

REGION 10—MARINE

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This winter featured wild fluctuations in temperature and almost no significant snowfall until the very end of the season; what little we got soon melted and snow shovels barely made it out of the garage. Data for December show a mean temperature of 37°F at Central Park, 0.3° colder than normal. Precipitation totaled 5.22" there, 1.27" more than normal. January's mean temperature at Central Park was 36.5°, 4.4° warmer than normal, with slightly lower values at Islip where 33.8° was 2.9° above average. Chilling temps of 10° at Islip on the 4th and 5th of January quickly climbed to 64° at Islip and Central Park, 65° at JFK, and 66° at LaGuardia on the 9th and 10th. The precipitation total for January was 1.28" below average at 2.85".

Just when it seemed our Region would record its only February on record with no measurable snowfall, we saw 5.5" (Islip) to 6.9" (LaGuardia) on the 22nd-23rd. Precipitation totals recorded for the month were 5.95" at Central Park, 2.80" above normal, and 6.21" at Islip, 2.88" above normal. The mean temperature of 35.8° at Central Park and 34° at Islip, 1.2° and 1.6° warmer than normal, respectively, masked yet another series of record daily high and low temperatures, topping out at 69° at LaGuardia on the 6th, dipping to 11° at Islip on the 11th, and climbing again to 56° at Islip on the 13th and 14th. We ended the month with a low of 12° at Islip, just as the arriving blackbirds and robins had us starting to think spring.

The fall's finch flight continued into the very beginning of the winter period, as three Red Crossbills, a Purple Finch, 15 House Finches, 200 American Goldfinches, and a Pine Siskin flew past the Fire Island Hawkwatch on 1 December. Varying numbers of most species wintered, including many Red and a few White-winged crossbills, many Common Redpolls, and a few Pine Siskins. This year's extraordinary Bohemian Waxwing irruption was felt even here in Region 10, where the species is very rare.

The CBCs featured generally high species counts and good weather, but it was crucial that coastal counts slated for the windy/stormy day of 16 December, were rescheduled! The thicket birding was actually very good over all, despite the inevitable complaints, "there aren't any birds." Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were ubiquitous. The Montauk CBC tallied four species of Tyrannidae, and this staggering tally doesn't even include the count-week **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**

that chose the day before the count for its last appearance. All six of our usual winter warblers were reported, and these were augmented this season by Nashville and Prairie warblers and Northern Waterthrush.

As has been true in most recent winters, geese were very abundant, widely distributed, and diverse. In addition to the three common species, there were multiple reports of four rare species: the fall's Pink-footed Goose at Montauk continued through the period, including the dates when a second bird was found at Stony Brook (!); 16+ Greater White-fronted Geese, several from traditional sites on Staten Island and eastern LI, but most from western LI, an unusual pattern; two Barnacle Geese, one at Sunken Meadow State Park and one continuing at Montauk from fall; and the now customary handful of "Richardson's" Cackling Geese. Although skepticism is always warranted when considering the natural status of waterfowl, gamebirds, and other species frequently kept in captivity (an attitude that should also be extended, by the way, to potentially feral individuals of common, naturally occurring species), skepticism must not be used as an excuse to ignore facts. New York's own Dominic Sherony recently published an article in which he analyzed a burgeoning body of data on the patterns of occurrence for each of these four geese in northeastern North America through 2004 (Greenland Geese in North America, *Birding* 40: 46-56). His carefully reasoned conclusions, that patterns of natural vagrancy exist for each of these taxa, have only been strengthened by the data accruing since 2005. To our knowledge, none of this winter's unusual geese from Region 10 showed evidence of prior captivity. Scoters were numerous and widespread, especially Black, with tens of thousands at multiple sites. Many King Eiders were recorded, and numbers of both scaup were high. Tallies of at least eight Eurasian Wigeon and five "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** were healthy.

A Ruffed Grouse flushed by hunters in the central eastern LI pine barrens adds to a handful of credible reports of this once common species, now nearly extirpated from LI. A detailed description or photo verifying the continued existence of this species in our Region would be most welcome.

Reports of Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagle continue to run high on LI, where until recently both were rare. It was a good year for Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike in Region 10, and three-four Short-eared Owls wintering at the former Grumman property in Calverton literally became poster birds for a movement to protect this precious grassland from development.

Black-headed Gulls were reported more often than the recent norm. Alcids were well reported, with an astonishing **22 Atlantic Puffins** as early as 2 December on a Freeport pelagic trip. The revelation that this species occurs regularly in late winter over Region 10's deep pelagic waters dates back as recently as the mid 1990s, and no early winter counts remotely approaching this have accrued since then. A new state max of **49 Common Murres** on the 3 February pelagic out of Freeport is very impressive, but perhaps less surprising, in view of the dramatic increase in abundance/awareness of this species over

shallower pelagic waters south of Block Island and Long Island (see Kingbird 56, p. 178). From the 'how lucky can you get?' department, Richard Kaskan found a Black Guillemot at Montauk, then found another a month later at Shinnecock Inlet with Pat Jones. One reported at least ten miles offshore on the 3 February pelagic was in an unusual habitat for our Region.

