

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The winter season was simply incredibly warm. December averaged 5.5° to 7.1° warmer than normal, with normal precipitation that was virtually all rain. There was only one day that remained below freezing, 18 December. Most bodies of water remained open for the majority of the area. A variety of waterfowl remained in many areas in December for the Christmas Bird Counts. January averaged 6° to 7.7° warmer and was dry, with less than 3" of precipitation. White Plains saw eight days where the high was 50° or above. Poughkeepsie saw only five days in the month where the temperature remained below freezing—and never for more than 48 hours. Again many larger water bodies never froze. February set a record for being the warmest February on record coming in at 6.9° to 8.5° warmer than normal. The only day that remained below freezing was 13 February. Only an inch of precipitation fell in Poughkeepsie and White Plains saw just 1.4". What did fall was mostly rain except for in the northerly and higher elevations of the Region.

In summary, this winter was the warmest on record, no snowstorms occurred, and all large bodies of water and many smaller ones remained fully or at least partially open all winter long.

Some Snow Geese and Brant remained in the Region all winter. Oddly, despite the record warmth, wintering Wood Duck numbers were low.

Not surprising, a few Great Egrets and Greater Yellowlegs remained all winter along the Long Island Sound Shore of Westchester County.

Curt McDermott and Clara Montenegro found an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and an Iceland Gull on the newly formed ice at the Beacon Train Station along the Hudson River in Dutchess County on 16 January. They checked the area again the next day and relocated the Lesser Black-backed Gull along with two Iceland Gulls and a juvenile Glaucous Gull. Later in the week they found a Glaucous Gull in the morning and three first year Iceland Gulls in the afternoon. They hit the jackpot the next day, 21 January, when they found an adult **SLATY-BACKED GULL** late in the afternoon. They viewed and photographed the bird from approximately 4 - 4:30PM. Unfortunately the bird didn't show for the large groups that formed there the next day, although five Iceland Gulls were present.

Razorbills made another incursion into Long Island Sound and were sporadically seen off Rye but also made their way down as far south as Mamaroneck.

The immature female Rufous Hummingbird, present since 6 November, continued daily at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers until 18 December.

Red-breasted Nuthatch remained scarce all winter.

Suzanne O'Rourke photographed a **Blue-winged Warbler** on 1 January at Twin Lakes Park in Eastchester. An Orange-crowned Warbler wintered in East Kingston from late December to mid January. There was a late Nashville Warbler in Ossining on 17 December, and the only Common Yellowthroat was at Esopus Bend Nature Preserve from 12 December to 7 January. Palm Warblers were found for one day only in Tarrytown and Montgomery. A Pine Warbler was found on the Monticello CBC on 28 December, and another Pine Warbler successfully overwintered at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers. Surprisingly, Yellow-rumped Warblers seemed scarce this winter.

The Peekskill [NYPE] CBC, held 17 December, found 86 species. Highlights were two Snow Geese, two Brant, Red-throated Loon, White-crowned Sparrow, a report of a Tundra Swan at Croton Point Park, a Merlin in Buchanan, and the previously mentioned Nashville Warbler in Ossining.

The 17 December Dutchess County [NYDC] CBC recorded 77 species and had a record high 242 Ring-necked Duck. Thanks to the warm weather a Northern Shoveler was found for only the fourth time in 54 years.

Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir [NYML] CBC recorded 74 species on 17 December. Unusual for the count were four White-winged Scoters. Other highlights included 191 Snow Geese, four Red-shouldered Hawks, two American Woodcocks, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, three Red-headed Woodpeckers, and two White-crowned Sparrows.

The 26 December Bronx/Westchester Count [NYBW] found 115 species, with 101 of them found in the Westchester County/Region 9 area. The count had a split personality. Nine new high counts were offset by twelve common species with low numbers (20+ year lows). American Tree Sparrow set an all time low for this 88-year count.

Highlights from Westchester included a Eurasian Wigeon in Premium Mill Pond, six Great Egrets together in Larchmont, seven Red-shouldered Hawks, seven Greater Yellowlegs at Five Island Park, six Razorbills, and Surf and White-winged Scoters off Rye. Long Island Sound featured record numbers of Northern Gannets and Common and Red-throated Loons.

The inaugural Ulster/Dutchess [NYUD] CBC recorded 83 species on 28 December. Highlights included a Blue-winged Teal and a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the Town of Rhinebeck, and a Cackling Goose and an Orange-crowned Warbler in the Town of Ulster.

