

REGION 10—MARINE

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The winter season in Region 10 featured long periods of snow cover, difficult birding conditions, reduced numbers of many species of normal winterers, the continued decline of several species of ducks and grassland birds, and a good number of rarities, many of which were very cooperative.

All three months during the period averaged colder than normal, with January negligibly so. The average *maximum* temperature was significantly lower than normal in all three months, meaning that there were relatively few warm days this winter. While January was marginally drier than normal, precipitation in December and February was about double the long-term average; Islip recorded 8.91" in December alone! Average wind speeds were greater than 10 mph in all three months. Precipitation, wind, and lack of warmth resulted in difficult birding conditions on a majority of days. This was particularly true during the Christmas Count period.

After a mild fall, the cold came fast and fierce. Whereas all water was open on 1 December, Doug Futuyma reported that 98% of the fresh water was frozen by 12 December. And then came the snow cover, which was an almost permanent feature of the season. The storm of 19 December blanketed the Region in a deep snow, particularly the eastern half of Long Island, where more than two feet fell. Thereafter, storms seemed to arrive on a weekly basis including two particularly severe storms, on 26 December and 25 January. By mid February snow depth reached nearly a foot in some areas.

Thus, this winter, like last winter, bucked the warming trend that's become familiar over the last two decades. The general trend toward milder winters has been accompanied by northward shifts in winter distribution for many species (cf. Audubon's analysis of CBC data in *Birds and climate change: Ecological disruption in motion*, 2009), so it was very interesting to monitor the prospects of marginal or pioneering winter residents through this season's bouts of harsh weather. For example, the wicked cold front of 7-9 December not only caused a late movement of Snow Geese, but also seemed to squeeze lingering migrants from the interior to the coast, like water from a sponge. No fewer than five Ovenbirds were discovered that week, as were several Orange-crowned Warblers and Baltimore Orioles. Regular half-hardies such as Gray Catbirds, Hermit Thrushes, and kinglets were likely affected in a similar manner, but short-term changes in their numbers are difficult to track systematically.

The massive snowstorm that passed through the area on 19-20 December produced another mass movement. Christmas bird counters in Manhattan noted Great Blue Herons, Turkey Vultures, Canada Geese, American Robins, and

Common Grackles moving south along the Hudson River on 20 December. By early January, the combination of continued cold and regular storms not only pushed out species that winter farther south, but also brought in Greater White-fronted Geese, Tundra Swans, Rough-legged Hawks, and Glaucous Gulls—species that often arrive earlier but which had been largely absent during November and December.

One-hundred ninety-seven species were found in Region 10 during the period. The list of species *not* recorded includes many that have been regular in the Region in the last 20 years, such as: Blue-winged Teal, Tufted Duck, Eared Grebe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Little Gull, Western Kingbird, Northern Shrike, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Nelson's Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Dickcissel, both Crossbills, and Common Redpoll. Also on the negative side of the ledger were a number of species believed to be declining as winterers in the Region, notably freshwater ducks such as Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Duck. Also mired in downward trends were Northern Bobwhite (one report), American Kestrel (about 14 reports), and Short-eared Owl (three reports). The case of American Kestrel is particularly perplexing as it has abandoned even pristine and apparently unchanged areas, such as Napeague, where it formerly bred and occurred year-round. Other species present in lower than usual numbers this winter included Horned Grebe, American Bittern, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Purple Finch, and American Goldfinch.

On the other hand, there were a good number of species that appeared in larger numbers than normal, many of these continuing recent upward trends. In contrast to the waterfowl listed above, Cackling Goose, Common Eider, and Hooded Merganser all continued to increase. Whereas Cackling Goose was poorly documented in Region 10 before a decade ago, a new maximum of eight was recorded near Hook Pond in January, and others occurred westward through Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, and Richmond Counties. Although Common Eider numbers were lower at Montauk Point than in some recent years, the species appeared in exceptional numbers farther west, at sites such as Fire Island and Jones Inlets, where it is usually scarce. Numbers of Ring-necked Duck were good, but not increased over some exceptional counts from recent winters.

Wintering hawks continued to increase in the Region. No fewer than 26 Bald Eagles, including several adults, were found throughout the Region. Even more impressive from a Regional standpoint were 19 reports of Red-shouldered Hawk, ranging from Staten Island to Montauk—surely a modern-day record for Region 10. Cooper's Hawk and Peregrine Falcon continue their meteoric ascents, much to the distress of feeder watchers and shorebirders, respectively.

Turkey Vultures made another good showing. The single December record was of birds moving south in response to the snowstorm of 19 December, but the rest occurred from 26 January onwards, suggestive of northbound migration.