Widespread reports of dead birds on Staten Island 21-24 December made the news. Some of the ca. 50 birds found dead on 21 December were misidentified by the media as Purple Martins! Alert birders recognized these as Common Grackles, proving the old adage, *never underestimate people's capacity to misidentify wildlife*. It was later determined that these, as well as seven European Starlings found dead on 24 December, were victims of the banned toxin Avitrol.

Region 10's many winter rarities included continuing **Pink-footed** and **Barnacle geese** at Montauk (with new-found individuals of each elsewhere in the Region), **Yellow Rail**, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, no fewer than **four Ash-throated Flycatchers**, **Least Flycatcher**, multiple Western Kingbirds, **Bohemian Waxwing**, **Townsend's Solitaire**, and New York's first **Scott's Oriole**.

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ABBREVIATIONS

1W – 1st winter plumage; 1Y – 1st year plumage; Avalon Pres – Stony Brook SUFF; BBG – Brooklyn Botanical Garden KING; BCA – Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF; BH – Bridgehampton SUFF; BLSP – Belmont L SP SUFF; BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach T Babylon SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP SUFF; CHP – Conference House P RICH; CP – Central P NEWY; CRRSPP -- Connetquot R SP Pres SUFF; DH – Deep Hollow Ranch and vicinity, Mtk SUFF; DitchPl – Ditch Plains, Mtk; DOP – Dreier Offerman P KINGS; DP – Democrat Pt SUFF; EH – T East Hampton SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field KING; FT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton SUFF; HSP – Heckscher SP SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge QUEE/KING; JBSP – Jones Beach SP NASS; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End NASS; Jones In – NASS; LI – Long Island; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet SUFF; migr – migrant, migrating; MLUA – Mount Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP – Montauk Pt SUFF; Mtk – Montauk, T EH SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area NASS; OP – Orient Pt SUFF; PBP – Pelham Bay P BRON; PL – Pt Lookout NASS; PP – Prospect Park KING; QW – Quogue-Watermill SUFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP SUFF; Sag – Sagaponack SUFF; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd SUFF; SCC -- St Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale SUFF ShI – Shelter I SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock In SUFF; SI – Staten I RICH; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP SUFF; ; SMCP – Smith's Pt CP SUFF; VCP – Van Cortland P BRON; WPP – Wolfe's Pd P RICH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Mtk thru 20 Feb, from fall; Stony Brook Mill Pd SUFF 3 Feb thru (SSat, mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: ad Maratooka L, SUFF 28 Nov (PG); St. John's Pd, Cold Spring Harbor NASS 8 Dec (DK); Silver L, RICH and vicinity 16 Dec thru; SCC 27-28 Dec (MC); 2 SNCBC 30 Dec; Massapequa L and vicinity, NASS 5 Jan; Valley Stream 18 Jan thru (RJK, mob); Hook Pd, EH 20 Jan (BBo); 6 Lido Beach NASS 23 Jan, discrete flock with no

Canadas (RKe), see p. 103; 2 Riverhead SUFF 14 Feb (J&GF); SMSP 16 Feb (fide ABI).

Snow Goose: ad DH from fall, last reported 10 Feb; max 528 Jam Bay 15 Dec (DG); 22 Shorts Pd, BH 12 Jan; SMSP 27 Dec-10 Jan; blue forms Lido Beach 28 Dec & JBWE 12 Jan.

Brant: imm DH thru 24 Feb; 6000 Jam Bay 9 Dec (KM); 5400 PL 15 Jan (SBil); 5000 Gilgo SUFF 24 Feb (BBo); 3000 Marine P KING (RB); max 42,338 SN CBC 30 Dec.

BARNACLE GOOSE: DH and other sites in Mtk thru; SMSP 7-8 Jan (S&MB; SStu), 31 Jan (NK).

“Richardson’s” Cackling Goose: Jam Bay 15 Dec; Calverton SUFF 23 Dec (AnW); Shorts Pd, Bridghampton SUFF 6-29 Jan (TWB, GB, mob); Cutchoffe SUFF 16 Jan (SBil); Mattituck SUFF 16 Jan (SBil); Riverhead SUFF 10 Feb (TWB, GB).

Tundra Swan: 2 Hook Pd, EH, from fall, last reported 16 Feb; ad St. John’s Pd, ad Cold Spring Harbor NASS 8-12 Dec (BBo, mob).

Wood Duck: max 30 BLSP 6 Jan (MC, RG), an exceptional number for winter; 12 Shu Swamp NASS 19 Jan (BBo); small numbers wintered widely.

Gadwall: max 280 CRSP 28 Dec.

