mary Collier, Renee Davis, Brendan Donegan, Dot Fleury, Ken & Carol Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Peregrina Garcia, Sibyll Gilbert, Marge Gorton, Carrie Grey, John Haas, Henry Halama, Ed Hartmann, Dick Hirschman, Dave Janas, Kelli Jewell, Rodney Johnson, David Klauber, Veronika Krause, John Lampkin, Christopher Lyons, Ruth McKeon, Phil Meisner, Deanna Mendels, Barbara & Allan Michelin, Steve Oresman, Drew Panko, Carena Pooth, Sue Rayano, Herb Thompson, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss, John Workman.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, MC - Marshlands Conservancy, NYBW - Bronx-Westchester CBC, NYDC - Dutchess County CBC, NYEO - East Orange County CBC, NYHV - Pawling (Hidden Valley) CBC, NYMT - Monticello CBC, NYPC - Putnam County CBC, NYPE - Peekskill CBC, SGNWR - Shawangunks Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 500 Callicoon 4 Dec; 500 Fishkill 16 Dec.
Canada Goose: 3500 Rudd Pd 5-8 Dec.
Mute Swan: 62 Rockland Lake 15 Jan.
Gadwall: 35 Rockland Lake 15 Jan.
Eurasian Wigeon: EGR 29 Jan, 20 Feb (TBu).
Am. Black Duck: 348 Rio Res 4 Dec.
Canvasback: 800 Staatsburg 15 Jan; 17 EGR 24 Feb.
Redhead: 11 Rockland Lake 2, 5, 15 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: 30 Rudd Pd 2 Dec; 60 Sylvan Lake 5 Dec; 3 Piermont Pier 15 Jan ; 32 Lake Walton 8 Feb.
Greater Scaup: 4000 EGR 12 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: 250 EGR 25 Jan; 500 EGR 18 Feb.
Surf Scoter: 2 EGR 25 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: 2 Rye 26 Dec; EGR 1 Feb.
Long-tailed Duck: 2 Redwing Park, Beekman 3 Dec (B&AM); Lake De Forest 16 Jan (JWo); NYDC 17 Dec; count week NYEO 17 Dec; 60 EGR 23 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: 2000 Bristol Beach
The Kingbird 2006 June; 56 (2)

State Park 15 Jan.

Com. Merganser: 3645 NYHV 1 Jan; 310 Lake Tappan 15 Jan; 510 Lake De Forest 15 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: 500 Piermont Pier 13 Jan.
Wild Turkey: 214 NYDC 17 Dec.
Red-throated Loon: 12 EGR 1 Feb.
Horned Grebe: 6 EGR 2 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 Rye 26 Dec; 2 EGR 30 Dec, 6 Jan; 2 NYHV 1 Jan.
N. Gannet: EGR 5,30 Dec; 3 EGR 31 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: 24 EGR 22 Dec.
Great Egret: EGR 12 Dec (TBu).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: EGR 2 Jan.
Black Vulture: 33 NYPE 17 Dec.
Turkey Vulture: 48 NYPE 17 Dec

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 15 Lake Tappan 5 Jan; 14 Neversink Res 15 Jan; 16 DUTC 16 Jan; 26 Croton to Verplanck 19 Feb.
N. Harrier: 6 SGNWR 9 Jan; 4 SGNWR 28 Jan.
N. Goshawk: Parksville 18 Dec; Pawling 1 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: Narrowsburg 26 Dec; SGNWR 9 Jan; 2 SGNWR 28 Jan.
Golden Eagle: 1-2 Stissing Mtn 23 Dec, 4-27 Jan, 1,6,24 Feb; Town of Northeast 18 Jan.

Am. Kestrel: Jeffersonville 7 Jan.

Merlin: NYRC 18 Dec; 2 NYBW 26 Dec; Dobbs Ferry 25 Jan (BD); Pawling 25 Jan.

Virginia Rail: 2 MC 26 Dec, 6 Jan.

Am. Coot: 34 Rockland Lake 15 Jan; 100 Sylvan L 22 Jan.

Am. Oystercatcher: 3 Mamaroneck 26 Dec (DB).

Purple Sandpiper: Piermont Pier 4 Dec (CW,VK); 25 EGR 10 Dec.

Dunlin: MC 26 Dec (TBu).

Am. Woodcock: Amenia 23-27 Feb; MC 26 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: 8 EGR 27 Dec.

