

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

December was cold, marked with the lack of any warm spells. A blizzard hit the area on 26-27 December, hampering coverage for the Bronx-Westchester CBC. 14-20" fell on the area, with the highest amounts south and towards the coast. Westchester came in 4.5° F colder than normal for the month and wet, with 4.3" of precipitation. Then followed a series of weekly winter storms without any chance for the snow cover to melt. Poughkeepsie did not reach 40° or above from 4 January to 5 February. The month was 1° cooler and 0.4" wetter than normal and was one of, if not the, snowiest January on record. February was wetter than normal and fortunately a degree warmer thanks to 2" of rain on 6 February and a thaw from 16-18 February, during which Poughkeepsie reached a high of 72° on the 18th.

Both Snow Goose and Brant lingered well into the winter season. Brant remained through the period along the Long Island Sound shore in Westchester. Cackling Goose was reported from Ulster County in December and from Westchester in February. The Eurasian Wigeon at Rockland Lake, found in October, lingered into the early part of December. Large rafts of scoters and Long-tailed Duck wintered off Rye through the winter. Most of the scoters were White-wing and Surf, but a couple of Black Scoters made the mix. Bob Shriber found an interesting hybrid duck in Mamaroneck, Westchester County, on 7 & 8 December, but freezing conditions kept it moving. It was traveling with a group of Hooded Mergansers and appeared to be a Hooded Merganser x goldeneye hybrid—possibly Barrow's Goldeneye.

An American White Pelican was reported flying high over Chelsea in Dutchess County on 5 January by Rodney Johnson. Interestingly, an American White Pelican was reported over Floyd Bennett Field south of Region 9 the next day. Wintering Bald Eagles along the Hudson continue to impress with their numbers. The Mearns Bird Club counted 191 Bald Eagles at the Croton Dam and between Croton Point Park and the Bear Mountain Bridge on 30 January. Golden Eagle sightings were up as well, with most reports from Dutchess County. Wintering Merlins are now expected. They were reported on five Christmas Bird Counts, and sightings continued throughout the season.

While clearing his roof of snow, Edmond Spaeth noticed two V-formations of Sandhill Cranes flying southeastward high in the sky above some crows. He described their flight as necks and legs extended and wing strokes with an upward tick and slow down stroke.

An adult male **VARIED THRUSH** appeared at a feeder at a private residence in Wurtsboro, Sullivan County in late December and stayed until 3 March. The homeowner, not knowing what type of bird it was, contacted Arlene Borko and Arlene contacted John Haas. They saw and photographed the bird on

3 January. Due to the homeowner's wishes for privacy, the location was properly not disclosed to the general public. The homeowner did graciously allow John to monitor and document the bird. The bird made the Monticello CBC [NYMT] on 29 December, and a report has been submitted to NYSARC.

Lance Verderame observed two **BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS** in Debruce in northern Sullivan County on 24 December.

Just as in the fall, White-crowned Sparrows were more common than usual in winter throughout the Region. There was a scattering of White-winged Crossbills in January, but none lingered. Common Redpolls were numerous in the northern half of the Region but still scarce in the south. Evening Grosbeaks returned to their usual haunts in Sullivan County.

A **European Goldfinch** was discovered at a feeder in Pine Bush, Orange County during the Great Yard Bird Count on 21 February.

As usual, the Christmas Bird Counts had their own highlights. The Peekskill count [NYPE] held on 18 December totaled a respectable 98 species. Highlights included a record-breaking number of Common Mergansers—4,262 that came primarily from a large flock located on the Hudson River off the Village of Verplanck. A Northern Goshawk, two Red-shouldered Hawks, two Merlin, a Virginia Rail, a Marsh Wren, 56 Eastern Bluebirds, an American Pipit, White-crowned Sparrow, Snow Bunting, and Eastern Meadowlark rounded out the other notable species.

The Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir count [NYML] found 72 species on 18 December, only the third time the count recorded 70 or more species. Highlights included three species previously recorded only once during the count's history. A very late **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** was observed by Tom Sarro perched in a tree on the edge of a horse paddock on Klienekill Farm in the Mohonk Lake area, two Northern Saw-whet Owls responded to vocal imitation in Accord, and eight Wood Ducks were found. Two additional species were encountered for only the third time—two Merlins and a late Killdeer. Six Ring-necked Ducks were an unusual find for this count circle. Two White-crowned Sparrows, representing the seventh count record, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, three Field Sparrows, one Fox Sparrow, and three American Kestrels were nice half-hardy additions to the compilation.

The Dutchess County count [NYDC] set a count record for total individual birds on 18 December, in large part due to a roost with 20,000 American Crows and 1,300 Fish Crows in Poughkeepsie. Another highlight was two White-winged Scoters. The Putnam County count [NYPC] on 2 January had 80 species, with new highs for Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Other highlights were Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Long-tailed Duck, Merlin, Ring-necked Pheasant, six Eastern Towhees, and White-crowned Sparrow. The Pawling (Hidden Valley) count [NYHV] added a new species to their list on 1 January with a Common Yellowthroat in Pawling. The count also found a Vesper Sparrow in Putnam. The Rockland County count [NYRC] on 19 December had a Purple Sandpiper at Piermont Pier. The bird was relocated on the 23rd.

The Bronx-Westchester count [NYBW] found 106 species on 26 December, despite an impending blizzard that eventually dumped 17-20" of snow on the area. Highlights included a Nelson's Sparrow at Marshlands Conservancy, for the first time on the count since it became a full species. It was previously reported as a subspecies in 1935 and 1953. All three scoter species were found on the Sound off Rye, as well as a Red-necked Grebe and a Northern Gannet. Great Egret was found in Mamaroneck and only one Pine Siskin was reported. Two Common Redpolls were reported from Rye.

Other notable species for the season include: Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Northern Shrike, and Baltimore Oriole.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Judy Atwood, Paula & Scott Baldinger, Robert Bate, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Mira Bowin, Charlie Breiner, Roger Brucher, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Steve M. Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Jim Clinton, Mary Collier, Matt Corsaro, Mark Damian, Renee Davis, Patrick Dechon, Mark DeDea, Mike Dolan, Tom & Elda Dow, Jacob Drucker, Larry Federman, Dot Fleury, Valerie Freer, Tom & Elyse Fuller, Jerry & Susan Gilnack, Steve Golladay, Christine Guarino, Rich Guthrie, John Haas, Ken Harris, Lois Head, Kate Hyden, Tait Johansson, Rodney Johnson, Maha Katnani, Deborah Kral, Veronika Krause, Dick Lahey, Kelly Liao, Mertin Lockhart, Frank Margiotta, Gene McGarry, Ruth McKeon, Allan Michelin, Suzanne O'Rourke, Jeff & Beth Petit, Linda Pistolesi, Adrienne Popko, Jim Previdi, David Rankin, Sue Rayano, Shelley Redl, Charlie Roberto, Beverly Robertson, Jane Rossman, Tom Sarro, Lisa Schlesinger, William & Lisa Schlesinger, Peter Schoenberger, Bob Shriber, Ruth Shursky, Jim & Mary Siedow, Paula Simmonds, Dave Spangenburg, Edmond Spaeth, Sandy Stone, Herb Thompson, Benjamin Van Doren, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Bill Wallace, Carol Weiss, Joe Weiss, Alan Wells, Adam Zorn.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; FNC – Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; NYBW – Bronx-Westchester CBC; NYDC – Dutchess County CBC; NYEO – East Orange CBC; NYHV – Pawling (Hidden Valley) CBC; NYML – Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir CBC; NYMT – Monticello CBC; NYPC – Putnam County CBC; NYPE – Peekskill CBC; NYRC – Rockland County CBC; NYSU – Southern Orange County CBC; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 2 Blue Chip Farms, 5 Dec; 140 FNC 8 Dec; 600 FNC 9 Dec; 2 CPP 14 Dec; 5 NYEO 18 Dec; 4 Wallkill NWR 20 Dec; 102 Youngsville 6 Jan.
Brant: present all season on LI Sound, WEST; 60 EGR 11 Dec; 46 EGR 12 Jan; 28 EGR 6 Feb.
Cackling Goose: 2 Blue Chip Farms, 5 Dec (MDe); CPP 27 Feb (BV), ph.
Mute Swan: 93 Purdy's Res 7 Feb.