Eurasian Wigeon: Little Reed Pd, Mtk 4-6 Dec (DK, BM *et al*), unus loc; Cooper’s Neck Pd SUFF 8 Dec (SA); Greenwood Cem KING 27 Dec; Loft Pd NASS & 2 Massapequa L NASS 30 Dec, 1-3 here thru 12 Feb); Sunset P KING 28 Jan; Setauket Harbor SUFF 15 Feb (BY).

Am. Wigeon: max 387 Setauket Harbor SUFF 15 Jan (BY).

Am. Black Duck: max 433 Millburn Pd SUFF 5 Jan (S. Schelleger).

Mallard: max 523 Marine P KING 23 Jan (RB).

Blue-winged Teal: Accabonac SUFF 15 Dec (BRu, KRu).

N. Shoveler: max 600 PP 2 Dec.

N. Pintail: small numbers widely reported thru; 1-2 cont on farm pond DH thru, scarcer east.

Green-winged Teal: max 503 SNCBC 30 Dec.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10): Norman Levy P NASS 29 Dec (SA); Tobay NASS 30 Dec (TBr *et al*); Capri Pd, T Islip, SUFF 1 Jan (PJL, SM); Mass 21 Jan (JO *et al*), second ind here 12 Feb (ECO), 1-2 thru 25 Feb.

“Brewster’s Duck” (Mallard x Gadwall hybrid): WPP 15 Jan thru (fide Swo).

Canvasback: max 100 St. John’s Pd NASS 14 Jan; 37 Fort Pd, Mtk 8 Dec (AnW *et al*).

Redhead: max 90 Capri Pd, T Islip, SUFF, 1 Jan into Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: max 127 CRSP 28 Dec.

Greater Scaup: 89 DP 28 Dec (DS, SSM), migr; 5000 Dyker Beach KING 22 Jan; 5000 Jam Bay 24 Feb; 2000 BP 18 Dec;

2000 FT 2 Jan; 2000 GKP 5 Jan; 1000 JBSP 14 Jan (JGi); max est 25200 Gravesend Bay KINGS 12 Feb (SBI).

Lesser Scaup: 17 DP 28 Dec (DS, SSM), migr; 1000 Jam Bay 17 Feb; max est 2800 Gravesend Bay KINGS 12 Feb (SBI).

King Eider: at least 10 Mtk (2 ad m, 1 imm m, and one f MP and 5 imm males and 3 f DitchPl, on various dates); imm m JBWE 25 Dec; imm m Bayville NASS 1 Jan thru (TWB, GB, mob).

Com. Eider: est 10000 MP 8 Dec (AnW); 5000 off Mtk village 30 Dec (AnW); 25 Jones In 18 Dec; max 15000 MP 5 Jan (SBil); 10 Shinn 12 Jan; also sm numbers OP, Bayville NASS, DOP.

Harlequin Duck: PL/Jones In: f & imm m 1 Dec, first rep, 1-4 inds (f & 3 m) reported thru 8 Feb; DitchPl: m & 2 f 8 Dec, first rep (AnW *et al*), 3-5 rep thru 19 Jan; other locs: 2 Rockaway QUEE 15 Dec; m MP 30 Dec (MM); m CB SUFF 26 Feb (K&SF).

Surf Scoter: 2000 DP 28 Dec; est 500 JBSP 14 Jan (JGi); est 10000 MP 19 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: est 20000 MP 30 Dec (AnW); 100 DP 28 Dec; est 10000 MP 5 Jan (SSM, PJL).

Black Scoter: 10000 DP 28 Dec (DS, SSM); 2000 MP 19 Jan; est 15000 JBSP 14 Jan (JGi); 10000 MP 9 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 3000+ FT 17 Dec (BC, EL), 3000 DP 28 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 426 Jam Bay 15 Dec (DG).

Com. Goldeneye: 15 MB 6 Dec (SBia), first report; max 150 Southampton SUFF 5 Jan (SBil), 120 GKP 9 Feb (HF).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m Bayville/Centre Is NASS 8 Dec thru, presumably same bird returning annually since at least 1999; f E Marion SUFF 30 Dec intermittently seen thru 3 Feb (AJL), returning for its 3rd winter here.

Hooded Merganser: 5 “well out to sea” on pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); max 288 Millburn Pd NASS 5 Jan (StSch), 130 Halsey Neck Pd, T Southampton SUFF 8 Dec (HM).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 500 BP 18 Dec (DG); 150 JBWE 24 Dec (MA); 150 Jam Bay 17 Feb.

Com. Merganser: 34 Shinn 8 Jan (BY); 30 SMSP 27 Dec (JGi); 29 Hook Pd, EH 13 Jan; max 75 Blydenburgh SP SUFF 24 Feb (GQ); smaller numbers sparsely but widely reported from lakes and ponds in Reg.

Ruddy Duck: max 500 Jam Bay 12 Jan; 340 CP 3 Feb (KM).