More surprising was that reports of **Black Vultures** nearly equaled those of Turkey Vultures. Although the lone individual seen over the Hudson River in December was moving south, the vast majority of records occurred from the last week of January onwards, including a pair that appeared at Ft. Wadsworth, Staten Island, in late January, and remained (probably the same pair that nested there last season). Again, these observations are suggestive of northbound migration. Like the vultures, **Common Ravens** appear to be in the process of becoming a regular species in the Region and were reported from Richmond, Queens, Bronx, and Nassau Counties.

The **Pink-footed Goose** found at Sunken Meadow State Park on 3 November continued through 25 December, although it was often difficult to find. After a fall without any reports, Greater White-fronted Goose arrived in mid-December, including groups of seven at Belmont Lake and six at Hook Pond. A **Barnacle Goose** found by John Sep and Paul Gillen at Marratooka Lake in Mattituck on 19 December was a one-day wonder. **Trumpeter Swans** returned to Upper Lake in Yaphank by mid-January and remained through the period. Although these birds are not yet countable in New York, I encourage birders to report them. Five Eurasian Wigeons were found in the Region, one of which was taken by a hunter. Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra found the season's only "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** in Baldwin, and three Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded.

Shane Blodgett, with strong assists from Rob Jett and Heydi Lopes, proved once again the value of diligent coverage of one's own patch, and Brooklyn became a birding destination for birders throughout the tri-state area as a result. First, Shane found a **Mew Gull** of the European race *L. c. canus* in Gravesend Bay on 26 December. The bird was relatively cooperative and stayed through the period. Next, Heydi discovered an out-of-season **Brown Pelican** in Marine Park on 8 January and managed to get a few photos before it disappeared. Then, on 18 January, Shane found a **Western Grebe** off Coney Island. The bird remained through the period but was not found every day and ranged widely. Rob and Heydi's finale was a **Thick-billed Murre** at Coney Island on 19 January during an unsuccessful search for the Western Grebe.

The alcid season was highly successful, and all six of the east coast species were recorded. Two storms wrecked **Dovekies**, mostly along the south shore of Long Island. The storm of 26 December stranded four individuals, whereas that of 25 January stranded some 20 individuals, one as far west as Staten Island. One found by Ken Thompson at Great River stayed for five days and provided hundreds of birders with great views and a great photo-op.

Scarce through December, Razorbills made a spectacular appearance on 16 January, when several observers counted 1200 individuals at Montauk Point, a record number for New York. This record was quickly eclipsed on 24 January, when 4000 were tallied at Montauk Point. Tom Burke and Angus Wilson did most of the counting that day, with Wilson tallying 1344 individuals in one 20-minute period. Subsequent counts never came close to matching these totals, and

it remains a mystery what happened to all of these Razorbills. Of interest is R.R. Veit's report that thousands of individuals wintering off Cape Cod and Nantucket disappeared just prior to these huge counts. A pelagic trip that went 18 miles south of Jones Inlet on 17 January produced 202 Razorbills, 33 **Common Murres**, and 2 **Atlantic Puffins**.

Without question the outstanding bird of the season was the first New York record for the **arctic race of Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle mandtii*)**, discovered by Jay Kuhlman and Rich Sautkulis on 19 December at Sebonac Inlet in Southampton. Carl Starace spread the news and the bird was seen and photographed by hundreds of birders through 1 January. Shai Mitra, upon seeing the photographs, was the first to point out that it belonged to one of the geographically isolated subspecies that breed in the high arctic. All previous NY records are believed to pertain to the subspecies that nests from Maine to maritime Canada.

Staten Island birders had some nice finds this season. The cooperative **Rufous Hummingbird** on Grymes Hill remained through 24 December. In early December Clove Lakes Park produced an impressive collection of wintering species. On 20 December Catherine Barron found a Red-headed Woodpecker that stayed through the period. On 2 **December** she found a **Summer Tanager**, just the fifth winter record for New York and suspected by some as pertaining to the south-western subspecies (*Piranga rubra cooperi*). Remarkably, this bird remained until 7 **February** feeding on bees.

Good numbers of lingering Passerines were found during the period, mostly in December. Ken Fuestel found a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Zach's Bay on 6 **December**. He got the word out quickly and it was seen and photographed by several other birders. The **Ash-throated Flycatcher** found in South Ozone Park on 22 November remained until 18 December. Two Blue-headed Vireos were found in the first week of December. No fewer than 10 species of wood warblers were found. Steve Nanz found two Orange-crowned Warblers, a Black-throated Green Warbler, and a Wilson's Warbler on 19 December in Brooklyn. An American Redstart was in Central Park on 8-9 December, and another Black-throated Green Warbler was found on 20 December in Riverside Park. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Central Park from 29 November to 6 December.

American Pipits were widely scattered in the Region, with some very nice high counts, and American Robins were recorded in large numbers at many sites. Some fairly high counts of Rusty Blackbird were noted at Oakland Lake and Shu Swamp. Winter finches were nearly non-existent, with a few reports of Purple Finch and two reports of Pine Siskin.

