

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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December was quite warm and wet. Poughkeepsie was 5.6° F warmer than normal, with 4.2" of rain. Most Christmas Bird Counts had no snow cover recorded within their area. There was a lot of open water, and the northern counts recorded more waterfowl than normal. January was dry, with only 2.05" of precipitation, but temperatures were near normal. February had near normal precipitation, with Poughkeepsie seeing 12" of snow on the 9th. Temperatures were 2.4° above normal, so snow cover was generally below normal for most of the Region.

First, let's take a look at the highlights from the Christmas Bird Counts: The 63rd annual Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir [NYML] CBC recorded 79 species on 15 December. A remarkable overwintering **Ovenbird** was photographed in Rifton at the Woodcrest Bruderhof Community. The bird remained to at least 31 December. Other highlights were dominated by waterfowl, as most bodies of water remained fully or partially open. Two lingering Northern Pintail were firsts for the count. Other waterfowl included four Green-winged Teal (second count record), three American Wigeon, a Wood Duck, and a Gadwall, plus a count week Lesser Scaup. Other highlights included Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Fish Crow, two American Pipits, and one Red-headed Woodpecker. New high counts were set for Snow Goose, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, and Song Sparrows. A small number of Common Redpolls and Red Crossbills were recorded along with two White-winged Crossbills.

The Dutchess County CBC [NYDC] recorded 78 species on 15 December and included: Green-winged Teal, two Killdeer, White-crowned Sparrow, 14

Common Redpolls, and a count week Eastern Phoebe. The phoebe overwintered in Pine Plains and was last reported 6 February.

The 66th Rockland County CBC [NYRC] had 87 species on 16 December. Highlights were: Brant, Red-throated Loon, and Wilson's Warbler. High counts were set for: Northern Shoveler, Great Blue Heron, and Bald Eagle.

The 89th Bronx-Westchester CBC [NYBW] set a new species record with **126**, with 115 seen in Region 9 on 23 December. This was helped by great weather and record-setting participation, with one hundred volunteers. Highlights from Westchester include: all three species of scoter; Northern Gannets; a new high count of four Red-necked Grebes off Rye and Mamaroneck; Great Egret; five Black Vultures in the Dobbs Ferry/ Hastings-on-Hudson area; Merlins in Yonkers and Rye; a Greater Yellowlegs; 20 Razorbills in Long Island Sound; a House Wren in Yonkers; four American Pipit flyovers in Marshlands Conservancy; Orange-crowned Warbler at Marshlands Conservancy; Clay-colored Sparrow; two Chipping Sparrows; and 36 Field Sparrows, with a flock of 28 in Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers; and White-winged Crossbills. For the second year in a row American Tree Sparrow set an all time low of only 49 birds. New high counts were set for Long-tailed Ducks (490), Barred Owls (nine, but only two in Westchester), Common Ravens (10), Red-breasted Nuthatches (33), and Winter Wrens (75).

The Putnam County count [NYPC] recorded 78 species on 29 December. Highlights were also dominated by waterfowl and included: five Snow Geese over Carmel; Northern Pintail on West Branch Reservoir, and two Green-winged Teal on Lake Oscawana. Other highlights included nine Bald Eagles, American Kestrel, two Snow Buntings, five American Pipits, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskins.

The Ulster/Dutchess CBC (NYUD) had an impressive 92 species plus six additional count week birds on 26 December. Highlights included: an American Bittern, 50 Snow Geese, a Brant, two Long-tailed Ducks, Chipping Sparrow, and a count week **Magnolia Warbler**.

Ken and Curt McDermott found a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** on 26 February at the Warren Sod Farm in Orange County. It was again seen two days later. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported from Amenia at the end of January and seen into February. A **BARNACLE GOOSE** was discovered by Melissa Gottesman on Larchmont Reservoir on 15 February and stayed through to the end of the month and was seen by many. This would be Westchester County's first record. A number of **Cackling Geese** were reported, and based on a number of pictures viewed, some did turn out to be Cackling Geese while others were diminutive or runt Canadas. Please be careful when reporting these, and photographs are highly appreciated. As mentioned previously; ducks were found in more areas due to the warm winter; but no unusual species or high numbers were reported.

Ring-necked Pheasant are still hanging in there with a couple of reports from the northern counties. An assumed escaped Gray Partridge was found in Millbrook 7 January.

Rough-legged Hawk was well reported, and Golden Eagles were found in a wider area, instead of just the usual Stissing Mountain region. Merlin seems to have become expected in winter.

A **DOVEKIE** was found and photographed off Durmo Road in New Paltz on 21 December. Observers included Jane and Arie Kopelman, Mark DeDea, Annie Mardiney, and Peter Schoenberger. This would be Ulster County's first record.

Owls were well represented, with a few reports of both Snowy and Long-eared Owls. Barred Owl numbers were well up, especially in the southern parts of Region 9, where they are seldom found. A **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** was found in Wappingers Falls on 7 November and continued to 5 December. A NYSARC report was submitted.

Michael McBrien, found an immature Northern Shrike during the New York State Young Birders Club trip to Ward Pound Ridge in Westchester County on 20 January. The shrike was very cooperative, offering great views to most of those present. Eventually, it flew off to the west and disappeared. Northern Shrike was also reported from Montgomery, Waterbury Hill, and Strauss Farm. Both Red-breasted Nuthatch and Winter Wren invaded the area in huge numbers. It seemed that every brush pile or downed tree (thanks to super storm Sandy) had a wren lurking by. American Pipit overwintered in the entire area; highlighting the fact of minimal snow cover this season. They normally disappear after the first deep snowfall.

