

REGION 10—MARINE

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December's mean temperature was 36.7° F, 1.0° above normal, and the precipitation total for the month was 6.68", 2.55" above normal, including 10.4" of snowfall, which set or tied the record. January was 4.4° colder than average at 26.5° and 1.07" drier than normal with 3.20" precipitation. February was 1.7° warmer than normal, with the mean temperature 34.1°, and the precipitation total was 1.79", 1.54" below normal. All data were recorded at Islip and reported by NOAA.

Geese were again abundant and diverse, highlighted by Eric Miller's **Pink-footed Goose** in Queens; a dozen or more reports of Greater White-fronted Goose including Brendan Fogarty's flock of **six** at St. Johns Pond; five **Ross's Geese**; Bob Kurtz's well-described "**Black**" **Brant** at Jones Beach; a **Barnacle Goose** continuing from fall; and a dozen or so "Richardson's" Cackling Geese. Among the scarcer ducks were eight Eurasian Wigeon; Pat Lindsay's "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** on the Southern Nassau County CBC; seven King Eider; 11 Harlequin Ducks, including unusual occurrences at Great Kills, Staten Island, and on the north shore of Great South Bay at East Islip; and six Barrow's Goldeneyes, including a very rare record from southwestern LI. For the second winter in a row, very large numbers of scoters and Long-tailed Ducks

were present off Fire Island and Jones Inlets during December. Five of our regular alcids were seen from shore, including a **Thick-billed Murre** on a small freshwater pond at Hempstead Lake State Park and an **Atlantic Puffin** from Montauk Point.

Cooper's Hawks continue to increase. Counts were deemed high on six Regional CBCs, led by 18 at Brooklyn and 17 at Southern Nassau County, and a total of ten at Staten Island was no longer considered exceptional. Times change fast: none of these CBCs ever achieved double digit tallies for this species prior to the mid 1990s.

Three Nashville Warblers are at least two more than one expects during a Region 10 winter, but this season's trio of reports is especially astonishing because each bird was found in the company of one or more Orange-crowned Warblers! This sort of association has been noted here before—perhaps most spectacularly when these two *Vermivora* co-occurred with NYS' first MacGillivray's Warbler on Staten Island during December 1999—but this year's experience is going to make some of us linger a little longer over late season Orange-crowneds in the future.

Other rarities not mentioned above included: the continuing **Western Grebe** at Staten Island plus another found by Jorn Ake and seen by many at Amagansett 9-10 January, a **Black Vulture** over northern Manhattan, Tony Lauro's adult **California Gull** at Northville, Doug Kurz's **Varied Thrush** at Sands Point, **Bohemian Waxwings** at Napeague and Fort Tilden, a stunning "**Audubon's**" **Warbler** found by Tom Burke and Gail Benson on the Southern Nassau County CBC, and a **Western Tanager** at a Fishers Island feeder.

A **European Robin** at Alley Pond Park, Queens, on 23 December was dismissed by most as an escapee, but given the regularity with which this species occurs as a vagrant to Iceland, perhaps we ought to keep this record in our back pocket.

Scott Whittle concluded his record-breaking New York State Big Year with 350 species recorded, of which all but one or two were identifiably photographed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

1Y – first year plumage; AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BLSP – Belmont L SP, SUFF; BP – Breezy Pt, QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central P, NEWY; CRSPP – Connetquot R SP Pres, SUFF; Ditch Plains – Montauk, SUFF; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; EH – East Hampton, SUFF; FINS LT – Lighthouse Tract, Fire Island National Seashore, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennet Field, QUEE; FMP – Flushing Meadow P, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – ormer Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF, slated for development; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay NWR, QUEE/KING; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – Jones Beach West End, NASS; LCP – Lemon Creek P, RICH; Mass – Massapequa Pres, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; Northville – T Riverhead, north fork LI, SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; PL – Point Lookout, NASS; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RSF – Riverhead Sod Fields, SUFF; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; SY – second year plumage.

CBCs are referred to below by their official four-letter codes; see this issue for more detail.