Ring-necked Pheasant: declining, but reported on several LI CBCs; max 8 SI CBC 15 Dec.

RUFFED GROUSE (R10): bird flushed by hunters Samoff Pres, E Quogue SUFF 18 Jan (fide DH), details desired; *intro*.

Wild Turkey: reported from e SUFF where increasing: Wainscott (29), Grumman (5), and Mtk (11); 106 SI CBC 15 Dec; Battery P, NEWY 13 Jan (KM).

N. Bobwhite: 3 Orient CBC 29 Dec, only report.

Red-throated Loon: min total est 370 MB to Wainscott SUFF 8-9 Dec (AnW) and est 1360 Hither Hills to Camp Hero, Mtk 30 Dec (AnW); 364 Sagg to Amagansett SUFF 13 Jan (AnW, KRu, BRu); 100+ Sagg 26 Jan (BC); 60+ SMCP 24 Jan (CS); 34 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

Com. Loon: 525 Hither Hills to Camp Hero, Mtk 30 Dec (AnW); 88 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

Pied-billed Grebe: widely reported this winter inc max 8 CRSPP 28 Dec.

Horned Grebe: present in low numbers from shore points; max 82 Jam Bay 15 Dec (DG).

Red-necked Grebe: MP 6 Dec (SBl), first of many widespread reports; max 4 Culloden Pt, Mtk 30 Dec (AnW).

Eared Grebe: City Is BRON 23 Dec (SWa).

N. Fulmar: 12 (1 dm) Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 18+ Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

N. Gannet: 250 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 2100 Queens CBC 15 Dec; 110 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

Great Cormorant: max 18 FBF 15 Dec (RB).

Am. Bittern: 1-3 Dune Rd SUFF 1 Dec thru; 7 SN CBC 30 Dec; a few reported from e LI CBCs.

Great Blue Heron: max 12 Jam Bay 12 Jan; 11 Lane Is, Shinnecock SUFF 5 Jan (JGl *et al*).

Great Egret: multiple and widespread reports early but scarce after Jan.

Snowy Egret: MB 13 Jan (DA, SH); poss same ind Watermill SUFF 20 Jan (BBo).

Little Blue Heron: JBSP on SN CBC 30 Dec.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 25 Caymans Pd NASS 5 Jan.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: N Nassau CBC 22 Dec.

Turkey Vulture: increasing; about a dozen reports preceding start of migr late Feb, from Manhattan, SI, and e LI.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: late or wintering birds inc: CRSPP 2 Dec (KF); 2 BCA 9 Dec (KF); BCA 23 Dec (JGl); Leeds Pd, Port Washington NASS early Dec; DH 15 Dec; E Marion SUFF 6 Feb (TM), possible early arrival.

Bald Eagle: ca.10 reports various ages 15 Dec-15 Feb from BRON, SI, QUEE, and e LI.

N. Harrier: wintered in usual numbers at grasslands and marshes, notably at Grumman.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: wintered in small numbers throughout Reg.

Cooper's Hawk: increasingly common throughout Reg, e.g. 13 Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec; 14 SN CBC 30 Dec.

N. Goshawk: 12 reports thru from NEWY, BRON, RICH, KING, and SUFF, more than usual.

Red-shouldered Hawk: ad WPP 1 Dec (HF); imm CP 3 Dec (TF); Northville SUFF 12-13 Dec & 29 Jan (MLL); ad CP 21 Dec (PPos); N Nass CBC 22 Dec; ad Westmoreland Tree Farm SUFF 29 Jan (NH).

Rough-legged Hawk: around 20 reports involving up to 32 birds from NEWY, BRON, KING, QUEE, NASS, and e SUFF; notable were: CP 4 Dec (TF, LK ph), unus loc; 4 Mtk CBC 15 Dec; up to 3 Grumman 23 Dec thru; 3 (2 dm, 1 lm) Sag 18 Dec (J&GF, PjL).

Am. Kestrel: wintered widely but sparsely throughout Reg, notably at Grumman thru.

Merlin: wintered widely, e.g. 5 Montuak CBC 15 Dec; 9 SNCBC 30 Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: wintered widely throughout Reg; 9 reports from NEWY involving up to 13 inds is more than usual from this area.

YELLOW RAIL: Oak Beach Marsh SUFF, Captree CBC 28 Dec (K&SF), astonishing threepeat!

Clapper Rail: OMNSA count week SN CBC 30 Dec, only report.

Am. Coot: max 144 Roe Blvd, Patchogue SUFF 6 Dec (BY).

Black-bellied Plover: max 102 JBWE 20 Feb; 80 Shinn 23 Feb.

Semipalmated Plover: multiple reports for this normally rare winterer: near Shinn 8 Dec (SA, GH), 2 Hubbard Creek CP SUFF QW CBC 15 Dec; 2 Fresh Kills SI CBC15 Dec; 2 SN CBC 30 Dec.

