

REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

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December started with a brief warm spell, with Poughkeepsie reaching 60° F on the 3rd and 4th. There was a brief freeze on the 18th and 19th, with Poughkeepsie dropping to 5° each night. This was followed by the first major snowstorm of the season. The storm hit just south of Region 9 on 19-20 December and hampered some Christmas counts. Yonkers recorded 10" of snow and Poughkeepsie 6 " with most other areas north and west seeing significantly less. The month came in a little wetter than normal, with just over 5" of precipitation and 0.8° cooler. January averaged 2.6° warmer than normal and dry, with only 2.6" of precipitation. Strong winds on 25 January reached 62 mph in White Plains, and Rye Playland recorded a gust of 81 mph. February was 3.4° warmer

The Kingbird 2010 June; 60 (2)

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than normal, but two major storms erased any memory of the warmer days. A near blizzard on 10 February dumped up to 13" of snow in the southern part of the Region with lighter amounts north and west. Another storm on 25-26 February brought 9-21" of snow, with the higher amounts in southern and eastern Westchester County.

The highlight of the season was an immature male **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** in Westchester County. The bird was observed and photographed at a feeder at Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary, Chappaqua on 11 January. The bird was with a mixed flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds. This may be the same bird first observed at a private feeder near Kitchawan Preserve on 2 January but not relocated after that date. The bird was seen through most of the week but was not seen on 16 and 17 January. After an appearance on the 18th it didn't return to Pruyn till 24-25 January. The bird had now progressed noticeably toward brighter adult male plumage. The blackbird then made sporadic visits to the Sanctuary, usually just after a snowfall. The last date for the winter season was 25 February.

Christmas counts as usual dominate the season's report. In general, Snow Geese lingered to make a number of counts. Wood Duck was found on most counts. Red-shouldered Hawk fared well after low numbers at the fall hawk watches. Three counts each had over one hundred Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Wintering numbers of American Robins continue their amazing increase. Many counts had record highs. Putnam recorded 1210, the Bronx-Westchester 1729, and Westchester 940. Yellow-rumped Warbler was found on only two counts, and an Orange-crowned Warbler appeared at Croton Point Park in early January and stayed for the season.

The Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir [NYML] Christmas Bird Count recorded its first Peregrine Falcon on 19 December. Seventy-one species were found including a Red-breasted Merganser on Williams Lake in the Town of Rosendale, four American Wigeon, and two American Pipits. The Dutchess County Count [NYDC] on 19 December recorded 71 species including a Brown Thrasher. It recorded new highs for Hooded Merganser, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. Peekskill [NYPE] had 88 species on 19 December, with numerous high counts including Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Great Cormorant, Peregrine Falcon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and White-throated Sparrow. Four White-crowned Sparrows were at Croton Point Park. The East Orange count [NYEO] tallied 72 species on 19 December and had a new high count of 31 Turkey Vultures along with a dozen Black Vultures. The count also recorded four Snow Geese, a Wood Duck, and 146 Wild Turkeys. An overnight storm forced a late start for the 20 December Rockland County Christmas Bird Count. The highlight of the count was a **BARNACLE GOOSE** reported by Drew Ciganek and Karl Knoecklein from Piermont Pier, Piermont NY. The goose was seen in the Hudson River from the end of the Pier and was swimming with a group of Canada Geese. A Great Egret was another good find, and over 9000 Common Grackles (mostly in Piermont) were recorded.

Monticello [NYMT], on a foggy 26 December, had 53 species including an Iceland Gull along with two Snow Geese, 10 Wood Duck, a Ruffed Grouse, and a Gray Catbird. The Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count [NYBW] found 117 species on 27 December. Highlights from Westchester included two Black Vultures in Ardsley and two Common Ravens, first heard and seen in Hastings-on-Hudson then in Yonkers. Northern Gannet and Surf and White-winged Scoters were off Rye and a Laughing Gull was found off Edgewater Point in Mamaroneck. A House Wren in Larchmont and a White-crowned Sparrow in Yonkers rounded off the highlights. Low numbers were seen for Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, and House Finch. The Pawling Count [NYHV] found 76 species on the first on the year. They added a new species to their count with a Vesper Sparrow found in the northeast part of Putnam County. The Putnam Count [NYPC] had 73 species on 2 January in high winds and some snow. Highlights were seven Wood Ducks, six Red-shoulder Hawks, Ring-neck Pheasant, Eastern Towhee, four Savannah Sparrows, and three Pine Siskins. A high count was tallied for Canada Geese, with many moving south. Other high counts were for Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Robin, and White-throated Sparrow.

Two leucistic Red-tailed hawks were found roosting together in Rosendale 19 December. The larger, piebald bird is the same individual observed in the area for 20 years and is now roosting this year with an apparent leucistic mate. The smaller second bird had a powdered red tail with a dark head and more flecks of black feathers on the back and shoulders. If they successfully pair up, it will be interesting to see if we have a local population of leucistic Red-tails in the future. Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle and Merlin made good showings. A Golden Eagle in the vicinity of Storm King Mountain on the Hudson was seen by many. Rosemarie Widmer reported that a pair of Bald Eagles were building a nest on the ice of frozen Lake Tappan on 24 February. The smaller male brought sticks to the female, and then together they redistributed material around the site.