WHISTLING-DUCKS-VULTURES

Pink-footed Goose: Kissena P, QUEE 27 Dec (EM, SA ph)-12 Jan (mob); FMP 31 Dec-3 Jan (mob ph); all one bird.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Clove L P, RICH thru; Glen Cove, NASS 9 Dec; GKP 16 Dec (J Stonick); Maratooka L, SUFF 14-18 Dec (mob); Miller Field, RICH 20 Dec (C Hagen, J Stetson); Southold, SUFF 31 Dec (MLL); ad Freeport, NASS 3-4 Jan (B & M McBrien ph, mob ph); BLSP 12 Jan (P Post, DS) thru 8 Feb (mob); RSF 27 Jan; Calverton, SUFF 30 Jan (RM); Further Ln, EH 8 Feb (PJL); 6 St John's Pd, SUFF 13 Feb (BF), exceptional count.

Snow Goose: 100+ Shorts Pd, SUFF 13 Jan (K&SF), many for E LI in winter; 300+ wintered Jam Bay; 1000 Jam Bay 15 Feb (DG *et al.*).

Ross's Goose: SY Camman's Pd, NASS 4-25 Jan (SW ph, mob ph); 3 ads FBF 20 Jan (SBI ph, DG ph); SY Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 10 Feb thru (SBI, mob! ph).

Brant: max 31,739 NYSN 3 Jan.

"BLACK" BRANT: JBSP 6 Dec (RJK).

BARNACLE GOOSE: St. Charles Cemetery, SUFF 6 Dec (PJL, SSM ph), 14 Dec (MC), 2 Feb (GS, D Kurz), & 17 Feb (RJK), from fall; BLSP 6-8 Feb (SSM ph, mob), presumably same bird.

"Richardson's" Cackling Goose: Bay Shore, SUFF 13-14 Dec (SSM ph, *et al.*); Further Ln,

EH 13 Dec (AnW) & 8 Feb (PJL *et al.*); BLSP 14 Dec (DG, RGo ph) thru; HSP 14 Dec (JGL, DF); Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 14 Dec (SWH ph *et al.*); FMP 1-2 Jan (SSM ph *et al.*); 2 Shorts Pd, SUFF 4 Jan (AnW); Wainscott, SUFF 4 Jan (AnW); Sagg 24 Jan (AnW); 2 Northville 10 Feb (MLL).

Brant x Cackling Goose: FMP 20 Dec (PS ph); this combo reported from same site Jan 2003 & winter 2003-04 (fide AnW).

Canada Goose: max 8,000 Water Mill, SUFF 23 Feb (HH).

Mute Swan: max 152 Setauket Harbor, SUFF 2 Dec (BY).

Tundra Swan: Reynold's Channel, NASS 3 Jan (JD *et al.*), unus location; 3 EH many dates, incr to 7 on 28 Feb (JGL).

Wood Duck: 5 Quogue Wildlife Ref, SUFF 8 Feb, prob wintered; widespread arr late Feb.

Gadwall: max 308 Swan L, Patchogue, SUFF 23 Jan (BY).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 RICH, 2 KING, 1 NASS, & 4 SUFF.

Am. Wigeon: max 380 Setauket Harbor, SUFF 2 Dec (BY).

Am. Black Duck: max 800 JBWE 3 Jan (BF).

Mallard: max 407 Maratooka L, SUFF 14 Dec (J Sep).

Blue-winged Teal: none reported.

N. Shoveler: max 250 PP.

N. Pintail: max 62 Jam Bay 11 Feb (DG, RGo).

Green-winged Teal: max 384 NYSN 3 Jan.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Milburn Pd, NASS 3-11 Jan (PJL ph, mob ph).
Canvasback: max 135 St Johns Pd, NASS 29 Jan.

Redhead: max 63 NYCA 14 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: max 132 CRSPP 14 Dec (BBo).

Greater Scaup: max 11,000 Dead Horse Bay, KING 28 Feb (DG); 8,000 GKP 16 Feb (DJ).

Lesser Scaup: max 287 Forge R, SUFF 14 Feb (BY).

King Eider: f JBWE 6 Dec-7 Feb (BF, mob); Northville 10 Jan (J Sep); f Ditch Plains; 3 f & 1 m MP var dates.

Com. Eider: westernmost singles Jones & Fire I inlets; max 5,000 MP 2 Jan (S Billerman).

Harlequin Duck: GKP 16-24 Feb, unus loc; 2-4 wintered PL; m E Islip, SUFF mainland bay shore, unus loc; Horton’s Pt, SUFF 17 Jan; 4 Ditch Plains var dates.

Surf Scoter: max **12,000** JBWE 6 Dec (DG), many for loc.

White-winged Scoter: max 4,500 MP 2 Feb (S Billerman).

Black Scoter: max **27,100** NYCA 14 Dec, v many for loc.