Wood Duck: 8 NYML 18 Dec; 5 NYPC 2 Jan; 61 Bashakill 25 Feb.
Gadwall: 20 MC 25 Dec.
Eurasian Wigeon: Rockland SP 3 Dec.
Am. Wigeon: 60 Rye 25 Dec.
Mallard: 767 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.
N. Pintail: Wappinger Falls 3 Dec; Wurtsboro 7 Dec – mid Feb; 2 Pine Plains 4, 29 Jan; 3 Pine Plains 6 Feb; Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 7 Yonkers 26 Dec; NYPC 2 Jan; East Fishkill 21 Jan; Millerton 30 Jan; Millerton 17 Feb.
Canvasback: 300 Esopus 27 Feb.
Redhead: 3 Rockland L 29 Dec; Croton-Harmon Train Station 20 Jan; few PP 11 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: 148 Round Pd, Town of North East 8 Dec; 6 NYML 18 Dec; 82 Beekman 9 Dec.
Greater Scaup: 400 Rye 2 Jan; 450 EGR 8 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: 800 EGR 12 Jan.
Surf Scoter: 300 EGR 25 Dec; 70 NYBW 26 Dec; 250 Rye 24 Jan; 85 EGR 8 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: 2 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec (NYDC); 400 EGR 23 Dec; 615 NYBW 26 Dec; 200 EGR 29 Dec; 400 Rye 2 Jan; Haverstraw Bay County Park 17 Jan (JP); 1615 EGR 8 Feb; PP 13,17 Feb (LP).
Black Scoter: 2 NYBW 26 Dec; 3 EGR 27 Dec; EGR 24 Feb.
scoter species: 1000 EGR 11 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Poughkeepsie 6 Dec (CV); 900 EGR 29 Dec; Cold Spring 2 Jan (NYPC); 700 EGR 12 Jan; 850 EGR 6 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: 22 Wallkill River 31 Jan; 160 PP 27 Feb; 300 Esopus 27 Feb.
Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye species: Mamaroneck 7,8 Dec (BS,TB).
Com. Merganser: 4262 NYPE 18 Dec; 1032 George's Island 22 Jan.
N. Bobwhite: Claryville 1Dec - early Jan (CB).
Ring-necked Pheasant: NYPC 2 Jan; Millbrook 30 Jan.
Ruffed Grouse: 4 Jeffersonville 3 Dec; Neversink 4 Dec; Millbrook 23 Jan; Parksville 11 Feb; Callicoon 15 Feb.
Red-throated Loon: 7 Rye 11Dec, 24, 27 Jan.
Com. Loon: 3 Rye 3, 11 Dec, 2 Jan,17 Feb; Rhinecliff 3 Jan.
Pied-billed Grebe: Beekman 9 Dec; Black Rock Park 20, 22 Jan.
Horned Grebe: 7 NYML 18 Dec.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 23, 26, 27 Dec, 27 Jan (TB,BV,NYBW).
N. Gannet: EGR 13, 23, 26, 27, 30 Dec.
Am. White Pelican: flying high over Chelsea 5 Jan (RJ).
Great Egret: Mamaroneck, NYBW 26 Dec; MC 4 Jan (TB).
Black Vulture: 20 NYEO 18 Dec; 23 NYSU 27 Dec; 50 Wappinger 10, 13 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 5 NYML 18 Dec, new count high; 64 George's Island Park 22 Jan; 191 between Croton Dam, Croton Point Park and the Bear Mountain Bridge 30 January.

