

REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

The season started out with a deep freeze the first week of December which was followed by a two-day thaw. Poughkeepsie cooled down to 11°F on the 8th but hit a high of 60° on the 10th. A major late fall snow storm hit on Friday 19

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December. Six to fourteen inches of snow hampered the following day's Christmas Bird Counts. The storm was followed by a major freeze reaching to below zero on the 23rd. It then quickly warmed to a high of 65° on the 28th. The up and down temperatures averaged out to normal for the month, but it was wetter with nearly 6" of precipitation. January was very cold and dry. There was no January thaw. Poughkeepsie was below zero on the 14th, 15th, 21st, and 25th of the month. The average temperature was 4° below normal, and only 2" of precipitation was recorded. February, like December, varied, with a first week freeze and a second week thaw. It was very dry, with less than an inch of precipitation.

As usual the Christmas Bird Counts had many of the exciting finds for December. The first full weekend of counts was hampered by fresh snow and bitterly cold temperatures. Rockland County [NYRC] was the only count to take advantage of the extra Sunday in the count period. The early date of 14 December yielded 92 species. Highlights were both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, two Merlin, American Pipit, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Long-tailed Duck (count week), and Common Redpoll.

The Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir [NYML] count held 20 December had to deal with 9"-14" of snow. The count recorded 69 species. Highlights include an Eastern Phoebe, Lincoln's Sparrow, Merlin, and Orange-crowned Warbler; also 14 Northern Harriers, two Red-shouldered Hawks, five Rough-legged Hawks, eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, nine Northern Flickers, 21 Red-breasted Nuthatches, nine Brown Creepers, 108 Eastern Bluebirds, four Hermit Thrushes, 414 Cedar Waxwings, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, four Field Sparrows, a Fox Sparrow, two White-crowned Sparrows, and 76 Pine Siskins. One Lapland Longspur was reported during the count week.

The Dutchess County [NYDC] count found 77 species on 20 December. Chipping Sparrow and a count week Merlin were the unusual species, with high counts recorded for Canada Goose, Hooded and Common Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Cardinal, Fish Crow, and a whopping 13,500 American Crows.

The Eastern Orange County [NYEO] count had 74 species on 20 December and was characterized by a large number of both high and low counts, most likely due to the snow storm. High counts were for Canada Goose, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture, and Fish Crow. Lows were tallied for Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, and Common Grackle.

The Monticello [NYMT] count held 27 December had a record 61 species. Highlights include Savannah Sparrow and Palm Warbler, two Iceland Gull, 140 White-winged Crossbill, and 158 Pine Siskin. A Red-throated Loon was the highlight of the 27 December Southern Orange County [NYSU] count. The count's 80 species included 64 Black Vultures.

The Bronx-Westchester [NYBW] count recorded 111 species, with 100 seen in Westchester County on a balmy, foggy 65° day on 28 December. The highlight was the first record for Osprey, seen at the Edith G Read Preserve in

Rye. Other highlights include Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Northern Goshawk, Lesser Black-backed Gull, House Wren, and Snow Bunting. A female Barrow's Goldeneye was found off Rye the day before and after the count, but could not be located on count day due to the fog.

The Pawling (Hidden Valley) [NYHV] count found 83 species on the first of the year. Eight Red Crossbills were found on the Dutchess County side and a Chipping Sparrow was in Putnam. The 3 January Putnam Bird [NYPC] count total was 82 species with two first time species: House Wren and Savannah Sparrow.

Betsy Carswell discovered a Barnacle Goose in a cornfield off Neelytown Rd., Montgomery, on 27 February. Also present was one juvenile Snow Goose. A female King Eider continued at Piermont Pier till 6 December. Long-tailed Ducks were on the Hudson; one in Croton Bay for most of the season and another at Grassy Point Marina 25 December and one off Nyack State Park at the end of February.

Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks were more common, and December Merlin reports continue to increase. Northern Shrikes made a moderate showing, but sightings were confined to the three northern counties.

A Cape May Warbler was at Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye on 6 December.

It was a good winter finch season. White winged Crossbills were widely seen, but at times elusive for many birders outside Sullivan County. Pine Siskins were common to abundant everywhere and there were a few reports of Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll.