An Eastern Phoebe in Milan in mid January was a surprising find. Another was at Kripplebush on 15 December. Pine Siskins were scarce this winter with a few scattered reports of one and two. There were no reports of other winter finches except for some Purple Finch.

Other notable species included Greater White-fronted Goose, Red-necked Grebe, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Glaucous Gull.

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: Hudson River north of Saugerties Lighthouse 16 Jan (SC).
Snow Goose: 400 Yankee L 9 Dec; 100 Saugerties 12 Dec; sev hundred Poughkeepsie 17 Dec; CPP 19 Dec; Piermont 3 Jan.
Brant: 285 MC 20 Jan.
BARNACLE GOOSE: Piermont Pier 20 Dec.
Canada Goose: 6341 NYBW 27 Dec, Westchester only; 1400 Blue Chip Farm 16 Jan.
Wood Duck: 7 NYPC 2 Jan; 2 Vassar L 9 Feb; 5 Vassar L 20 Feb.
Gadwall: 173 NYBW 27 Dec, Westchester only; 120 Mamaroneck 26 Dec, 21 Jan.
Am. Wigeon: 4 NYML 19 Dec; 51 Mamaroneck 21 Jan.
N. Pintail: 8 Pine Plains 10 Dec; Bashakill 24 Jan; few CPP 31 Jan; Thiells; 1m Pine Plains 5, 19, 28 Feb; 4 Feb Saugerties 22 Feb.
Redhead: CPP 31 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: 125 Sylvan L 27 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 4000 EGR 5 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: max 1200 EGR 5 Dec.
Surf Scoter: 100 Rye 28 Dec; f Delaware River, Callicoon, 3 Jan (RD MGo JH); max 425 EGR 19 Jan.
White-winged Scoter: 30 Rye 28 Dec; max 635 EGR 19 Jan.
Black Scoter: Chelsea 8 Dec (RJ); 2 Rye 28 Dec; max 200 EGR 19 Jan.
Long-tailed Duck: max 1570 EGR 19 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 73 EGR 19 Jan.
Com. Goldeneye: max 40 EGR 8 Jan.
Com. Merganser: 300 L Superior 12.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Stanford 3 Dec; Rosendale, NYML 19 Dec (E&BR); 36 Milton Harbor 20 Jan.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 6 Town of Washington 4, 10 Dec; 9 Town of Washington 15 Dec; Mongaup Res 23 Dec; Wurtsboro 1 Jan; NYPC 2 Jan; Galeville 13 Feb; Saugerties 23 Feb.
Ruffed Grouse: Lemon Brook Bethel 5 Dec; Rio Res 26 Dec; Liv Manor 24 Jan.
Wild Turkey: 50 Woodbourne 27 Jan; 50 Liv Manor 13 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: max 18 Rye 27 Dec.
Com. Loon: max 4 EGR 27 Dec, 13 Feb.
Horned Grebe: none in Dec; max 10 EGR 5 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 27 Jan.
N. Gannet: 2 Rye 5, 18, 27 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: 55 EGR 12 Dec.
Great Cormorant: 46 NYPE 19 Dec; 10 Rye 27 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: sev nests S of James Baird SP 22 Feb.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: West Nyack 16-29 Jan.
Great Egret: NYRC 20 Dec.
Black Vulture: 8 NYML 19 Dec; 10 Stanfordville 23 Dec; 2 Ardsley NYBW 27 Dec; Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary, Chappaqua 31 Jan; 8 SGNWR 19 Feb; 4 Bear Mt. 21 Feb.
Turkey Vulture: 4 NYML 19 Dec; 7 Bear Mt 21 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 13 Stony Point Battlefield 10 Jan.
N. Harrier: 5 Thompson Pd 10 Jan; 5 Mashomack 11 Jan; 30 SGNWR 4 Feb; 20 SGNWR 19 Feb.
N. Goshawk: Cooley Rd bog 17 Jan.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 6 NYPC 2 Jan.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 leucistic type Rosendale 19 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: Beechwoods 6, 10 Dec; Mabbettville 20 Dec; White Sulfur Springs 10 Jan; 4 SGNWR 4 Dec, 28 Feb; 9 in sev SULL locations 17-30 Jan.
Golden Eagle: Storm King Mt 12-23 Dec, 16, 23 Jan; Pine Plains 23 Dec; imm Stissing/Mashomack area 11, 20, 27 Jan; Pawling 11, 22 Jan; Saugerties 26 Jan; ad Harriman SP 7 Feb; imm Tomkins Cove 9 Feb; Shunpike 27 Feb.
Am. Kestrel: Stony Kill 13 Jan; Wurtsboro 13 Jan; Saugerties 16 Jan, 23 Feb; Millerton 22 Jan; Mashomack 30 Jan; Taconic Pkwy/Rt 82 31 Jan; LaGrange 22 Feb.