Long-tailed Duck: max **4,528** NYCA 14 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 400 FBF 30 Jan (DG).

Com. Goldeneye: arr f HSP 5 Dec; 15 Tiana Bay, SUFF 6 Dec; 2 Ditch Plains 6 Dec; max 200 GKP 10 Jan (BF).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m Bayville, NASS 9 Dec & later, trad site; pr EH, e.g., m Sag Harbor SUFF 21 Dec & pr there 6 Feb; f Cedar Pt, EH 21 Dec & m there 8 Feb; m Orient Harbor, SUFF 3 Jan, joined by f 20 Jan, trad site; m **Jam Bay** 10-23 Feb (SBL, mob), v rare sw LI.

Hooded Merganser: max 331 Milburn Pd, NASS 31 Jan (S Schellenger).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1,800 BP 2 Feb (DG, SBL).

Com. Merganser: max 323 CRSPP 17 Jan (PJL, SSM), many for LI.

Ruddy Duck: max 1,000 Jam Bay 22 Feb (K Michael).

RUFFED GROUSE (R10): dead on road Calverton, SUFF (AB).

Wild Turkey: 1 CP thru at least mid Feb, cont from fall.

Red-throated Loon: 145 PL26 Dec; leucistic ind PL 10 Jan (SA).

Red-necked Grebe: FBF 30 Jan; Plumb Beach KING 1 Feb; CHP 15-23 Feb; Amagansett, SUFF 10 Jan; 2-3 Culloden Pt, SUFF thru.

Eared Grebe: PL 25 Jan (K&SF)-early Feb (mob); Ditch Plains 31 Jan (HM)-25 Feb (K&SF).

WESTERN GREBE: Prince’s Bay, RICH 20 Dec (SWo, MS, J Sutton); also 1-9 Jan (SWo, mob! ph); Amagansett, SUFF 9-10 Jan (J Ake, mob!).

Great Cormorant: 12+ Staten I var dates, many for loc; max 55 BP 23 Dec; 34 NYSN 3 Jan.

Great Egret: SMSP 18 Dec (J&PH); 9 NYSM 27 Dec; Jam Bay 14 Feb.

Snowy Egret: 2 NYSM 27 Dec.

Little Blue Heron: imm NYBR 20 Dec.

Tricolored Heron: Tobay, NASS 3 Jan.

Cattle Egret: 2 Water Mill, SUFF thru mid Dec, from fall.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 26 Camman’s Pd NASS 8 Jan.

BLACK VULTURE (R10): n Manhattan 27 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: Rocky Pt Pres, SUFF 23 Feb (J&PH).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: numerous and widespread reports involving 26 inds inc juv DP 14 Dec, prob same bird from fall, found shot, captured, and rehabbed.

Cooper’s Hawk: high counts for 6 Regional CBCs inc 18 NYBR 20 Dec and 17 NYSN 3 Jan.

N. Goshawk: Staten I 5 Jan (HF).

Red-shouldered Hawk: CP 26 & 28 Dec; HLSP 3 Jan (MB ph); imm Forest P, QUEE thru; Northville 19 Jan (MLL); Calvert Vaux P, KING 25 Jan-7 Feb (AxW); imm Orient 2 Feb (J&PH); ad FT 2 Feb; Paerdegat Basin KING 9 Feb (DG, RGo).

Rough-legged Hawk: many widespread reports inc 2-3 wintering at Grumman.

Am. Kestrel: 1 wintered CP.

Merlin: reported thru winter from var sites.

Semipalmated Plover: 11 JBWE 29 Dec (S Schiff), v late for so many.

Killdeer: 6 GKP 15 Feb; widespread arr late Feb.

Am. Oystercatcher: 15 JBWE 6 Dec; GKP 14-15 Feb.

Lesser Yellowlegs: NYCA 14 Dec (RGr, NL); SMSP 18 Dec (J&PH); NYQU 20 Dec; Mass 4 Jan (KF), late.

Spotted Sandpiper: NYOR 3 Jan.

Purple Sandpiper: reports inc 17 Owl’s Head P, KING, 4 Dec.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 7 wintered Mass until Feb construction.

Wilson’s Snipe: 5 wintered Mass until Feb construction.