Killdeer: generally small numbers from CBCs; max 21 SI CBC 15 Dec.

Am. Oystercatcher: up to 26 JBWE 14 Dec-14 Jan.

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 QW CBC 15 Dec; 2 SMSF 27 Dec (JGI); Smithtown CBC 27 Dec; Orient CBC 29 Dec; Three Mile Harbor, EH 6 Jan; 3 E Quogue 26 Jan (OB); 1 Mass 27 Jan thru.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 Accabonac Harbor Mtk CBC 15 Dec (PPol, BPf); Goethels Bridge Pd SI CBC 15 Dec; Loop Pkwy SN CBC 30 Dec.

Willet: E Quogue SUFF 15 Dec, 10 Jan; JBWE 22 Dec-3 Feb.

Spotted Sandpiper: Orient CBC at Greenport 29 Dec (JBrSr, JBrJr).

Ruddy Turnstone: 64 SN CBC 30 Dec, new max for count.

Red Knot: 13 Oak Beach 1 Dec; 4 PL 29 Dec.

Sanderling: max 400 PL 24 Dec (MA).

Western Sandpiper: Lido Beach NASS 17 Jan (StSch).

"peep" sp.: SN CBC 30 Dec (SBI).

Dunlin: max 1000 PL 8 Jan (DG).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 10 Mass 30 Dec, at least 7 lingered thru.

Wilson's Snipe: max 7 Mass 9 Feb.

Am. Woodcock: sm numbers from CBCs, max 4 SI CBC.

Pomarine Jaeger: Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*).

Laughing Gull: 26 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); CP to 4 Dec (TF); 2 MP 12 Dec (VB); Three Mile Harbor EH 16 Dec (BPf), all late; Smithtown CBC 27 Dec & Southold 29 Dec, very late.

Little Gull: imm Mtk CBC 15 Dec (HM, BPf); Sag CBC 16 Dec; ad Jones In 22-24 Dec (ECo, mob); 1W JBWE 25 Dec (DG, JP) & PL 26, 28 Dec; ad Gilgo 23, 24, 27 Feb (SSM *et al*).

Black-headed Gull: 1W L Mtk Inlet 7-15 Dec (TWB, GB, mob); ad PL 21-22 Dec & JBWE 24 Dec (DG, mob); 1W SMSF 27 Dec-18 Jan, 11 Feb (JGL, mob); Jones In 30 Dec; imm PL 5, 13 & 15 Jan (K&SF, mob); ad Reynold's Channel, Long Beach NASS

13 Jan (R.Kelly); 1W JBSP 14 Jan (J&GF); 1W Watermill SUFF 21 Jan (RKR); ad Shinn 30 Jan (ABa); ad Aquebogue 10 Feb (ABa); ad Malibu Beach NASS 14-15 Feb (K&SF, mob); 1W JBSP 17 Feb (SA); 1W Gilgo 24 Feb (TWB *et al*).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 750-1000 Jones In-Meadowbrook Pkwy Bridge 14 Dec (KF); 800 Malibu Beach NASS 26 Dec (RJ), most likely same group; many by recent years' standard; 200-300 Malibu Beach NASS east to Gilgo thru end Feb.

Ring-billed Gull: max 800 Belt Pkwy KING 29 Dec.

Herring Gull: 1200 PL 24 Dec (MA).

THAYER'S GULL: gull thought to be this spec found PL 19 Jan (SA) and poss seen by SSM and PJL later, could not be relocated later for confirmation.

Iceland Gull: 27 reports involving perhaps 32 inds 2 Dec- 27 Feb, inc: 2 imm Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); ad Shinn 22 Dec-17 Feb, unmarked ind has returned here for many winters; 2 1W PL 15 Jan; 3 ads, one 1W Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: numerous widespread reports thru involving at least 39 inds inc: 3 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 3 1W, 2 2W, 3 3W, 2 ads Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

Glaucous Gull: Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec; 1Y Shinn 23 Dec; imm JBSP6 1 Jan (MBo, KJ); 1Y Argyle L, Babylon SUFF (MC, RG); imm Shinn 27-29 Jan; 1Y MP 28 Jan (VB); MI 29 Jan; 2 (ad, 1W) Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*), last.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 60 Silver L SI 1 Jan (CB).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 90 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); ad L Mtk In 8 Dec (AnW) & 15 Dec (PJL, AGu); 2 MP 15 Dec; ad MP 27 Dec (DS, SSM, PJL); 9 ads Mtk s shore 30 Dec (AnW); ad MP 15 Jan (DF); ad MP 29 Jan (PJL, SSM); MP 2 & 3 Feb; 66+ Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*); 7 MP and 6 DitchPl, all ads, 9 Feb (PJL, SSM).

"Nelson's" Gull (Glaucous x Herring hybrid): 1-2 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

Forster's Tern: SN CBC 30 Dec, very late.