N. Harrier: 12 Black Dirt region 14 Dec; 4 SGNWR 19 Dec; 4 Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.
Cooper's Hawk: 7 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.
N. Goshawk: White Plains High School 3 Dec; Dover 5 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec; Saugerties 1 Jan; 3 Woodstock 1 Jan.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 NYML 18 Dec, new count high; 2 NYPE 18 Dec; many scattered reports thru.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Klienekill Farm, Mohonk Lake area, NYML 18 Dec (TS).
Red-tailed Hawk: 80 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.
Rough-legged Hawk: many reports this season from the northern half of Region 9; 7 Black Dirt region 14 Dec; 8 NYSU 27 Dec; 4 SGNWR 9 Jan; 6 Wallkill NWR 22 Jan; Millbrook 13 Feb; 6 Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.
Golden Eagle: StonyKill 4 Dec; Verbank 8 Dec; Lew Beach 12 Dec; FNC 14 Dec; Mashomack 21 Dec; Pawling 18 Jan; 2 Millbrook 23 Jan; 2 Thompson Pd 30 Jan; 1 ad, 1 imm Stissing 20 Feb; 1 imm Millerton 20 Feb.
Am. Kestrel: 3 NYML 18 Dec; Orange County Airport 31 Jan.
Merlin: 2 NYPE 18 Dec; 2 NYML 18 Dec; Rye 26 Dec (NYBW); 2 NYSU 27 Dec; Carmel 2 Jan (NYPC); New Rochelle 13 Jan (ABI); Amenia 7 Jan (DF); 2 Thompson Pd 30 Jan (MBoc); Pound Ridge 5 Feb (TB); CPP 21 Feb.
Virginia Rail: NYPE 18 Dec.
Sandhill Crane: 30 in 2 V-formations over Fishkill 28 Dec (ES).
Killdeer: Krumville, NYML 18 Dec; Clinton Corners 18 Feb; 1-4 EGR thru.
Purple Sandpiper: PP 19, 23 Dec (NYRC, VK); 4 EGR 30 Dec; 21 EGR 6 Jan; 12 EGR 5 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: Rye 27 Feb.
Iceland Gull: Wallkill 3 Feb (JH); Shawangunk 8 Feb (JH).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Wallkill River, Wallkill 9, 31 Jan (JH); Red Mills Road, Wallkill 3 Feb (JH); 2 Wallkill 6, 8 Feb (JH).
Glaucous Gull: Blue Chip Farm 5 Dec (MDe); Red Mills Road, Wallkill 3 Feb (JH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: Wallkill NWR 22 Jan; Pomona 22 Jan.
Barred Owl: 7 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.
Long-eared Owl: 2 PP 18, 20-22, 27 Feb; 4 PP 24 Feb; 3 PP 28 Feb.
Short-eared Owl: 5 Wallkill NWR 3 Jan; 3 SGNWR 4 Jan; 8 Wallkill NWR 22 Jan; 2 Tallman Marsh 16 Feb; Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Accord, NYML 18 Dec; West Saugerties 12 Jan; 2 Woodstock 12 Jan.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, New Paltz 8 Jan (MBow, MCor); 3 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 13 Feb (PSc).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 121 NYPC 2 Jan.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 9 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: Neversink Res 24 Dec (SB); Stormville 21 Jan (SG).
Am. Crow: 20,000 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec (NYDC).
Fish Crow: 1300 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec (NYDC); returned to many areas mid Feb.
Horned Lark: 8 Woodbourne 8 Dec; 20 CPP 14 Dec; 120 Millerton 16 Jan; 46 Pleasant Valley 18 Dec; 3 CPP 18 Dec; 100 Winchell Mt 30 Dec; 18 Amenia 9 Jan; 24 Skinner Ln, Goshen 16 Jan; 175 Millbrook 30 Jan; 300 between Chester and Montgomery 31 Jan; 35 Orange County Airport 31 Jan; 70 Stone Ridge 6 Feb; 5 Beechwoods 11 Feb; 57 Amenia 27 Feb; 80 Millerton early Feb; particularly numerous this winter.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: much less numerous this winter.
Carolina Wren: 53 NYML 18 Dec, new count high; 94 NYPC 2 Jan, new high count.
Marsh Wren: NYPE 18 Dec.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 NYML 18 Dec.
E. Bluebird: 56 NYPE 18 Dec; 109 NYML 18 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: Bridgeville 29 Dec.
Am. Robin: 80 Kakiat Park 6 Feb.
VARIED THRUSH: Wurtsboro 29 Dec thru, see *intro*.
Am. Pipit: 25 CPP 14 Dec; CPP 18 Dec (NYPE); 8 EGR 30 Dec; PP 5 Jan; 2 Lomontville 15 Jan; 3 PP 28 Feb.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 2 DeBruce 24 Dec (LV).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 Northeast 24 Dec (DF); NYSU 27 Dec; Millbrook 30 Jan (JAS); Stone Ridge 6 Feb (PSc); 2 Rochester 27 Feb.
Snow Bunting: 2 CPP 14 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec; 8 Neversink Dam 15, 21 Dec; 18 LaGrange 15-17 Dec; 34 Neversink 18 Dec; 58 NYML 18 Dec; 60 Westbrookville 29 Dec; 8 Winchell My 30 Dec; 36 EGR 31 Dec; 18 Neversink 1 Jan; 10 Rockland L 4 Jan; 42 Callicoon 15 Jan; 57 Skinner Ln, Goshen 16 Jan; 125 Millbrook 30 Jan; Orange County Airport 31 Jan; Red Mills Road, Wallkill 3 Feb; 10 Stone Ridge 6 Feb; 3 Liberty 11 Feb; 2 Neversink 12 Feb; some