Three interesting hybrids were found. First, three Snow Goose x Canada Goose hybrids were noted at the Roanoke Landing on 3 January by Shai Mitra. On 22 January, Rob Jett found a Northern Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal hybrid at Prospect Park. Nelson's Gulls, Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull, were found at Montauk and Old Field. In addition, an apparently hybrid—but definitely escaped—falcon spent much of the period at Brookhaven National Lab in Ridge.

Resembling a Gyrfalcon, it was a stark reminder that reports of that species need to be thoroughly documented and treated with considerable skepticism.

Data from all the Christmas Bird Counts except Manhattan, for which I did not receive the data, are incorporated into this report. Sightings without sufficient documentation or physical evidence, when such was warranted, have been omitted so as not to introduce them into the Region's official archive of bird records. Since I last wrote a Regional report some 30 years ago, the amount of available data has skyrocketed. Of the 90 days in the period, I received observations collected on more than 80 of those days, and the document in which I collected records grew to 187 pages! As a result, I am truly indebted to the sub-regional compilers and the people who sent end-of-season summaries, which were incredibly useful. They are duly noted below. Please send summer 2010 reports to Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bold: sub-regional compilers; *italics:* sent end of season report. Bob Adamo, Deborah Allen, Kathy & Ron Armitage, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Gail Benson, Dick Berlinger, *Bobby & Janice Berlinger*, Shane Blodgett, Brent Bomkamp (BBk), Tom Brown, **John Brush, Jr.**, John Brush, Sr. (JBS), **Tom Burke**, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace, Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Dave Eib, Chris Feeny, **Tom Fiore**, Ken & Sue Fuestel, Douglas Futuyma, Paul Gillen, Joe Giunta (JGi), John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Paul Guris (PAG), Nick Hamblet, Ken Harris, Mike Higgiston, Rob Jett, *Richard Kaskan (RRK)*, Tom Kerr, Dave Klauber, James Knox, *Robert Kurtz (RJK)*, Mary Laura Lamont, Jerry Lazarczyk, Anne Lazarus, Eve Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Jean Loscalzo (JML), *Peter Martin*, Hugh McGuinness, *Shai Mitra*, Steve Nanz, Tom Perlman, Jason Pietrzak, Pat Pollock, Anne Purcell, *Joan Quinlan*, Karen & Barbara Rubinstein, Mike Scheibel (MSc), Sy Schiff, Eileen Schwinn, Michael Shanley, John Sep (JSp), Carl Starace, Jeff Stetson (JSt), Jarred Sutton, Sally Swain (SSw), Richard Veit, Steve Walter, Alex Wilson (AW), **Angus C. Wilson (ACW)**, **Seth Wollney (SIW)**.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; BBG – Brooklyn Botanic Garden; BLSP – Belmont Lake SP, SUFF; BP – Bryant P, NEWY; Calv – Calverton Grasslands SUFF; CB – Cedar Beach SUFF; CLP – Clove Lakes P, RICH; CP – Central P NEWY; CI – Coney Island KING; CRSP – Connetquot River SP, SUFF; DPMK – Ditch Plains, Montauk SUFF; EP – Eastport Pd, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field KING; FP – Forest P, QUEE; FKP – Fresh Kills P, RICH; GEO – Georgica Pd, SUFF; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; HP – Hook Pd, Easthampton SUFF; IPNV – Iron Pier Northville, SUFF; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge QUEE-KING; Mara – Marratooka Lake, Mattituck SUFF; MPQP – Massapequa Preserve; MP – Montauk Point SUFF; MLUA – Mount Loretto Unique Area, Nap – Napeague; RICH; NYBG – New York Botanical Gardens BRON; NV – Northville SUFF; OBSP – Orient Beach SP; PBP – Pelham Bay P BRON; POJB – Pelagic trip off Jones Beach; PFA – Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay NASS; PL – Point Lookout NASS; PP – Prospect P KING;

RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Bay & Inlet; SMCP – Smith Point Co P SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP SUFF; VSWP – Van Siclien Wastewater Plant KING; WEJB – West End Jones Beach NASS; WPP – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH; ZB – Zach’s Bay, Jones Beach NASS. For other locations mentioned more than once below, the county is given in the first citation but not thereafter. Christmas Bird Counts are referred to by their standard abbreviations, as presented elsewhere in this issue.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: SMSP thru 25 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose: none in fall, arr mid-late Dec; ad Wainscot, SUFF 12 Dec (ACW); 6 BLSP 25 Dec- (K&SF) to 7 on 1-10 Jan (SA), 1 remaining 24 Jan; 2 ad HP 9 Jan (ACW), 4 imm & 1 ad on 10 Jan (K&BR), 4 imm thru; Brady’s Pd RICH 15 Jan (SIW, JS); 1 HLSP 24 Jan (BB); PFA 26 Jan (Rich Kelly). **Snow Goose:** migrants: 120 RICH 9 Dec (AP); 50 FP 9 Dec (JML); 50 CP 12 Dec (TF); 400 JBWR 12 Dec (DF); 145 Ppk 17 Dec (PD, RJ); 270 PPK 22 Dec (PD); wintering max 1535 JBWR 19 Dec (NYBR); 3500 JBWR 31 Jan (PD, M. Eyster).