The 30 December Putnam County count [NYPC] recorded 77 species, with high counts for Red-shouldered Hawks, Hooded Mergansers, Ring-billed Gulls, and Pileated Woodpeckers. A Northern Shoveler at Croton Falls Reservoir was a first for the count. Other highlights were a N. Saw Whet Owl in Kent, a Brant

on Croton Falls Reservoir, and an Eastern Meadowlark in Garrison Landing. Other exciting discoveries were a Northern Shrike, Merlin, and 19 Bald Eagles.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point P ; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5 rep from DUTC Dec; 191 NYML 17 Dec; 2,000 SGNWR 17 Dec; 70 Rosendale 18 Dec; 1000 Monroe 21 Dec; 6 Callicoon 21 Dec; 25 Lake Welch 30 Dec; 100 New Hamburg 21 Jan; 3 Pine Plains 7 Jan; 2 Blue Chip Farms 12 Feb; 3 Pine Plains 22 Feb; Mud Pond, Rhinebeck 26 Feb.

Brant: Poughkeepsie 25 Dec; Lake Gleneida 29,30 Dec; 140 New Rochelle 31 Dec; Waryas P, Poughkeepsie 6,17 Jan; 22 EGR 2 Feb; 40 EGR 11 Feb; 250 Rye 18 Feb.

CACKLING GOOSE: Town of Ulster 28 Dec (NYUD); Rockland L 11 Jan (JCI); Wallkill 20-22 Jan (MDe,TB); 2 Stone Ridge 11 Feb (MDe); Blue Chip Farms 11,12,15,25 Feb (CF); Stone Ridge 25 Feb (JBNHS).

Tundra Swan: CPP 17 Dec (CL).

Wood Duck: fewer than normal overwintered.

Gadwall: 58 Rockland L 11 Jan; 34 Rye 19 Jan.

Eurasian Wigeon: Larchmont 26 Dec (DB); New Rochelle 20,21 Jan (TB).

Am. Wigeon: Pine Plains 10 Dec (PS); Swan L 10 Dec; 2 Bashakill 14 Jan; max 95 New

Rochelle 21 Jan; 15 Great Vly, Saugerties 31 Jan.

Blue-winged Teal: Rhinebeck 28 Dec (NYUD)

N. Shoveler: 45-50 Walkill NWR 2, 25 Dec; 4 Pine Plains 10 Dec; NYDC 17 Dec; 40 Rockland L 20 Dec; New Paltz 22 Dec; 2 Pine Plains 25 Dec; Croton Falls Res 30 Dec; 45 Rockland L 11 Jan; Blue Chip Farm, 14 Jan.

N. Pintail: many scattered rep throughout Reg thru; max 97 Wallkill R NWR 15 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: reports from all counties.

Canvasback: no large numbers.

Redhead: EGR 2,3,6 Dec (Ape,TB), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: 242 NYDC 17 Dec; 30 Pleasant Valley 25 Dec; 86 Beekman 24 Jan; 90 Mud Pond, Rhinebeck 26 Feb; 122 Bashakill 28 Feb.

Greater Scaup: 2000 EGR 6 Dec; 3500 EGR 1 Jan; 3800 Mamaroneck 11 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 80 EGR 31 Dec; 292 EGR 16 Jan; 160 MC 7 Feb; 150 EGR 27 Feb.

Surf Scoter: 7 EGR 23 Dec; 4 Rye 26 Dec; 5 EGR 31 Dec; 19 Rye 18 Jan; 7 EGR 14 Feb.

White-winged Scoter: 6 Rye 10 Dec; 65 Rye 16 Dec; 4 Ashokan 17 Dec; 88 Rye 26 Dec; 30-56

EGR 31 Dec, 5,13,16 Jan; 106 EGR 26 Jan; 90 EGR 2 Feb; 375 EGR 14 Feb; 120 EGR 21 Feb; 140 EGR 24 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: 3 Hudson R 28 Dec (NYUD); 64 EGR 26 Jan; 60 EGR 2 Feb; 2 Cruger I 26 Feb.

Bufflehead: 40 MC 1 Dec; max 75 CPP 8 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: 38 EGR 21 Dec; 62 L Superior 1 Jan; 32 EGR 16 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: 36 Morningside L 15 Dec; 30 Sylvan L, Beekman 25 Dec; 130 Croton Falls Res 29 Dec; 265 NYPC 30 Dec.

Com. Merganser: good numbers in the hundreds for large freshwater lakes; low numbers on the Hudson.

