

REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

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The season started out cold. The first week of December saw temperatures dip into the teens. Temperatures moderated for mid month. A Nor'easter, mainly a mix of sleet and rain, on the 16th made the Greenwich CBC switch to a day earlier, making coverage for some of the first Saturday counts a little leaner. High winds continued until the 17th. The last week of the month had temperatures 10° above normal. Precipitation was slightly below normal with very little snow. Poughkeepsie did see eight to twelve inches on the 13th, with lower Westchester seeing mainly sleet. January was dry and warm, resulting in no appreciable snow. Precipitation was less than half of normal, and temperatures ran 4.5° to 6.3° warmer than average. February saw precipitation well above normal. White Plains came in with 6.5" and Poughkeepsie 7.5". Temperatures were slightly above normal, and the only real snow for White Plains for the entire season fell on 21-22 Feb.

The story of the season was rare visitors from the north, noteworthy mainly due to their accommodating behavior to so many birders for most of the season. It started in early December, when Sullivan County hosted two Bohemian Waxwings in Liberty, with flocks of Pine Grosbeaks in Liberty, Neversink, and Grahamsville, and Evening Grosbeaks in Parksville. There were also many Common Redpolls Regionwide. Most of the birds stayed well into January and even February. To add to birders' excitement, there was a very accommodating Hoary Redpoll at Curt McDermott's feeder in Montgomery found on 24 December. It stayed through the period. Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, and even Hoary Redpolls were reported from a few other areas as well. There was also a White-winged Crossbill in Wurtsboro on 5 December.

As usual, the CBCs had many highlights. Most of the counts broke or tied their record numbers of species. Many had high numbers of Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and American Robin.

The 15 December Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir CBC (NYML) recorded a record 79 species. Large bodies of water remained open. The highlight was a probable **Brewer's Blackbird** found by Steve Chorvas and Jackie Bogardus. Other highlights included Northern Shrike, three Rough-legged Hawks, four Chipping Sparrows, eight White-crowned Sparrows, 120 Snow Buntings, four Rusty Blackbirds, 50 Common Redpolls, and three Pine Siskins. Numbers of Black and Turkey vultures were both down considerably in comparison with recent years. The male Brewer's Blackbird was observed again by Steve Chorvas near a compost pile at the end of Fording Place Road in Lomontville, Town of Marbletown, on 30 December.

The East Orange CBC held December 15 tallied 88 species, with highlights including a Snow Goose, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and high counts of 26 Northern Harrier, five Rough-legged Hawk, eight Short-eared Owl, 124 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14 Yellow bellied Sapsucker, and 1405 American Robin.

The December 22 Dutchess County CBC set a new record of 84 species, surpassing the old mark of 79. New species included a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Other highlights included House Wren, Gray Catbird, Snow Goose, 61 redpolls, 1264 American Robin, 20 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 86 Red-bellied Woodpecker.

The Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count held Sunday December 23, 2007, found a record 126 species on a very wet, miserable day. Highlights from the Westchester half of the count were many and included two Eurasian Wigeon. In the sound off Rye, all three species of scoter were found along with a Red-necked Grebe and three Northern Gannets. Two Common Ravens were over Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers for the 3rd count record; the other sightings were in 1941 and 2006. Warblers included a Palm in Rye and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Hartsdale. A Lapland Longspur was keeping company with a flock of Snow Bunting in Read Sanctuary, Rye. The most surprising find was a report of an **Indigo Bunting** at Ward Acres, a park in New Rochelle, for the count's 3rd record and for the second year in a row! Unfortunately, for the first time in 84 years, the count missed Ring-necked Pheasant.

Sullivan County held its annual Christmas Bird Count 27 December and set a new record with 60 species seen. An additional four species were seen on Christmas day for count week. Highlights included two Bohemian Waxwings, Northern Goshawk, Northern Shrike, redpolls, and Pine Siskins. Long-tailed Duck, Golden Eagle, and Red Crossbills were highlights of the 29 December Putnam CBC. A high count of 21 Common Raven is a good indication as to how this species has come back to this Region. The Peekskill CBC found 91 species 15 December, and their highlights included Brant (heading north up river shortly after daylight), Common Redpoll, and Red Crossbill. The Southern Orange CBC reported 80 species, with a possible **Pacific Loon**, though I have not seen details and the Regional CBC editor noted marginal details. The Monticello CBC on December 27 tied their species record of 60, and included two Bohemian Waxwing and 49 Common Redpoll. The Pawling (Hidden Valley) CBC held January 1 had 84 species, including a Yellow-headed Blackbird, count week Pine Grosbeak, a Snow Goose, a Broad-winged Hawk (in Connecticut), 9 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 1303 American Robin.

On Saturday 27 January, several members of the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club found two Trumpeter Swans on the Croton Reservoir. Both swans were observed from the dam. One of the swans had a yellow wing tag #063. This swan is part of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan program. This is the same bird that was seen last year on Upper Greenwood Lake, NJ; she is a pen. She hung around until the summer and was harassing folks at a local post office. She was

taken to the Raptor Trust, checked out, and then released with another Trumpeter. This may be the second bird.