Brant: 32,847 NYSN 2 Jan.

BARNACLE GOOSE: 1 Mara, Mattituck, SUFF 19 Dec (PG, JSp).

Cackling Goose: SMSP thru 25 Dec; 2 Deep Hollow, Montauk SUFF 4 Dec (1 on 5 Dec) (VB); 1 Flushing Meadows Pk, QUEE 5-6 Dec (SA); 2 MLUA thru 9 Dec, one thru 19 Dec; BLSP 13 Dec-9 Feb (KF); Short’s Pd, Bridgehampton, SUFF 18 Dec (ES, MH); Baldwin NASS 2 Jan (SM, PL); 7 HP 9-23 Jan (ACW, HM), 8 HP 16 Jan (SM, PL).

Trumpeter Swan: Upper Lake, Yaphank SUFF 15 Jan thru, possibly present least a month prior.

Tundra Swan: 4 WEJB 14 Dec (K&SF); 1 MLUA 19-22 Dec (found dead) (SA, SIW); 4 South Manor SUFF 16-18 Dec (CS); 2 MPQP 25 Dec-22 Feb (RJK); CRSP 24 Dec-24 Jan (KF); 3 Cutchogue SUFF 28 Dec (JBS); 6 Sagaponack SUFF 5 Jan (HM), max 10 on 16 Jan (K&BRu, VB) w 4 thru; Great River SUFF 28 Jan (J. Pietrzak).

Wood Duck: max 25 BLSP 1 Jan (SM, PL, JQ); 27 Cedar Beach Southold SUFF 20 Jan (JBS).

Gadwall: 561 NYSM 27 Dec; 200 Swan Pd Patchogue SUFF 5 Jan (RJK).

Eurasian Wigeon: Shinn Reservation Southampton, SUFF 22 Dec (A. Phillips); 2 Setauket Harbor SUFF 23-30 Dec (Peter Scully); Santapogue Creek, West Babylon SUFF 3 Jan-21 Feb (R. Grover, Nick Laviola); Tottenville RICH 8-31 Jan (SIW, DK *et al.*).

Am. Wigeon: 1013 NYSM 27 Dec, mostly in Setauket Harbor.

Am. Black Duck: 5709 NYSN 2 Jan.

N. Shoveler: max: 514 PPK 23 Dec (RJ); 475 PPK 24 Dec (PD).

N. Pintail: max 23 JBWR 20 Feb (SA), scarce.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10): Milburn Pd, Baldwin 2-6 Jan (PL, SM).

Canvasback: max CBCs: 76 NYCC; 46 Mara 9 Jan (JSp); 46 Little Neck Bay QUEE 10 Jan (Eric Miller); 147 Tung Ting Pd Centerport SUFF 19 Jan (BBk); 79 EP 24 Jan (SM, PL); very low numbers.

Redhead: 12 Lake Capri NASS 13 Dec (KF); 65 on 10 Jan (JG); max 91 on 18 Jan (PL, SM).

Ring-necked Duck: 334 NYSM 27 Dec.

Greater Scaup: 35,000 Dead Horse Bay KING 17 Jan (PD); 20,000 Glen Cove 23 Jan (BBk); generally scarce.

Lesser Scaup: max 272 EP 24 Jan (SM, PL); low numbers.

King Eider: ad m MP 4 Dec-24 Jan (VB); max 4 ad m 17 Jan (HM); f 26 Jan (K&SF); ad m DPMK 10-24 Jan (ACW), f 16 Jan (SM, PL); imm m NV 24 Jan (SM, JSp).

Com. Eider: in many unusual places (Fireplace, Old Field Point, Southold) sev large groups along south shore; 110 WEJB 2 Dec (KF); max 896 Shinn 30 Dec (DG), large raft thru; 254 Jones Beach 2 Jan (mob); 200 Moriches Inlet SUFF 16 Jan (Jay Kuhlman); 35 BPT 17 Jan (PD *et al.*); max 920 NYMK, low.

Harlequin Duck: 2 PL thru Dec; max 6 PL 1 Jan thru (SA); imm m Lake Montauk 4 Dec-17 Jan (mob); m Goldsmith Inlet, Peconic SUFF 30 Dec-13 Jan (JSp); East Marion SUFF 2 Jan (BA); 2 Long Beach NASS 2-23 Jan; 1 DPMK 10 Jan (DF); MP 16 Jan (K&SF *et al.*); 5 Shinn 11-21 Feb (BA).