Red-breasted Merganser: Esopus 14 Jan (FM, DF)

Ruddy Duck: 76 Sylvan L, Beekman 2 Dec; no large rafts this winter.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Wurtsboro 1 Jan; Amenia 9, 26 Jan; 3 reports from DUTC in Feb.

Red-throated Loon: CPP 17 Dec (LL, MB); 52 Rye 26 Dec; 18 EGR 26 Jan; 25 Rye 2 Feb.

Com. Loon: Rockland L 19 Dec, 18 Feb; 37 Long Island Sound 26 Dec; 22 Rye 31 Dec; 22 Rye 2 Feb

Pied-billed Grebe: good numbers overwintered.

Horned Grebe: max 12 EGR 14 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: EGR 21, 30, 31 Dec, 18 Jan 2,11,18,20 Feb; 3 EGR 14 Feb.

N. Gannet: 2 MC 1 Dec; 9 EGR 16 Dec; 47 Rye 26 Dec; 3 EGR 25 Jan; 11 Rye 18 Jan; 5 EGR 11 Feb.

Double-crested Cormorant: 48 Rye 26 Dec.

Great Cormorant: 27 Peekskill Bay 19 Feb.

Great Blue Heron: max 8 EGR 2, 12, 24, 29 Dec, 6 Feb.

Great Egret: MC 7 Dec; 6 Larchmont 26 Dec (NYBW); Rockland L 4, 12,16 Jan (CW,RGu); Larchmont 2,14,30 Jan (FG).

Black Vulture: 6 Lenoir Nature Preserve 26 Dec (JO); 60 Wallkill 24 Jan (JH).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 19 NYPC 30 Dec; 15 Mongaup Res 24 Jan.

N. Harrier: 15-16 Galeville P 16 Dec - 1 Feb (mob).

N. Goshawk: Saugerties Jan-Feb; Aden Hill Road, SULL 3 Feb; Tallman Mt SP 15 Feb; Rhinebeck 20 Feb; Bashakill 27 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: significantly more present than in past few winters; 4 NYML 17 Dec; 7 NYBW 26 Dec; 6 NYPC 30 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1-5 Galeville Park/SGNWR 10 Dec - 18 Feb; Black Dirt Region 18,30,31 Dec; 2 Jeffersonville 22 Jan; 2 Indiana Rd, Goshen 31 Jan.

Golden Eagle: Delaware R 29 Dec; Saugerties Dec; Claryville 2 Jan; Stissing Mt 16 Feb.

Am. Kestrel: a handful of rep from most counties, higher than in recent years

Merlin: Verbank 4 Dec; Buchanan 17 Dec;

Black Dirt Region 18 Dec; T Ulster 26 Dec;

NYPC 30 Dec; Poughkeepsie 4,5,8 Jan, 15 Feb;

Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 9 Jan - 28 Feb;

Vassar Farm 14 Jan; Amenia 31 Jan; James

Baird SP 1 Feb; Taconic SP 12 Feb.

Virginia Rail: MC 26 Dec; 2 NYHV 1 Jan.

Am. Coot: 200 Wallkill R NWR 11 Dec; 223 Rockland L 11 Jan.

Sandhill Crane: Pawling 27 Dec (MO).

Killdeer: arr 3 Salt Point 29 Feb.

Greater Yellowlegs: 7 Five Island P 26 Dec (NYBW); 4 New Rochelle 20 Jan (TB).

Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 3 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper: 50 EGR 23 Dec; 20 EGR 14 Feb.

Am. Woodcock: 2 Stone Ridge 17 Dec;

Gardiner 14 Feb; Poughquag 19 Feb; Harriman 27 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: Rye 15 Dec; 8 Rye 26 Dec; 6 Kiamesha L 28 Dec; EGR 21 Jan; Kingston Pt P 18 Feb.

Ring-billed Gull: 2355 NYPC 30 Dec, high.

Iceland Gull: T Ulster 15 Jan (JCI); 1-5 Beacon 16, 17, 20, 22, 23 Jan (CMc, mob); Newburgh 21 Feb (KM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Rhinebeck 28 Dec (NYUD); Beacon 16, 17, 23 Jan, 1 Feb (CMc,CMo,AL, KHa); Red Mill Rd, Wallkill 20,24 Jan (JH).

SLATY-BACKED GULL: Beacon 21 Jan (CMc, CMo), ph.

Glaucous Gull: Beacon 17,20,23 Jan (CMc, CMo); 1-2 Red Mill Rd, Wallkill 20,24,25 Jan (JH).