An adult winter-plumaged **Slaty-backed Gull** was found by John Haas on 14 January. He was able to contact Arlene Borko who arrived and saw the bird as well. He refound the bird on the 16th as well. After not having seen this bird for three weeks, he then found an adult Slaty-backed in winter plumage on 6 February. This bird was in close association with a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which gave a nice comparison. The Slaty-backed was, however, paler mantled than the Lesser Black-backed Gull. The bird had all the field marks of a typical Slaty-backed Gull, but was slightly paler. The bird was seen again on 8 and 9 February as well and also was viewed by Tom Burke, Gail Benson, and Lance Verderame. The bird was seen one final time, by Valerie Freer, Mary Collier, and John Haas.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Blue Chip Farm 26, 27 Dec (MDe, JH, ABo); 2 Willowbrook Farm, Clinton Corners 8 Feb (CV).
Snow Goose: 800 Poughkeepsie 1 Dec (WL); blue morph Blue Chip Farm 5 Dec

(CG); 6 NYML 15 Dec; 5000 Pine Island 16 Jan (CM, KK).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Pine Island 16 Jan (CM, KK).

Brant: 70 CPP 15 Dec (EH).

Mute Swan: 22 Saugerties Lighthouse, Hudson R 24 Feb (SC).

TRUMPETER SWAN: 2 Croton Reservoir 27, 31 Jan (JP, GP).

Gadwall: 100 Rockland Lake 3, 28 Dec.

Eurasian Wigeon: Rockland Lake 1 Dec - 6 Feb (CW); Mamaroneck 23 Dec (NYBW); Larchmont 23 Dec (NYBW).

N. Pintail: 10 Millerton 8 Feb.

Canvasback: 2,500 Saugerties Lighthouse, Hudson R 24 Feb (SC).

Redhead: 8 Saugerties 13 Jan; 4 Port Ewen 13 Jan; 10 Rockland L 15 Feb (CW).

Ring-necked Duck: 92 LaGrange 31 Jan (CV); 50 Rockland L 23 Feb (CW).

Greater Scaup: 430 EGR 7 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: 360 EGR 17 Jan.

Surf Scoter: 6 Rye 23 Dec (NYBW).

White-winged Scoter: 33 Rye 23 Dec (NYBW); 12 EGR 23 Feb.

Black Scoter: 6 Rye 23 Dec (NYBW).

Long-tailed Duck: 166 EGR 8 Dec (SB); 175 EGR 29 Jan; 300 EGR 5 Feb.

Com. Merganser: 1500 Lake Tappan 27 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: Neversink Res 15 Dec (LV).

PACIFIC LOON: Greenwood Lake 22-25 Dec, documentation desired; *intro*.

Horned Grebe: 2 Piermont Pier 10 Feb (DC VK).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Neversink Res 9 Dec (JH); Rye 23 Dec (NYBW); EGR 2,7 Jan.

N. Gannet: 3 Rye 23, 25 Dec (NYBW).

Double-crested Cormorant: NYHV 1 Jan.

Great Cormorant: 56 Peekskill Bay 10 Feb (MB).

Great Egret: 2 Lake Tappan 21 Dec (BD, KMcn, CW).

Black Vulture: 49 NYHV 1 Jan; 25 New Paltz 21 Jan (LB).

Turkey Vulture: 40 New Paltz 21 Jan (LB).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Harrier: 12 SGNWR 6 Dec (CG); 8 Wallkill River NWR 6 Jan (RS); 15 Wallkill River NWR 9 Feb (CS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: SGNWR 29 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 SGNWR 6 Dec (CG); 3 NYML 15 Dec; Poughkeepsie 24,26 Dec; 9 SGNWR 29 Dec (MDa); 2 Wallkill River NWR 6 Jan (RS); Millbrook 20 Jan; Millerton 20 Jan; 3-4 Wallkill River NWR 21, 26 Jan; 11 SGNWR 2 Feb (MDa); many other scattered reports in Jan.

Golden Eagle: Neversink 5 Dec (RD); Stissing Mt 28 Dec; New Hamburg 25 Feb (TM).

Merlin: Blue Chip Farms 1 Jan (JA,KL); 2 BWN Y 23 Dec; Vassar Farm 7 Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: CPP 15 Dec.

Am. Coot: 140 Rockland L 28 Dec; 40 Sylvan L 13, 18 Jan.

Purple Sandpiper: 56 EGR 23 Dec.

Laughing Gull: 3 Rye 23 Dec (BWN Y).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Sylvan L 8 Dec.

Iceland Gull: Kingston Point Park 3 Dec (RG); Monticello Landfill 8, 11 Dec; 2 Apollo Plaza 21 Dec (JH); 3 Kiamesha Lake 23 Dec (JH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello Landfill 1, 11, 12 Dec; Apollo Plaza 18 Dec (JH); Blue Chip Farm 2 Feb (SW); Kiamesha L 9 Feb (RC).

Glaucous Gull: Monticello Landfill 11, 12 Dec; Apollo Plaza 18, Dec (JH); 2 Apollo Plaza 21 Dec (JH).