Dovekie: 316 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); MB Sag CBC 16 Dec (RV, TWB, GB); Jones In 24 Dec; Culloden Pt, Mtk 12 Jan (SA, GH); dead bird found at Shinn 13

Jan (BA, CS); MP 19 Jan (PJJ); 106 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

COMMON MURRE: 49 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*), new NYS max; see KB 56: 177-185.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: DitchPl 19 Jan (SSM); Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*); Shinn 17 Feb.

Razorbill: generally low numbers all season except major influx of 286 Mtk s shore & Culloden Pt 30 Dec (AnW) & single site max 130 MP 15 Jan (DF); 2 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 96 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*); other sites inc Shinn, EH, OP, Jones In, Gilgo SUFF, Gravesend Bay KING.

Black Guillemot: MP 2 Dec (RKA); Shinn 21-23 Dec (PJ, RKA, mob); MP 19 Jan (VB); Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*), unusually far from shore at >10 mi.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: 22 Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 10 Freeport pelagic 3 Feb (PGu *et al*).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 300 Sag 18 Dec.

Monk Parakeet: 2 in nest Hampton Bays SUFF last seen alive 10 Jan, then found dead, presumed electrocuted in storm; sev reports Manhattan upper w side mid Jan, new loc?

Barn Owl: SI CBC15 Dec; SN CBC30 Dec; Shinn 5 Jan (EL, SBil).

Great Horned Owl: 2 SN CBC at HLSP 30 Dec, prob new nest loc?

Snowy Owl: BP 8 Dec; Glen Cove NASS yard 16 Dec; Centre I NASS 22 Dec; Shinn 29 Dec-19 Feb (JCIJr, JCISr, mob); Eaton's Neck, Northport SUFF late Dec-21 Jan; JBWE 8 Jan (DG); SPCP 16 Jan; Napeague SUFF 23 Jan (CS, ES).

Long-eared Owl: 2 wintered JBWE, remains of one found 17 Jan; 2 wintered CP; Peconic SUFF 4 Jan (KH); at least 4 wintered PBP.

Short-eared Owl: 3-4 wintered Grumman thru; BP 18 Dec (DG); JBWE 19 Dec (PPos); 4 Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec; Shinn 5 Jan-thru; SPCP 24 Jan (CS); CCP 23 Feb (AK).

N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWE early Dec - 27 Jan; dead on road Georgica Pd SUFF 9 Dec (HM); DH 15 Dec (PJJ, SSM); overlook near DH 26 Jan (DP, TBa); dead on road Riverhead SUFF 10 Feb (SSM); 14 PBP, 13

of these banded 28 Dec-28 Feb (DP, TBa, LF *et al*); Grumman 16 Feb (DP, TBa); also reported from FT.

selasphorus sp: St. John's Cemetery, Oyster Bay N NASS CBC 22 Dec, details desired.

Belted Kingfisher: max 32 Central Suffolk CBC 22 Dec..

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numerous and widespread reports of wintering birds thru; 14 Smithtown CBC 27 Dec; sap wells of famous ind at Union Sq NEWY may have attracted Scott's Oriole; this bird remained til mid Feb.

N. Flicker: max 20 Oak Beach SUFF 21 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Least Flycatcher: Mtk CBC Amagansett 15 Dec (Bpf, HM, AnW, ph).

E. Phoebe: DH 1 Dec (HM), prob same bird lingered to at least 15 Dec (SSM); SI CBC 15 Dec; N NASS CBC 22 Dec; Grumman 21 Jan (RKR), prob same bird here 31 Jan.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Jam Bay thru 1-2 Dec; DOP 1 Dec (TP *et al*); Rita's Horse Farm, Mtk 4-7 Dec (PJJ), 15 Dec (BBE), from fall; Brooklyn CBC Marine P 15 Dec.

Western Kingbird: DH thru 1 Dec, 11-15 Dec; Brooklyn CBC Bergen Beach 15 Dec (RC, J&AZ, ph).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: imm Mtk 3-14 Dec (DF, JW, NH, mob!).

N. Shrike: many: Dune Rd e of MB 9 Dec (AnW), impaled and fed on m Downy Woodpecker, see pp. 104; 2 Acabonac EH 15 Dec; QW CBC 15 Dec; 3 N NASS CBC 22 Dec; ad Grumman 23-24 Dec (AnW, mob); SMSP 26-27 Dec (K&SF, mob); SN CBC Loop Pkwy 30 Dec (DF); imm Napeague SUFF 30 Dec-23 Jan (AnW, mob); MLUA 8 Jan thru (TF, mob); Cutchogue SUFF 27 Jan (PJJ); E Lake Dr, Mtk 9 Feb (J&GF, mob); Rt 51 Eastport SUFF 10 Feb (CS, SS; ABA).

White-eyed Vireo: DOP 1 Dec (TP), late.