Long-tailed Duck: 450 PL 1 Jan (SA); 1827 NYSN 2 Jan.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m Bayville, NASS 1 Jan thru (Bobby Rossetti); m East Marion 2-28 Jan (Steve Biasetti); JBWR 18 Jan thru (Rob Bate).

Hooded Merganser: 963 NYSN 2 Jan; 749 NYCA 3 Jan.

Com. Merganser: 123 NYSM 27 Dec; 102 CRSP 1 Jan (K&SF); 107 Bayard Cutting Arb Suff 12 Jan (SM, PL).
Red-br. Merganser: 1934 NYBR 19 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: 100 PPK 2 Dec (RJ); 150 CP Dec 19 (PP); generally scarce.
N. Bobwhite: 10 Southold 31 Dec (C. Coakley), only report.
Ring-necked Pheasant: NYSI, NYBR, NYQU, & NYSN, surprising.
Wild Turkey: max 122 NYSI 19 Dec.
Red-throated Loon: 300 MP 5 Dec; 686 NYMK 19 Dec.
Red-necked Grebe: 1 JBWR thru 5 Dec; 1 Fort Pd Bay, Montauk 5 Dec-24 Jan (SM, PL); NYSN 2 Jan; MP 17 Jan (HM); DPMK 17 Jan (HM); BPT 17 Jan (fide PD); SMCP 23 Jan (CS, Dick Belanger); 2 Culloden Pt, Montauk 24 Jan (SM, PL); Marine P KING 20 Feb (SB, HL, RJ).
WESTERN GREBE: Coney Is. KING 18 Jan-20 Feb (SB); Riis Pk 28 Feb.
N. Gannet: 800 MP 5 Dec; 1920 NYMK 19 Dec.
Brown Pelican: Marine Pk, KING 8 Jan (HL).
Double-crested Cormorant: 240 NYBR 19 Dec; 178 NYSN 2 Jan.
Am. Bittern: NYBR 19 Dec; 3 NYSN 2 Jan; Tobay NASS 21 Jan; Shinn 10 Jan-15 Feb.
Great Egret: Shelter Island, SUFF 12 Dec (NH); 1 WEJB 14 Dec (K&SF); 4 NYNN 19 Dec; HLSP 10 Jan (AB); Wm Floyd Estate Mastic SUFF 23 Jan (MLL); Nap 20 Feb (CS).
Snowy Egret: SMSP 13-27 Dec (VP).
Tricolored Heron: Loop Parkway NASS 2 Jan (B. Broughton).
Cattle Egret: Mecox Bay, SUFF thru 2 Dec; SMSP 2 Dec (JL).
Green Heron: Southampton 19 Dec (S & J Benson); NYNN 19 Dec.
Black Vulture: Riverside Pk, NEWY 12 Dec (J. Nulle); 2 Sag Harbor SUFF 12 Jan (HM); 2 High Rock P, RICH 26 Jan (D Erb); 6 FKP 26 Jan (R. Matarazzo); 2 Verrazano Bridge (Ft Wadsworth), RICH 31 Jan thru (DF); PPK Feb 8 (DG); Montauk 20 Feb (M Wolffsohn, CS).
Turkey Vulture: 10-20 NEWY 20 Dec (JD *et al.*); 2 NV 26 Jan (MLL); Mattituck 7 Feb (PG); 2 Ft Wadsworth 7 Feb (ACW); 1 Montauk 20 Feb (CS *et al.*); East Norwich NASS 21 Feb (BB); Aquebogue SUFF 22 Feb (PG); 1 Riverhead SUFF 27 Feb (BA, DB); RICH 27 Feb (MS).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Greenport SUFF 22 Feb (JSp).

Bald Eagle: 26 reports, continuing in excellent numbers.

N. Goshawk: Bronx Zoo 27 Dec; Mattituck 7 Jan (JBS); imm PPK 12 Jan (PD).

Red-shouldered Hawk: FP 1 Dec-17 Feb (T. Kerr *et al.*); 2 NYBR 19 Dec; Riverhead 21 Dec (BA); ad GKP 25 Dec-10 Jan (JS, SIW); CP 25 Dec (DA *et al.*); 27 Dec Bronx; ad NV 28 Dec (MLL); Wantagh SUFF 4 Jan (PM); imm Ft. Wadsworth 10-15 Jan (SIW, CB); MPQP 12 Jan (PM); ad Tottenville 12 Jan (SIW); imm JBWR 20 Jan (DF); ad MLUA 23 Jan (DE, CB); ad Valley Stream SP NASS 24 Jan (BB); Great River 28 Jan (JP); RICH 15 Feb (JS); ad Montauk 18 Feb (B. McGrath, R. Gostic); RICH 26-28 Feb (MS); imm Riverside P 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: NYBR 19 Dec; Pennsylvania Ave Landfill, KING 28 Dec; Orient Point SUFF 2 Jan; SMCP 6-24 Jan; Cal 9-11 Jan.