CONTRIBUTORS

Paula & Scott Baldinger, Fred Baumgarten, Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Betsy Carswell, Drew Ciganek, Mary Collier, Kris Conklin, Patrick Dechon, Paul Dubuc, Jeff Fagan, Valerie Freer, Arie Gilbert, Jean Green, Christine Guarino, Meg Guernsey, John Haas, Ken Harris, Rodney Johnson, Art Jones, Frank Kemmer, Debi Kral, Veronika Krause, John & Jane Lampkin, Les Line, Frank Margiotta, Evan Mark, Michael Mayer, David Munford, Joe O'Connell, Mona Payton, Vince Plogar, Jim Previdi, Ian Resnick, Barbara Restaino, Charlie Roberto, Beverly Robertson, Steve Sachs, Peter Schoenberger, Donna Schulman, Paul Steinneck, Jessie Traband, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Angus Wilson, Alan & Della Wells, Carol Weiss.

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

Snow Goose: 50 LaGrange 9 Dec; 70 Rye 28 Dec; 2 Green Haven 17 Jan; Neelytown Rd, Montgomery 27 Feb.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Neelytown Rd, Montgomery 27 Feb (BC).

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Wood Duck: Verplank 7 Feb.

Gadwall: 80 Mamaroneck 27 Dec.

N. Pintail: 18 Pine Plains 18 Dec; 11 Pine Plains 7 Feb.

Redhead: 4 EGR 13 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: 80 Sylvan L 9 Dec; 102 Green Haven 17 Jan.
Greater Scaup: 2400 EGR 13 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: 250 EGR 13 Dec.
King Eider: Piermont Pier 1-6 Dec (JF).
Surf Scoter: EGR 9 Dec; Rye 28 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 26 Dec, 5 Jan; EGR 26 Feb.
Black Scoter: 1070 NYBW 28 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Croton Bay 3 Dec- 7 Feb (CRO); Grassy Point Marina 25 Dec (AW); 170 EGR 27 Dec; 310 EGR 20 Jan, 26 Feb; Nyack SP 28 Feb (PDu).
Com. Goldeneye: 60 EGR 29 Dec.
Barrow's Goldeneye: Rye 27,29 Dec (TB,GB).
Ring-necked Pheasant: MC 23 Feb.
Ruffed Grouse: Upper Mongaup 24 Dec (JH ABo); 2 Buttercup East 10 Jan (AJ); Buttercup East 14 Feb (AJ).
N. Bobwhite: 3 Hunter Rd/Woodard Rd, Parksville 13 Dec (JH ABo).
Red-throated Loon: 14 EGR 18 Dec; NYSU 27 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: 1 frozen in ice Bashakill, rescued 17 Jan (JH).
Horned Grebe: 24 EGR 26 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 1 Jan.
N. Gannet: EGR 9 Dec.
Great Egret: EGR 6,18 Dec (TB); Larchmont 28 Dec (NYBW).
Snowy Egret: MC 28 Dec (NYBW).
Black Vulture: 64 NYSU 27 Dec.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: EGR 28 Dec (NYBW).
Bald Eagle: 50 Croton to Verplank 7 Feb.
N. Harrier: 14 NYML 20 Dec.
N. Goshawk: Horseshoe L 1 Dec; Grahamsville 5 Jan; Yonkers 28 Dec (NYBW, PSt); 1 NYHV 1 Jan; Millerton 1 Feb; Milan 26 Feb.
Red-shouldered Hawk: more reports than normal, widespread.
Rough-legged Hawk: Neversink Res 15,17,19 Dec; CPP 20, 25 Dec; 5 NYML 20 Dec; 2 Bethel 28 Dec; Millerton 30 Dec; 13 Pine Island 19 Jan; many other scattered reports in Jan and Feb.
Golden Eagle: Ancram 27 Dec (MGU); Harriman SP 3 Jan (SS); 1-2 Stissing Mt 23,26,30 Jan, 14 Feb; Milan 1 Feb; Norrie Pt 21 Feb.
Merlin: MC 6 Dec; Norrie Pt 13 Dec; Bowline Pond 14 Dec (NYRC). NYML 20 Dec; NYDC 20 Dec; CPP 25 Dec (AW); 2 Clarkstown 28 Dec (DC); Yonkers 28 Dec (NYBW); EGR 28 Dec (NYBW); Vassar