Am. Woodcock: arr CP 12 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 DP 14 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 550 Jones In 6 Dec.
Black-headed Gull: 7 reports involving 10 inds 6 Dec-31 Jan.
Little Gull: PL 6 Dec (R Aracil), only report.
Laughing Gull: 3 JBWE 6 Dec; 5 NYQW 14 Dec; NYQU 20 Dec; NYSM 27 Dec, count week.
CALIFORNIA GULL: ad Northville 10 Feb (AJL).
Iceland Gull: 5 Staten I; 2 wintered Northville; many reports of singles.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Staten I; singles wintered Northville & Napeague; several scattered reports of singles.
Glaucous Gull: numerous reports thru inc 4 1st cycle Riis P, QUEE 22 Feb (SBI, DK *et al.*), 1Y wintering at Iron Pier, Northville.
Great Black-backed Gull: ind w/yellow legs and feet Northville 4-7 Feb (R Adamo).
"Nelson's Gull" (Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull hybrid): 1st cycle Nickerson Beach NASS 26 Dec, poss same ind Riis P QUEE 22 Feb (mob).
Dovekie: FINS LT 27 Dec (JQ); Merrick, NASS parking lot Dec, to rehab; Jones In 2 Jan (SJ, *et al.*); MP 17-19 Jan (A Callerton *et al.*).
THICK-BILLED MURRE: HISP 8-9 Jan, unus loc, found dead 10 Jan, to AMNH; Shinn 13 Jan (KF); MP 18 Jan (HM *et al.*); Culloden Pt, SUFF 18 Jan DF, SSM; Ditch Plains (AnW) 28 Feb.
Razorbill: westernmost 1 NYSN 3 Jan & 2 DP 14 Dec.
Black Guillemot: MP 25 Jan.
ATLANTIC PUFFIN: MP 8 Feb (VB), v rare from shore.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 3 W Islip, SUFF 14 Dec (RGr), 1st NYCA record.
Barn Owl: in nest box Jam Bay 20 Feb.
Snowy Owl: max 3 JBWE; impressive flight, about a dozen on LI.
Long-eared Owl: 3 wintered CP; Calverton, SUFF 10 Jan; JBWE 26 Jan; 4 Pelham Bay P, BRON 28 Jan.
Short-eared Owl: up to 5 wintered at Grumman.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 wintered JBWE; singing Montauk 19 Feb (TBa, DP).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 wintered CP; Merrick, NASS 3 Jan (PM, JB).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: recorded all 12 CBCs, 43 total, max 14 NYNN 20 Dec; late dates inc Oyster Bay, NASS 23 Jan, Valley

Stream, NASS, 11 Feb; 2 Middle Island, SUFF 25 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: NYQW 14 Dec; NYMK 20 Dec; NYSI 20 Dec; NYCS 27 Dec; Camp Hero, Montauk SUFF 19 Jan.
N. Shrike: JBWE 25 Dec, only report.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: NYBR 20 Dec, details desired.
Blue-headed Vireo: PP 3 Dec (PD); Owl's Head P, KING 3-6 Dec (AxW); NYQU 20 Dec, no details.
Fish Crow: max 306 NYCA 14 Dec.
Tree Swallow: 9 JBWE 26 Dec; many reports thru early Jan; 2 GKP 14-15 Feb.
Tufted Titmouse: JBWE 2 Dec; 2 **Kismet, Fire I**, SUFF 14 Dec (SA, D Klauber); **CB** 14 Dec; v rare on barrier beach.
Brown Creeper: max 8 BLSP & vicinity 13 Dec (BBe).
House Wren: NYNN 20 Dec; NYOR 3 Jan.
Winter Wren: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 101; max 22 NYSM 27 Dec; 2 Shu Swamp, NASS 17 Feb (RJK).
Marsh Wren: recorded 5 CBCs, total 18; max 7 NYCS 27 Dec.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: recorded 11 CBCs, total 48; max 12 NYSN 3 Jan; CP 13 Dec, 15 Feb.
Hermit Thrush: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 141; max 30 NYBR 20 Dec.
SWAINSON'S THRUSH: NYQW 14 Dec, reported w "adequate details".
VARIED THRUSH: Sands Pt, NASS 30 Jan & later (D Kurz).
Gray Catbird: recorded 11 CBCs, total 109; max 18 NYSN 3 Jan.
Brown Thrasher: recorded 9 CBCs, total 23; max 5 NYMK 20 Dec.
European Starling: 3,000 Baiting Hollow, SUFF 2 Feb.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R10): Napeague SUFF 17-19 Jan (HM, mob ph); FT 23 Jan (DG, RGo).