Am. Kestrel: missed on 6 of 12 CBCs, declining trend; Shinn GC 27 Dec (L. Ormand); 2 NV 30 Dec-15 Feb (MLL); Cal 11 Jan (K&SF); Eastport 23 Jan (RJK); JBWR 28-29 Jan; FBF 31 Jan (PD, M Eyster); WEJB 7 Feb (BB); Houston St NEWY 18 Feb (AL); Quogue SUFF 20 Feb (RK).

Merlin: more scarce than in recent winters.

Peregrine Falcon: increasingly common; found on 10 of the 12 CBCs.

Clapper Rail: ZB 18 Dec (PM); NYBR 19 Dec; Mt Sinai SUFF 27 Dec; 2 Shinn 10 Jan (SA, B Rossetti), 1 on 11 Jan.

Virginia Rail: 5/12 CBCs.

Semipalmated Plover: Mt Sinai 27 Dec.

Am. Oystercatcher: 32 WEJB 2 Dec, 7 on 14 Dec and 5 on 16 Jan.

Greater Yellowlegs: 6 NYBR 19 Dec; 3 NYSN 2 Jan; West Babylon 10 Jan (JG).

Willet: PL 9-23 Jan (J. Collins).

Red Knot: Nap 24 Jan (ACW, HM).

Purple Sandpiper: 9 Page Ave Beach, RICH 13Jan; 26 DPMK 10 Jan; 26 PL 17 Jan; 48 GEO Beach 16 Jan (K&BRu).

Dunlin: 1498 NYSN 2 Jan.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 Spring Creek, KING 2 Dec (SB); Lawrence NASS 2 Jan; MPQP 3 Jan (SS, JGi).

Wilson's Snipe: max 14 GEO 16 Jan (K&BRu).

Am. Woodcock: arr 2 CP 27 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 29 MP 28 Dec (ACW); 35 MP 10 Jan (DF); 40 MP 16 Jan (SM, PL *et al.*); max 300 MP 24 Jan (PL *et al.*); 73 POJB 17 Jan (ACW, PAG *et al.*); 49 AMA 13 Feb (ACW); 22 DPMK 14 Feb (ACW).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 450 DPMK 21 Feb (ACW);

Black-headed Gull: Owl's Head Wastewater Treatment Plant thru 19 Dec; ad Shinn 24 Dec-12 Feb (SW); ad MP 10 Jan (DF); ad DPMK 14-21 Feb (ACW).

Laughing Gull: 5 PL 2 Dec (KF).

MEW GULL: Gravesend Bay, Bensonhurst KING 26 Dec thru (SB *et al.*).

Ring-billed Gull: 10282 NYBR 19 Dec; 2400 PPK 2 Feb (DG).

Iceland Gull: ca. 23 inds.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ca. 20 inds.

Glaucous Gull: 3rd yr WPP 25 Dec (SIW, JS); Cedar Point, East Hampton 2 Jan (VB); ad 4 Jan Conf. House Pk, RICH (SIW, JS); Mattituck 6 Jan (John Brush, Sr.); imm Great Pd, Southold 13 Jan (JSp); 2nd yr MP 24 Jan (HM *et al.*); 1st yr Orient Pt 20 Feb.

"Nelson's" Gull: 1st yr Fort Pd, Montauk 19 Dec (SM); Lake Montauk 10 Jan (ACW); Old Field Pt, SUFF 27-30 Dec (P. Scully, Jr.).

Black Skimmer: 4 imm CI 3 Dec (SB).

jaeger sp.: AMA 19 Dec (ACW).

Dovekie: storm of Dec 26 stranded 4: HHSP 27 Dec (ES *et al.*); two others brought to rehabbers, one from Westhampton; Shinn 28 Dec (SA); Shinn 16 Jan (BA *et al.*); storm of 25 Jan stranded about 20: Miller Field RICH 26 Jan (TB, J. Goulet); Great River 26-30 Jan (K. Thompson); New Suffolk 27 Jan, dead; plus 17 brought to rehabbers, mostly in Southampton and Riverhead; 3 AMA 13 Feb (ACW).

COMMON MURRE: 33 POJB 17 Jan (ACW, PAG *et al.*).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: CI 19 Jan (RJ, HL)

Razorbill: didn't arrive in numbers until January - only 12 inds seen on 5 CBCs; 1 Old Field Pt 27 Dec (DF); 25 MP 28 Dec (ACW), then 125 on 10 Jan (DF), 1200 on 16 Jan (SM, PL, K&SF *et al.*); 319 on 17 Jan (HM), 4000 on 24 Jan (TB, ACW *et al.*), 65 on 26 Jan (K&SF), 83 on 13 Feb (DF); 202 POJB 17 Jan (ACW, PAG *et al.*); 703 AMA Feb 13 (ACW); *intro*.