Farm 28 Dec; EGR 17 Jan, 24 Feb; Oil City Rd 31 Jan (JP).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 CPP 25 Dec; 2 EGR 25 Dec.
Virginia Rail: MC 28 Dec.
Greater Yellowlegs: Piermont Pier 14 Dec.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Piermont Pier 14 Dec.
Ruddy Turnstone: 20 EGR 28 Jan.
Purple Sandpiper: 16 EGR 13 Dec; 22 EGR 17 Jan.
Laughing Gull: EGR 9 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 EGR 26 Dec.
Iceland Gull: 2 NYMT 28 Dec; 3 Monticello 11 Dec; Monticello Landfill 13 Dec; 2 Woodbourne 17 Dec (JH ABo).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello 6,11 Dec, 10 Jan; Woodbourne 17 Dec (JH ABo); EGR 28 Dec (NYBW); Chelsea 8 Jan (RJ).
Glaucous Gull: Monticello 6 Dec, 10 Jan.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 3 EGR 18 Dec.
Short-eared Owl: Vassar Farms 14 Dec; 4 SGNWR 18 Dec (CG).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Horseshoe L 5 Dec, early Jan (KC); Woodstock 29 Jan (PSc).
Red-headed Woodpecker: Dover Plains 7-28 Dec, 8-27 Jan (JG); Stony Kill 7,21 Feb (KH).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: NYML 20 Dec.
N. Shrike: Ellenville 1-3 Dec (PM); Horseshoe L 3 Dec (KC); Rhinebeck 13 Jan (RJ); Town of Rockland 7 Feb (LV).
Am. Crow: 13,500 NYDC 20 Dec.
Horned Lark: 100 Red Hook 11 Jan
House Wren: MC 28 Dec; NYPC 3 Jan.
E. Bluebird: 108 NYML 20 Dec.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: NYML 20 Dec.
Cape May Warbler: EGR 6 Dec (TB).
Palm Warbler: NYMT 27 Dec (VF,MC,PDe).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: NYDC 20 Dec; NYHV 1 Jan.
Field Sparrow: Rhinebeck 5 Feb.
Lincoln's Sparrow: NYML 20 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 LaGrange 9 Dec; 4 LaGrange 15 Dec; 2 NYML 20 Dec; Hillsied L 10-11 Jan; Sontykill YBC 17 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: cw NYML 20 Dec;
Delaware Town 31 Dec (JH ABo), 4th
Sullivan County record.

Snow Bunting: 58 EGR 13 Dec; 75
Neversink Res 19 Dec; EGR 28 Dec; 30
Baird Park 3 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: 1200 Mashomack
30 Jan.

White-winged Crossbill: 40-50 Neversink
Res 14,15 Dec (JH, IR,DS,MM); 200
Neversink Res 14 Dec (AG); 80-100
Neversink Res 19 Dec (ABo,JH); 6 Verbank
19 Dec (BB); 21 Rhinecliff 21 Dec (RJ);
140 NYMT 28 Dec; 40 Forestburgh 27 Dec;
60 Villa Roma 28 Dec; 45 Rhinecliff 8 Jan;
3 Norrie Pt 17 Jan; 14 Rye 20 Jan (TB); 6
Staatsburg 25 Jan; 12 Pearl River 26 Jan
(PDu); 3 Tarrytown L 25 Feb (EM); 60 Bard
College 25 Feb (FB).

Red Crossbill: few Staatsburg 21 Dec
(CG); 28 Rhinecliff 21 Dec (RJ); 8 NYHV 1
Jan; Suffern 1-2 Feb (J&JL).

Com. Redpoll: 3 Kennedy Dells County
Park 7 Dec (VK); NYRC 14 Dec (JT,FK);
Horseshoe L 19 Dec- early Jan(KC); 6
Smithfield 20 Dec (LL); Bashakill 14 Jan (P
& SB); 35 Thompson Pond 30 Jan (CV);
MC 2 Feb; 4 Rhinebeck 8 Feb (RJ); Wassaic
8 Feb (MP).

Pine Siskin: 70 Bashakill 24 Dec; 44 Rye
28 Dec (NYBW); 158 NYMT 28 Dec; 300
Horseshoe L 31 Dec; 100 Bashakill 5,14
Jan; 100 Rondout Res 10 Jan (JH AB); 200
Mt Ivy 18 Jan (VP); 300 Mt Ivy 25 Jan
(VP); 100 Hook Mt 7 Feb (VP); 40
Bronxville 26 Feb (ABl). Wide spread and
plentiful throughout the season.

ADDENDUM

CAKCLING GOOSE: Rockland L 18, 22
Mar (Carol Weiss), first county record.

(973) 252-2712 (work) (914) 237-9331 (h)
E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com