Razorbill: EGR 12,13 Dec (TB); 2-7 EGR 21-31 Dec; 6 Rye 26 Dec (NYBW); EGR 13 Jan; 4 Rye 18 Jan; 3 EGR 26 Jan (NYRBA); 4 Rye 2 Feb (TB); 7 EGR 14 Feb; 6 Mamaroneck 11 Feb.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 23 New Rochelle 20 Jan; 8 New Rochelle 11 Feb.

Snowy Owl: Esopus 3 Feb; Rondout

Lighthouse, Kingston 4 Feb (FM, DF, PS, MDe).

Short-eared Owl: 6-10 Galeville Park/SGNWR 16-30 Dec; 3 Sullivan Co Airport Feb; 11-13 Galeville Park 30 Jan - 19 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Accord 17 Dec; Kent 30 Dec.

Rufous Hummingbird: Lenoir Nature Preserve 1-18 Dec (BiV, MB).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-3 Esopus/New Paltz 15 Dec - 11 Feb (mob); Amenia 22 Jan.

Pileated Woodpecker: 27 NYPC 30 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Bashakill 27 Feb (JH).

N. Shrike: Forestburg 14 Dec (LV); Lake Welch 28,31 Dec (JP, DA, RC); NYPC 30,31 Dec; Forsterdale 28 Jan, 3, 5, 16 Feb (JH, ABo, LV, AGi, GS, BH); Wallkill R NWR 2,4,5,10 Feb (MZ).

Fish Crow: good numbers southern part Reg with a few reports even from Ulster in Jan and Feb.

Com. Raven: 3 New Rochelle 18 Jan (ABl), now can be found anywhere at anytime in Region 9.

Horned Lark: 300 Black Dirt Region 18 Dec; 75 Red Hook 22 Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few this winter.

HouseWren: EGR 13, 24, 25, 27, 31 Dec.

Marsh Wren: MC 2, 26 Dec, 5 Jan.

Gray Catbird: Saugerties 2 Dec; Hurley 14 Dec; Saugerties 26, 31 Dec; Gramsville 1, 2 Jan; Pawling 25 Jan; Sleightsburg 26 Feb.

Brown Thrasher: Katonah 1 Dec – 6 Feb; Lewisboro 12 Dec (TJ); MC 26 Dec (BeV).

Am. Pipit: 2 CPP 4, 25 Dec (LL,AW); MC 8 Dec; Callicoon 15 Jan; CPP 22 Jan (MB).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 13 EGR 2 Dec; 2 Bashakill 25 Dec; 26 Lake Welch 30 Dec, 2 Jan; 5 Red Hook 22 Jan.

Blue-winged Warbler: Twin Lakes Park, Eastchester 1 Jan (SO), ph.

Orange-crowned Warbler: East Kingston 28 Dec, 14 -15 Jan (MDe, PS).

Nashville Warbler: Ossining 17 Dec (CR).

Com. Yellowthroat: Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 12 Dec - 7 Jan (FM, ABe, SC, DF).

Palm Warbler: Tarrytown 31 Dec (CS, CR); Montgomery 2 Feb (DP).

Pine Warbler: Monticello CBC 28 Dec (MC, PD,VF, K&CH); Lenoir Nature Preserve 11 Dec, 14 Jan-29 Feb (TJ,MB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: surprisingly – not many around this winter.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Hurley 5 Dec; Neversink 29 Jan; Wurtsboro 2 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: CPP 15 Jan (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: CPP 4 Dec (LL).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 26 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: CPP 17 Dec; 2 NYML 17 Dec; 3-4 LaGrange 6 Jan -29 Feb; Beacon 17 Jan; LaGrangeville 1, 4 Feb; Locust Grove 9 Feb; 2 North East 28 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: Garrison 30 Dec.

Rusty Blackbird: EGR 3 Dec; Red Hook 28 Dec; 2 Red Hook 21 Jan; 30 Wallkill 24 Jan; 4 Piermont 11 Feb; 2 Tivoli Bay 18 Feb.

Com. Grackle: 1,000 Kingston 17 Dec; 2000 Saugerties 23 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: 15-50 Cooley Bog 3-22 Feb (JH, mob).

Com. Redpoll: 2 Cooley Bog 5 Feb (RD); Slide Mt 19 Feb (NZ); Millbrook 26 Feb.

Pine Siskin: rep mainly from SULL; 60 -100 Cooley Bog 3-15 Feb.

EXOTICS – ESCAPES

Chukar: Millbrook 5 Dec (APo).