SLATY-BACKED GULL: SULL 14, 16 Jan, 6, 8, 9 Feb (JH, TB, GB, LV, VF, MC).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: World Peace Sanctuary, Wassaic 17 Jan (JDu).

Long-eared Owl: 2-3 CPP 9,15 Dec; 4 CPP 24 Dec (SCr); Putnam CBC 28 Dec; 5 CPP 19, 27 Jan (CR, JH); 2 SGNWR 3 Feb (MM).

Short-eared Owl: 6 SGNWR 6 Dec (CG); Neversink 30 Dec (LV); 8 SGNWR 29 Dec; 6 Wallkill River NWR 6,26 Jan (RS, ABl); 7 Wallkill River NWR 9 Feb (CS); Saugerties 15 Feb (BiR).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Pleasant Valley 28 Dec (ES, RB, BM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 12 Jan (CG); Poughkeepsie 11 Feb.

N. Flicker: 71 NYHV 1 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Stanfordville 5 Dec (AP), 9th Dutchess record.

N. Shrike: Clinton Corners 1, 28 Dec (AP); Kingston 4 Dec (MDe); Liberty 5 Dec (RD); SGNWR 9,30 Dec; Milan 13 Dec; NYML 15 Dec; Livingston Manor 29 Dec (LV); Vassar Farms 1, 5, 10, 12,13, 29 Jan; Liberty 6 Jan; 2 Vassar Farms 16 Jan; Sloatsburg 26 Jan (TF); Yorktown 27 Jan (JDi); Vassar Farm 7, 17 Feb.

Horned Lark: 250 Blue Chip Farm 1 Dec (IW); 313 NYML 15 Dec.

E. Bluebird: 85 NYML 15 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: 13 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 5 Jan.

Am. Robin: 1303 NYHV 1 Jan; 500 Harriman SP 25 Jan (JV); 1500 Poughkeepsie 30 Jan (CV).

Am. Pipit: 31 CPP 9, 15 Dec; 3 Rye 23 Dec (BWN).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 1-2 Clements Road area, Liberty, 5-9 Dec – mid Jan; 2 Sackett L Rd, Monticello 27 Dec (JH); Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 5 Jan (ABE); 4 Harriman SP 25 Jan (JV).

Cedar Waxwing: 500 Clements Road Liberty 2 Dec (JH).

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Piermont Pier 25 Feb (GB).

Palm Warbler: Rye 23 Dec (NYBW).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Hartsdale 23 Dec (NYBW).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: Yankee L 1- 4 Dec (JH); 4 NYML 15 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: Stanfordville 6 Dec; Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, New Paltz 8 Dec (CG); 2 CPP 15, Dec, 19, 22 Jan (JO, PO); 8 NYML 15 Dec; LNP 23 Dec (NYBW); LaGrange 5 Jan (CV); Liberty 6 Jan; 4 Vassar Farms 16 Jan; Montgomery 3, 21, 26 Jan, 16 Feb; Pleasantville 19 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: Neversink Res 15 Dec (LV); Rye 23 Dec (NYBW).

Snow Bunting: 120 NYML 15 Dec; 30 Bashkill 18 Dec; 8 SGNWR 2 Jan; 2

Resnick Airport 5, 6 Jan; 25 Milan 4 Jan; 4 Liberty 6 Jan; 2 Vassar Farms 8 Jan.

INDIGO BUNTING: Ward Acres, New Rochelle 23 Dec (NYBW), 3rd for count, but 2nd year in a row.

E. Meadowlark: 10 SGNWR 6 Dec (CG).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: NYHV 1 Jan, 6th Dutchess Co record.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Lomontville 15 (NYML), 30 Dec (SCH, JB).

Pine Grosbeak: 5 Clements Road, Liberty 2-7 Dec (JH); 14 West Saugerties 25 Dec (CF); 20 Neversink 29 Dec (LV); 5 Quaker Hill 30 Dec; 50 Neversink 1 Jan (JA,KL); 36 Grahamsville 6, 26 Jan – 10 Feb (K&AM). Few in Ulster Co. in early Dec and single report of 3 in Orange Co. Numbers waned through Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: Wurtsboro 5 Dec (SM).

Red Crossbill: few report on CBCs in Dec.

Common Redpoll: few Liberty 2-7 Dec (JH); 30 Denning 11 Dec; 12 CPP 15 Dec; 50 NYML 15 Dec; 30 Stone Ridge 21 Dec; 72 NYHV 1 Jan; 50 Neversink 2 Jan; many other reports, Dec – Feb.

HOARY REDPOLL: at feeder Montgomery 24 Dec, 1 Jan-29 Feb (CM); photographed on 2 Jan (KMCD,EC,JG), up to 4 in the area on 6 Jan; 1 at Blue Hill Road.

Pine Siskin: few Liberty 7 Dec (JH); 15 Woodstock Jan-Feb; many other scattered reports.

Evening Grosbeak: Woodstock 3 Dec (PS); up to 40 Parksville Dec-Jan (JH); 30-50 Neversink 2 Jan- 26 Feb.

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