Merlin: Kingston 13 Dec - 22 Feb (MD);
 Piermont 3 Jan; Gardiner 9 Jan; LaGrange 24
 Jan (CV); Millbrook 3 Feb (JA).
Peregrine Falcon: Kripplebush, NYML 19
 Dec.
Clapper Rail: MC 27 Dec.
Virginia Rail: 4 MC 27 Dec.
Killdeer: 3 EGR 1, 5 Jan; Kripplebush 28 Feb.
Ruddy Turnstone: 6 EGR 14 Jan.
Purple Sandpiper: 46 Rye 27 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: 20 Rye 27 Dec.
Laughing Gull: Edgewater Point, Mamaroneck
 NYBW 27 Dec.
Iceland Gull: Monticello 11, 26 Dec; 2
 Monticello 17 Dec; Town of North East 22 Dec,
 27 Jan; 3 im Newburgh 5 Jan; 1 ad Newburgh 6
 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Malden SP 16 Jan
 (SC).
Glaucous Gull: Monticello landfill 5, 6 Dec;
 Newburgh 5 Jan.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 2 EGR 5, 6 Jan, 17 Feb.
Short-eared Owl: arr SGNWR 4 Dec; 5
 SGNWR 10 Jan; 6 SGNWR 16 Jan; 10 SGNWR
 23 Jan; 4 Feb; 4 SGNWR 19 Feb; 11 SGNWR
 21 Feb; 7 SGNWR 28 Feb.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 103 NYPE 19 Dec;
 144 NYBW 27 Dec, Westchester only, 204 for
 the entire count; 104 NYPC 2 Jan.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 35 NYPE 19 Dec.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Rockefeller SP 9
 Dec- 31 Jan; Locust Grove 6, 13 Jan; Wallkill 9,
 10 Jan; CPP 31 Jan, 2 Feb-28 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Kripplebush 15 Dec(DaN); Milan
 16 Jan (DGe).
Fish Crow: wintered commonly along the L I
 Sound communities in WEST; arr inland 1 Feb.
Com. Raven: 2 Hastings-on-Hudson, NYBW
 27 Dec; scattered but regular elsewhere.
Horned Lark: 75 Pleasant Valley 18 Dec; 1
 EGR 18 Dec; 17 Woodbourne Rose Rd 4 Jan; 2
 EGR 14 Jan; 3 Kripplebush 28 Feb.
HouseWren: Larchmont, NYBW 27 Dec.
E. Bluebird: 20 Westbrookville 17 Jan.

Am. Robin: 589 NYPE 19 Dec; 940 NYBW 27
 Dec, Westchester only; 1210 NYPC 2 Jan.
Gray Catbird: Pleasant Valley 13 Dec;
 Lakeside Park, Pawling 27 Jan; LaGrange 15
 Feb.
Am. Pipit: 2 Rye 4 Dec; 2 Lomontville, NYML
 19 Dec; EGR 5, 11, 19 Jan.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: found only on the
 Rockland (NYRC) and Dutchess County
 (NYDC) counts.
Orange-crowned Warbler: CPP 7 Jan- 28 Feb
 (RyM, mob).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: NYPC 2 Jan; LaGrange 15 Feb.
Vesper Sparrow: Pleasant Valley 27 Dec (CV);
 1 Pawling CBC 1 Jan.
Savannah Sparrow: 4 NYPC 2 Jan.
White-crowned Sparrow: NYML 19 Dec; 4
 CPP 19 Dec; Yonkers, NYBW 27 Dec; 5
 Gardiner 9 Jan; 4 Northeast 10 Jan; 10 Millerton
 22 Jan; CPP 31 Jan; 8 Millerton 10 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: 2 Town of Northeast 24
 Dec (DF).
Snow Bunting: 13 Milan 13 Dec; 50
 Woodbourne 6, 24 Jan; 30 Thompsonville 6 Jan;
 13 Kripplebush 28 Feb.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Mabbettsville 25
 Dec (AP).
E. Meadowlark: 3 Clinton Corners 10 Jan; 2
 Mabbettsville 17 Jan; SGNWR 4 Feb.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:
 Kitchawan Preserve 2 Jan; imm male Pruyn
 Audubon Sanctuary, Chappaqua 11-13, 15,
 18,24-25, 28, 30 Jan 5, 6, 10, 25 Feb (TBa, RK,
 AS,DP), *intro*.
Rusty Blackbird: Piermont mid Feb.
Com. Grackle: 600 Rye 18 Jan.
Purple Finch: MC 1 Jan.
Pine Siskin: 2 Bashakill 7 Dec FOS; 3
 Fahnestock SP, NYPC 2 Jan; 2 Greenfield Park
 5 Jan; 1 Roscoe early Jan; New Paltz 24 Jan.

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck: Tappan 14 Feb.

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