Iceland Gull: Indian Lk, Northeast 5, 6, 8 Dec (DF CV,K&CF); 7 Monticello Landfill 17 Dec; 3 Apollo Plaza, Monticello 24 Dec (LV); Woodbourne 8 Jan (RD); 2 Monticello Landfill 7, 28 Jan (JH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello Landfill 4, 28 Dec, 7,14 Jan (JH); Hyde Park 26 Feb (CV).

Glaucous Gull: Monticello Landfill 10 Dec (JH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: MC 5 Dec; Pawling 1 Jan; 2 CPP 27-29 Jan Red Hook 14 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: 2 SGNWR 9 Jan.

Red-headed Woodpecker: NYPE17 Dec

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: NYEO 17 Dec; EGR 23, 25 Dec (TBu).

N. Shrike: Geiger Road, Cape Pond 7,21,26 Dec; Davis Rd, Bethel 10,12 Dec; Bashakill 12,13 Dec; Monticello 1 Jan; Westbrookville 2 Jan.

Horned Lark: 200 Chester 25 Jan; 100 Stanford 25 Jan.

swallow, sp: New Rochelle 26 Dec (DP, TBa).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 Jan.

Carolina Wren: 26 NYEO 17 Dec; 46 NYRC 18 Dec; 12 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 Jan.

House Wren: NYPE17 Dec.

Marsh Wren: MC 26 Dec.

E. Bluebird: 46 NYMT 28 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: 9 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 Jan; 11 NYEO 17 Dec; 24 NYHV 1 Jan.

Gray Catbird: 2 NYEO 17 Dec; 11 NYRC 18 Dec; 2 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 Jan.

Brown Thrasher: NYPE17 Dec; NYPC2 Jan.

Am. Pipit: Monticello 3 Dec; NYPE17 Dec; NYRC 18 Dec; EGR 25 Dec; Rye 26 Dec; 6 Chester 25 Jan.

WARBLERS

Yellow-breasted Chat: Hasting-on-Hudson 7 Jan (MB,KJ).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 24 Piermont Pier 13 Jan.

Chipping Sparrow: 7 NYRC 18 Dec.

White-throated Sparrow: 200 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 Jan.

White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Sharon Station 6 Dec; 6 NYDC 17 Dec; 5 NYEO 17 Dec; NYRC 18 Dec; Vassar Farm 2 Jan; 3 imm Vassar farm 4 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: Chester 24, 25 Jan (JH).

Snow Bunting: 11 Monticello Landfill 28 Dec (JH); CPP 17 Dec; 5 NYPC2 Jan; 15 SGNWR 9 Jan (JWe).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: at feeder Wappinger Falls 13 Dec (EH,CP); NYRC 18 Dec.

E. Meadowlark: NYPE17 Dec; 3 SGNWR 9,27 Jan.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Thompson Pd 1 Jan, with Red-winged Blackbirds (CV).

Rusty Blackbird: 10 NYDC 17 Dec; NYPE 17 Dec; 44 NYPC2 Jan 13 Amenia 15 Feb.

Com. Redpoll: Claryville 9 Dec; Burlingham 16 Dec; Cape Pond 16 Dec; 3 Livingston Manor 17 Dec; 2 NYPE17

Dec; 36 NYMT 28 Dec; 8 Pawling 1 Jan;
12 Cape Pond 15 Jan; Roscoe 15 Jan; 3
Baryville 15 Jan;
6 Stanford 15,16 Jan; Claryville 23 Jan;
3 Monticello 25,26 Jan; Amenia 1 Feb.
Pine Siskin: Pomona 4-18 Dec; 8 Hazel
10 Dec; 4 NYDC 17 Dec; NYRC 18 Dec;
12 Claryville mid Dec; 4 Pawling 1 Jan;
3 NYPC2 Jan; 4 Thompson pond 4 Jan;
30 Roscoe 15 Jan; Rye 27 Jan; 6 Tomkins
Cove 26 Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: 50 Woodbourne early
Dec.

Evening Grosbeak: 13 Roscoe 4 Dec;
8 Claryville 17 Dec; 67 Neversink
26 Dec; Neversink 7 Jan; 12 Parksvile
8,9 Jan; 9 Barryville 15 Jan.

(914) 237-9331 (home)
E-mail: BochnikM@cs.cp