Fish Crow: max 14 Jam Bay 15 Dec (DG).

Horned Lark: 82 SCC 4 Jan; 62 FBF 10 Jan; 100 Sep's Farm SUFF 1 Feb; smaller flocks noted along beaches thru.

Tree Swallow: max 119 GKP 19 Jan (HF, ECa); small numbers noted Captree I SUFF in Dec & JBSP thru early Feb; 10 or so wintered along Ocean Pkwy near CB thru.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 22 CRSPP 28 Dec.

House Wren: N Nassau CBC 22 Dec; Orient CBC Jessup's Neck 29 Dec; SN CBC 30 Dec; Avalon Pres 8 Jan (SBil).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 19 CRSPP 28 Dec.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 17 SN CBC 30 Dec, new max for count; 11 SI CBC 15 Dec; a few lingered at VCP, CP, PP, JBWE, CRSSP, SI into Jan, last SHI 26 Jan.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Napeague SUFF 1 Dec (LB, BN), late.

E. Bluebird: max 20 Springs, EH 22 Dec (KRu, BRu).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Oak Beach SUFF 20 Dec-17 Feb at least (KT, mob!).

Hermit Thrush: most numerous on e LI CBCs, e.g., 28 Mtk CBC 15 Dec.

Am. Robin: max single site 300 E Lake Dr, Mtk 15 Jan (DF); spring movements noted 2nd week Feb.

Am. Pipit: "well offshore" Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); max 63 Horsemill La BH 16 Dec; 62 Mecox Rd BH 5 Jan; other scattered inds and small flocks wintered mostly e LI; last report DH 2 Feb.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R10): 3 Sag CBC 16 Dec (AnW, AGu); 2 JBWE 18 Dec (K&SF); 2 Oak Beach 21 Dec (SBil *et al*); 6 Oak Beach 22 Dec (AGi); BG 22 Dec (DG); 2 Sands Pt Pres, Pt Washington SUFF 22 Dec (GQ) & one here 24 Dec (JR, GS).

Cedar Waxwing: widely reported inc: 81 Daniels La BH 9 Dec (AnW); 100 PP 26 Dec; 125 Sands Pt Pres SUFF 22 Dec (GQ); max 150 SMSP 27 Dec (JGI).

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: Dune Rd e Mecox 9 Dec-15 Jan (AnW); Mtk 15 Dec (SSM); QW CBC 15 Dec; BP 18 Dec; Tobay 20 Dec (PJL); DOP 25 Dec (AxW); JBWE 26-30 Dec; Orient CBC 29 Dec; Shinn 17 Jan (SBil *et al*); OMNSA 18 Jan (PJL); Gin Beach MTK 23 Jan (K&SF); Lemon Creek P, RICH 15 Feb (Swo, EJ).

Nashville Warbler: CP 8 Dec, late

Yellow-rumped Warbler: highest CBC count 926 SN CBC.

Pine Warbler: Napeague SUFF 15 Dec (LB); Georgica SUFF 16 Dec (RMCG); 2 E Quogue 22 Dec (OB); PP 22 Dec (DG); SI 27 Feb (CN).

Prairie Warbler: OPSP 29 Dec (SBia, CG).

Palm Warbler: *palmarum* DH 15 Dec; *hypochrysea* Mtk 15 Dec (PJL); 2 Sag 18 Dec (JF); *palmarum* OMNSA 30 Dec, 18 Jan.

N. Waterthrush: CP 17 Dec; prob same bird CP Zoo 31 Dec-20 Jan, late.

Com. Yellowthroat: N NASS CBC 22 Dec; Spuyten Duyvil BRON 23 Dec; Mass 30 Dec; w side Manhattan NEWY 22 Jan.

Yellow-breasted Chat: many: PP 5 Dec-16 Jan (AxW); Jam Bay 14 Dec; Mtk 14 Dec; 2 Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec; QW CBC 15 Dec; 2 Sag CBC 16 Dec; BH 16-17 Dec; BBG 21 Dec; SHI 29 Dec; Avalon Pres 8 Jan-7 Feb; CP 19 Jan-12 Feb; E Quogue SUFF 21-31 Jan; Oak Beach SUFF 30 Jan.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: good numbers wintered, e.g., 45 Mtk CBC 15 Dec.

Chipping Sparrow: CP 12 Dec (PPos); 8 Mtk CBC 15 Dec; Sag CBC 16 Dec; Woodlawn Cem BRON 23 Dec; 11 SN CBC 30 Dec.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec.

Vesper Sparrow: Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec; 2 Calverton SUFF 3 Feb.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Calverton 16 Feb (BF).

"Ipswich" Sparrow: CB 6 Dec (K&SF); Gin Beach, Mtk 12 Dec (VB); Sag CBC 16 Dec; 2 PL 21 Dec (DG); 2 Shinn 5 Jan (JGI); SHI 29 Dec; e side Jones In 16 Feb (MM); Gilgo 23 Feb (SSM, PJL).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 *subvirgatus* OMNSA 30 Dec (SDA, PJL, SSM, B&MMcB), first for SN CBC.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Montauk CBC 15 Dec (AnW).