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: RMSP 2 Dec (SBI, DG); APP 3 Dec (EM *et al.*); JBWE 6 Dec (DG *et al.* ph); recorded 7 CBCs, total 12; max 3 NYBR 20 Dec and NYQU 20 Dec; 2 LCP 4 Jan (J Stetson *et al.*); *intro*.
Nashville Warbler: RMSP 2 Dec (SBI, DG); APP 3 Dec (EM *et al.*); Riverside P NEWY 15 Dec; LCP 4 Jan (J Stetson *et al.*); *intro*.
Yellow Warbler: NYBR 20 Dec.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: PP 2-6 Dec, from fall (RB, mob).

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBER: m Tobay, NASS 3 Jan and later (TWB, GB ph, mob ph).

Pine Warbler: singles on 3 CBCs: NYQW 14 Dec, NYNN 20 Dec, NYSI 20 Dec.

Prairie Warbler: APP 13 Dec (JR, EM); NYQU 20 Dec, new to count, no details.

Palm Warbler: recorded 5 CBCs, total 7.

Blackpoll Warbler: NYBR 20 Dec.

Ovenbird: Midtown Manhattan 5 Dec (ROP).

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 NYSI 20 Dec, only ones recorded on CBCs.

Yellow-breasted Chat: singles recorded 3 CBCs: NYBR 20 Dec, NYMK 20 Dec, NYSN 3 Jan (at OMNSA 18 Dec-6 Jan).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

WESTERN TANAGER: Fisher’s I, SUFF late Dec-7 Feb (Jacqueline Williamson ph).

E. Towhee: recorded 11 CBCs, total 84; max 19 NYOR 3 Jan.

Am. Tree Sparrow: low numbers at barrier beaches and other usual locs; CP intermittent 1 Jan-8 Feb, unus loc.

Chipping Sparrow: recorded 6 CBCs, total 10; max 4 NYCA 14 Dec; 1 wintered at SI feeders.

Clay-colored Sparrow: HHSP 6 Dec (AnW *et al.*)

Grasshopper Sparrow: NYCA 14 Dec at RMSP (SA!, D Klauber!).

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow: NYSN 3 Jan (PJL, SSM!), nominate.

Fox Sparrow: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 151; max 30 NYSN 3 Jan.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: CP 8 Dec (KC) & 13 Dec (P Pollack); NYCA 14 Dec at HSP (DF!).

Swamp Sparrow: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 469; max 123 NYSG 21 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 24 NYSG 21 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: widespread reports of inds thru; 6 GKP 19 Jan (SWo); 12+ wintered JBWE, w max 29 here 26 Dec (DG *et al.*).

Snow Bunting: 420 CB 6 Dec; 400 JBWE 6 Dec.

Dickcissel: OMNSA 18 Dec; NYSG 21 Dec; LCP 4-6 Jan (J Stetson *et al.*).

Red-winged Blackbird: 800+ Northville 6 Feb (RJK).

E. Meadowlark: 40+ Grumman 23 Dec, wintering area.

Rusty Blackbird: “a few” CP 3-26 Dec; 2 CRSPP 3 Dec; recorded 7 CBCs, total 68; max 27 NYQU 20 Dec; 2 Mass 23 Jan (RJK); ca. 25 wintered HLSP.

Com. Grackle: 800+ Northville 6 Feb.

Boat-tailed Grackle: max 70 SMCP 6 Jan, 50 here 25 Feb (CS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 200+ HSP 3 Dec.

Baltimore Oriole: 2 singles CBCS: NYBR 20 Dec, NYSN 3 Jan; Franklin Sq, NEWY var dates.

Purple Finch: reported more widely and in somewhat greater numbers than usual; max 20+ CP.

White-winged Crossbill: conspicuous on barrier beaches mid Jan thru mid Feb; small flocks SI; 8-10 CP 17 Jan-15 Feb; 20 Northville 7 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: CP 8 Dec, 25-26 Jan.

Pine Siskin: 60 Grymes Hill, RICH (HF); max 200 CP; 30 Ridge, SUFF feeder 2 Feb (J&PH); 53 Northville feeder (MLL).

Am. Goldfinch: continued migr early Dec.

EXOTICS

Trumpeter Swan: pr Upper L, Yaphank, SUFF 11 Feb thru (A. Graves, mob ph).

Cape Shelduck: m BLSP, pinioned, longtime resident here.

EUROPEAN ROBIN: Alley Pond Park, Queens 23 Dec, *intro*.

Yellow-footed Canary: Inwood P, NEWY 14 Dec (PS ph).