BLACK GUILLEMOT: arctic race C.g. *mandtii* Sebonac Inlet Southampton 19 Dec-1 Jan (J. Kuhlman, R. Sautkulis).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: 2 POJB 17 Jan (ACW, PAG *et al.*).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 27 NYBR 19 Dec; 22 Bronx 27 Dec; pair w nest Hudson River NEWY 20

Dec (R. Creshkoff); 20 NYQU 3 Jan; 4 PBP 10 Jan (M. Bochnik).

Barn Owl: JBWR 9 Jan (TWB, GB).

E. Screech-Owl: max 33 NYSM 27 Dec; 5 NYSN 2 Jan.

Great Horned Owl: CP 14-19 Dec; 2 South Shore GC, RICH 19 Dec (I. Robins); Willowbrook P, RICH 19 Dec (TB, RV); PBP 27 Dec- 27 Jan; Alley Pd P QUEE 10 Jan (TK); recorded on all NYC CBCs except NEWY, where count week.

Snowy Owl: SHIN 1 Jan (RRK *et al.*); BPT 17-18 Jan (P. Keim, M. Yuan *et al.*)

Long-eared Owl: ZB 18 Dec (PM); FBF 19 Dec (RJ *et al.*); PBP 27 Dec- 27 Jan, max 3 10 Jan (M. Bochnik); Peconic 20 Feb (K & G Homan)

Short-eared Owl: Riis P 19 Dec; 2 NYSM 27 Dec; Kissena P QUEE 22 Feb (E. Miller, JL).

N. Saw-whet Owl: NYBR 19 Dec; 6 banded PBP 27 Dec thru; max 2 PBP 10-21 Jan.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Grymes Hill, RICH thru 24 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: imm CLP, RICH 20 Nov-thru (CB); imm Southold SUFF 2 Jan thru; Mashomack Pres, Shelter Is SUFF 5 Dec-26 Jan (MSc); imm Caumsett SP SUFF 4 Feb (K&SF).

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): W 21st St, NEWY Jan 8, details requested.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 ZB 6 Dec (KF *et al.*).

E. Phoebe: last Mashomack Pres, Shelter Island 6 Jan (MSc).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: South Ozone Park QUEE thru 18 Dec.

Blue-headed Vireo: PP 2 Dec (RJ, AW); 1 CB 6 Dec (KF).

Am. Crow: 833 NYSM 27 Dec.

Fish Crow: max 205 NYSM 27 Dec, mainly in strip malls along Rt 25.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): 2 Roslyn Harbor NASS mid December thru (PM, G. Quinn); Riverdale 27 Dec; BPT 17 Jan (Queens Bird Club); 2 Bronx Zoo 22 Jan (T. Olson); FP 27 Jan (K. Mirth); CLP 13 Feb (CB).

Horned Lark: max 100 Wading River SUFF 13 Feb (R. May).

Tree Swallow: 50 Gilgo 1 Dec (DK); 50 CB 15 Dec (R. Cartwright); last 12 CB 3 Jan.

Red-br. Nuthatch: 12/12 CBCs, but scarce.

Carolina Wren: 163 NYSM 27 Dec.