Fox Sparrow: "well offshore" Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 30 Sag CBC 16 Dec.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Dam Pond Pres, E Marion SUFF 16 Feb (BC).

White-throated Sparrow: "well offshore" Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*).

White-crowned Sparrow: max 9 Cook's La BH 16 Dec, among 47 found on Sag CBC; 29 Orient CBC 29 Dec; 1-3 reported from other locs and CBCs in Dec; no Jan or Feb reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: "well offshore" Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*).

Lapland Longspur: DH 15 Dec (TWB); Sag CBC 16 Dec (RV, TWB); BP 18 Dec (DG); 2 VCP 23 Dec; Malibu Beach NASS 26 Dec (RJ).

Snow Bunting: total 500 SN CBC 30 Dec, new max for count; max single flock 300 JBSP 8 Jan (DG); 200 BP 22 Dec; flocks of 40-50 thru from Jacob Riis P QUEE, VCP, CB, Tiana Beach SUFF, Napeague SUFF, DH.

Indigo Bunting: f plum Scuttlehole, Bridgehampton 14 Dec (DF), rare in winter.

Red-winged Blackbird: "well offshore" Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); small flocks wintered throughout Reg.

E. Meadowlark: max 50 Wertheim NWR SUFF 20 Feb; max 50 Grumman 17 Dec (J&GF), wintered thru; 4 Brooklyn CBC 15 Dec; 4 Captree I SUFF 25 Dec (KF); 12 Orient CBC 29 Dec; 2 Rt 51 SUFF 12 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: small numbers widely reported thru; max 15 VCP 22 Feb; 14 PP 22 Feb (CF).

Com. Grackle: ca. 50 birds poisoned by banned toxin Great Kills SI 21 Dec, misidentified in news reports, were mostly this spec; 75,000-100,000 Northville SUFF 21 Dec (PJL); 50,000 Baiting Hollow SUFF 15 Jan (PJL); 2000+ Hylan Blvd SI 8 Jan (HF), 1000+ VCP 20 Jan (YG) & 1000+ CP during Feb (TF), many for metro area.

Boat-tailed Grackle: up to 27 Shinn thru; 65 SN CBC 30 Dec.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 200 BFB 2 Jan (DG); "thousands" Baiting Hollow 15 Jan (PJL).

Baltimore Oriole: CB 6 Dec (K&SF); imm, ad CP 7, 30 Dec; CHP 14-15 Dec (RV); f Stony Brook SUFF feeder 17 Dec; PBP 23 Dec; imm SMSP 31 Dec (JGI);

Westhampton SUFF 5 Jan (HB); PP 6-19 Jan (RJ).

SCOTT'S ORIOLE: Union Square P NEWY early Dec-8 Feb, 19-21 Feb (AD, mob), then remained mostly undetected in Lower Manhattan thru. Not properly identified until 23 Jan.

Purple Finch: RMSP 1 Dec, still migr; wintered in small numbers widely; notable was single loc max 23 Paumanoke Path, Amagansett SUFF 21 Dec (KRu, BRu); 36 Mtk CBC 15 Dec.

House Finch: 15 RMSP 1 Dec, continuation of fall migr.

Red Crossbill: 3 still migr RMSP 1 Dec (SSM, PJL); 8-40 DH 1 Dec-end Jan, cont from fall; 16 CB SUFF 6 Dec; 5 HSP 9 Dec (KF); 9 EH 6 Dec; 26 Georgica SUFF 9 Dec (HM); 74 Mtk CBC 15 Dec (inc. DH flock); 19 QW CBC 15 Dec; Queens CBC 15 Dec; DP Captree CBC 28 Dec (PJL); 32 SN CBC 30 Dec; 20 Dune Rd e Mecox 12 Jan (K&SF); 9 EH 6 Feb (HM); 19 Dune Rd near Shinn 10 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: Amagansett SUFF 5 Jan (RW); f ShI 29 Jan (NH) and f 10, 16 Feb ShI (OB), prob same ind.

Com. Redpoll: dozens of widespread reports throughout Reg thru; notable were: 2 landed on boat well offshore Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*); 44 total SN CBC 30 Dec; 50 Dune Rd near Shinn 5, 17 Jan; max 75+ Goethels Bridge Pd RICH 13 Jan; 40-50 Avalon Pres 9 Feb (JGI).

Pine Siskin: widespread reports in small numbers; RMSP 1 Dec, still migr; max 20 CRSSP mid Dec thru; 21 Orient CBC 29 Dec.

Am. Goldfinch: 200 RMSP 1 Dec, still migr; "well offshore" Freeport pelagic 2 Dec (PGu *et al*).

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