Millerton 11, 18 Feb; Stony Kill 17 Feb; 6 Mabbettsville 4 Feb.
Com. Yellowthroat: Kingston 11 Dec (MDe); Pawling, NYHV 1 Jan (DK, KL).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 6 NYPC 2 Jan.
Am. Tree Sparrow: 50 Fallburg Rd 3 Feb.
Chipping Sparrow: Lagrange 21 Feb (JAT).
Field Sparrow: 3 NYML 18 Dec
Vesper Sparrow: Putnum, NYHV 1 Jan (BW).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 LaGrange 16 Dec (CV); 2 Stony Kill Farm 31 Dec; 5 Orange County Airport 31 Jan (JH).
NELSON'S SPARROW: MC 26 Dec (BV).
Fox Sparrow: NYML 18 Dec.
Song Sparrow: 98 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.
White-crowned Sparrow: 8 Verbank 8 Dec; 2 Rhinebeck 11 Dec; 15 James Baird SP 15 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec; 2 NYML 18 Dec; 2 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec; 5 NYEO 18 Dec; 8 Millerton 19 Dec; 22 Norrie Pt 22 Dec; 3 NYSU 27 Dec; Cold Spring 2 Jan; 1-5 Millerton 2, 13, 28 Jan; 2 Shawangunk 15 Jan; CPP 5, 22 Jan; 5 Northeast 30 Jan; 2 Stonykill 7 Feb; Rombout 11 Feb.
E. Meadowlark: CPP, NYPE 16, 18 Dec; 4 LaGrangeville 10 Jan; Union Vale 13, 17 Jan.
Baltimore Oriole: Eastchester 1 Jan (SO).
Purple Finch: scattered reports, no large numbers.
White-winged Crossbill: Youngsville 12 Jan (RD); Rockland feeder 16 Jan (AW); 2 Grahamsville 22 Jan (PD); Millbrook 29-31 Jan (WS).
Com. Redpoll: CPP 14 Dec; 2 LaGrange 22 Dec; 15 Millbrook 23 Dec; 100 Claryville 24 Dec; 90 DeBruce 25 Dec; 2 EGR, NYBW 26 Dec; 2 Rhinebeck 27 Dec; 65 EGR 29 Dec; 120 Parksville 30 Dec; 2-42 Rhinebeck all 1-31 Jan; Bashakill 7 Jan; 2 Mountandale 9 Jan; 17 Callicoon 15 Jan; 8 George's Island Park 20 Jan; small numbers started visiting feeders everywhere mid Feb.
Pine Siskin: common and widespread; NYBW 26 Dec; 45 Woodbourne 5 Jan; 27 Bashakill 29 Jan.
EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH: at feeder Pine Bush 21, 26 Feb (LF).
Evening Grosbeak: 3-11 Parksville early Dec, 24 Dec; 45 Fir Brook 19 Dec; 14 Parksville 30 Dec; 3 Parksville all Jan; 9 Bradley 9 Jan; 50 Neversink 1 Jan; Wappinger Rural Cemetery 17 Feb (KHa); few - 20 thru mid Feb at the same high elevation locations in SULL & ULST.