House Wren: 2 Quogue 19 Dec (MH, ES); NYCC 26 Dec; NYSN 2 Jan.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 16 NYNN 19 Dec; Bayard Cutting Arb 30 Jan (SM).
E. Bluebird: 7/12 CBCs, but generally scarce; max 10 GEO 18 Jan (J. Ross).
Am. Robin: 1925 NYNN 19 Dec; 1780 NYOR 2 Jan; 1456 NYCC 26 Dec; 640 Sag Harbor 15 Jan (HM); common after first big snowfall.
Am. Pipit: widespread reports of small numbers. max 30 MLUA 18 Dec; 14 MLUA 19 Dec (SIW); 17 NYSN 2 Jan; 29 NYCA 3 Jan; 70 Cal 31 Jan (SM, PL, JQ).
Cedar Waxwing: 247 NYNN 19 Dec.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: 2 P P 2 Dec (RJ); 1 WEJB 6 Dec (KF); CLP 8 Dec-1 Jan (TF); 1 HLSP 10 Dec (Steve Schellenger); CP 11-14 Dec (AL); FP 12 Dec (JML, A. Gilbert); FKP 19 Dec (RV, TB); VSWP 19 Dec (SN); Spring Creek 19 Dec (SN); Harlem River @ Dyckman St, NEWY 20 Dec (JK); Tobay 2 Jan (B. Shriber, M. Aitchison); NYQU 3 Jan; 1 PL 6 Jan (MH, ES); WPP 8 Jan (SIW, DK); Hendrix Creek KING 20 Feb (RJ, HL, SB).
Black-thr. Green Warbler: VSWP 19 Dec (SN); East Dyckman St, NEWY 20 Dec (JK).
Pine Warbler: WEJB 7 Dec-6 Jan (mob); 1 CLP 7 Dec-15 Feb (JSt); 2 CLP 16 Dec; FP 12 Dec-1 Jan (JML); CRSP 24 Dec-3 Jan (KF); 2 NYBG 27 Dec; NYSM 27 Dec; 5 Calverton SUFF 23 Jan (RRK); Quogue Wildlife Refuge SUFF 27 Feb (BM).
Palm Warbler: max & last 3 NYBR 19 Dec, scarce.
Am. Redstart: CP 8-9 Dec (TP).
Ovenbird: East 79th St NEWY 9-17 Dec (A. Shanahan); BP thru 14 Dec (BC); Rockville Center, NASS 5 Dec; PP 11-19 Dec (RJ); dead RICH 11 Dec (TB); west 100th St, NEWY 15 Dec-1 Jan (Mike Freeman); 84th & 3rd NEWY 21 Dec (J. Ross), perhaps same as at E 79th.
Com. Yellowthroat: imm m BP 9 Dec (BC); f BP 10 Dec (BC); 2 FKP 19 Dec (RV, TB).
Wilson's Warbler: VSWP 19 Dec (SN).
Yellow-breasted Chat: CLP 9 Dec (CB); AMA 19 Dec (ACW); dead NYBG 12 Jan (B. Conway fide A. Block); MP 26 Jan (K&SF).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 200 NYSI 19 Dec; generally low.
Chipping Sparrow: found on 7/12 CBCs; 6 NYBR 19 Dec; numerous reports; last 2 AMA 10 Jan (K&BR).

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Southold 2 Jan (JSp).
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow: max 6 NYSN 2 Jan.
Saltmarsh Sparrow: NYBR 19 Dec; 4 NYSN 2 Jan; 2 Shinn 12 Feb (DK, BM); 1 Shinn 15 Feb (KF).
Fox Sparrow: generally low numbers.
White-throated Sparrow: some observers reported low numbers.
White-crowned Sparrow: widely scattered in small numbers: 2 Laurel SUFF 10 Dec; 3-4 JBWE 5 Jan-5 Feb; 3 HP 5 Jan thru; 2 Cutchogue, 8 Jan; 6 GKP 13 Jan; 25 Cal 31 Jan (SM, PL); Mecox 13 Feb; Mattituck 16 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: 4 NYSI 19 Dec; 1 Jones Beach 4 Jan thru (JG, SS); max 3 Jones Beach 18 Feb (Lloyd Spitalnik); FBF 7-10 Jan (RJ); 2 FBF 28 Feb (SA).
Snow Bunting: 125 FKP 19 Dec (TB, RV).
Summer Tanager: 1 CLP 2 Dec-7 Feb (CB *et al.* ph), possibly *P. r. cooperi*.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CP 29 Nov-6 Dec (B. Stifel, DA *et al.* ph).
Rusty Blackbird: widely scattered reports of small numbers; 30 Oakland Lake, QUEE 2 Dec (KH); 65 NYQU 3 Jan; 17 NYNN 19 Dec; 15 Shu Swamp, NASS 10 Jan (KF), to 60 there 24 Jan (RJK), and 10 there 19 Feb.
Com. Grackle: 6000 NV 31 Jan (SM, PL); 6547 Van Cortland P BRON 27 Dec.
Boat-tailed Grackle: 22 SMCP 1 Jan (CS, SS); 32 SMCP 6 Jan (CS), 15 SMCP 23 Jan; 14 WEJB 2 Jan (BB) part of 29 on NYSN.
Baltimore Oriole: 2f P P 2 Dec (RJ, AW); 3 CLP 4-12 Dec, 1 there thru 16 Dec (CB K&RA, AP); RMSP 12 Dec (DF); CB 18 Dec (K&SF); Springs SUFF 19 Dec; 3 NYBG 24 Dec (PD, Rob Bate), 4 NYBG 27 Dec; 1 East Hampton 25 Dec (D. Godfrey); 1 Baldwin 2 Jan (J. Stahl); Page Ave, RICH 12 Jan (JSt, SIW).
Purple Finch: a few reports of small numbers in Dec, none after early January; 2 Shelter Is. 2 Dec, 1 there 14-15 Dec (NH); 4 SMSP 13 Dec (VP); 12 NYNN 19 Dec; NYQW 19 Dec; 2 NYSM 27 Dec; 2 NYOR 2 Jan.
Pine Siskin: 2 NYQW 19 Dec; 2 OBSP 2 Jan (CS).
Am. Goldfinch: generally low numbers.

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck: 79th St Boat Basin, NEWY 30 Jan (fide JML).
Cape Shelduck: BLSP 1 Jan thru.