Ten species of warblers were found in December. Besides the expected Yellow-rumped Warblers, a record late Blackpoll Warbler was discovered at Marshlands Conservancy on 4, 5 December and is the first December record for Westchester County. As mentioned earlier; Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler were found on Christmas Bird Counts. Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and a Nashville Warbler were at Marshlands Conservancy. Pine and Palm Warblers were also reported.

Bob Shriber found a Clay-colored Sparrow at Marchlands Conservancy on 9 December. It is the first winter record for Westchester County. The bird was seen almost daily to 3 February. Winter finches, mainly crossbills and redpolls, were everywhere, with at least three Hoary Redpolls wintering at the Bashakill and another in Dutchess County.

Other notable species include Sandhill Crane, Lapland Longspur, and Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. See CBC codes above in introduction.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Black Dirt Region 26, 28 Feb (KM,CMc,RS,JH).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Amenia 20, 27 Jan 2,7 Feb(CV,DK,AP).

Snow Goose: 50 Grahamsville 1 Dec; 400 Ulster 1 Jan; 1000 Saugerties 2 Dec; 330 CPP 3 Dec; 425 NYML 15 Dec; 50 NYUD 26 Dec; 5 Carmel 29 Dec; 300 Poughkeepsie 4 Jan; 200 PP 10 Jan; 600 Saugerties 19 Jan; 10,000 Black Dirt Region 26 Feb; multiple skeins moving north ~10,000 SULL 28 Feb.

Brant: 4 Haverstraw Bay County P 16 Dec; Kingston Point 23, 26 Dec; few all winter along Long Island Sound shore.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Larchmont Res 15-19,24-26 Feb (MG,OH,MBo), first county record.

CACKLING GOOSE (R9): 2 Wallkill R 19 Jan (MD); Larchmont Res 16,24,28 Feb (JDr,FG,TG); Stone Ridge 25 Feb (FMu); Black Dirt Region 26,27 Feb (CMc).

Mute Swan: 48 Purdys 19 Feb.

Wood Duck: Esopus Creek 15 Dec; arr Bashakill 4 Feb.

Gadwall: Stone Ridge 15 Dec; 4 Lake Katrine 26 Dec.

Am. Wigeon: 3 Stone Ridge 15 Dec; 2 Stone Ridge 16 Feb.

N. Shoveler: 133 NYRC 16 Dec.

N. Pintail: 2 Krumville 15 Dec; West Branch Res 29 Dec; Roundout Res 1 Jan; Millbrook 2,9 Jan; 9 Krumville 9 Jan; CIES 20 Jan; 2 Bashakill 21 Jan; Wurtsboro 27 Jan.

Canvasback: very low numbers on CBCs; max 40 PP 28 Dec.

Redhead: Wurtsboro 8 Dec; 9 Franklin D. Roosevelt SP 15 Dec; Stissing L 5,10,12,27 Jan, 1, 6 Feb(CV); 8 Purdys 19 Feb.

Greater Scaup: 2000 EGR 9 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: 910 EGR 11 Jan.

Surf Scoter: 16 Rye 23 Dec; 67 Rye 11 Jan

White-winged Scoter: 25 EGR 31 Dec; 20 EGR 15 Jan; 31 EGR 17 Jan; 34 Rye 4 Feb; 52 Rye 28 Feb.

Black Scoter: 13 EGR 15 Jan.

Long-tailed Duck: 349 EGR 23 Dec; 2 NYUD 26 Dec; 400 EGR 15 Jan; Kingston Point Beach 19 Jan; Neversink Res 19 Jan.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Clinton 5 Dec; Livingston Manor 5 Dec; Union Vale 6 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: Wittenberg Mountain 1 Jan; Cocheton 27 Jan.

Gray Partridge: presumed escape Millbrook 7 Jan (APo).

Red-throated Loon: Haverstraw Bay County P 16 Dec; 2 PP 16 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: EGR 21 Dec; Yonker 23 Dec

Horned Grebe: 25 Ashokan Res 16 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: Ashokan Res 4 Dec (FMu); 1-2 Rye 23 Dec, 2, 11 Jan; 9 Feb; 2 Mamaroneck 23 Dec; EGR 15 Jan.

N. Gannet: 4 Rye 23 Dec, 11 Jan; 2 EGR 23 Dec.

Am. Bittern: NYUD 26 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: 11 NYML 15 Dec; 53 NYRC 16 Dec; lower numbers at EGR.

Great Egret: Wurtsboro 16 Dec (JH, ABor); New Rochelle 23 Dec, 8 Jan (FG).

Black Vulture: 5 Dobbs Ferry 23 Dec; 43 Ward Pound Ridge 20 Jan.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 44 NYRC 16 Dec; 9 NYPC 29 Dec.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 NYML 15 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: 8-9 SGNWR 2,5 Jan; Narrowsburg 19 Jan; Millbrook 23 Jan,13 Feb; Mashomak 25 Jan; Cocheton 26 Jan; Stanfordsville 22 Feb.

Golden Eagle: Pine Plains 10 Jan; Clarence Fahnestock Memorial SP 21 Jan; Rio Res 22 Jan; Mashomak 25 Jan; Millbrook 5 Feb; 1-2 Storm King Mountain 12 - 28 Feb; SGNWR 14 Feb (JY); Pawling 22 Feb; Cornwall 28 Feb.

Virginia Rail: 3 CPP 15 Dec; MC 23 Dec.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Mission Land Road, Pine Island 3 Dec (JH,MZ,DK).

Killdeer: 2 NYCD 15 Dec; a few overwintered along the sound; arr Pearl River 5 Feb (TF).

Greater Yellowlegs: New Rochelle 23 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper: 2-7 EGR 23 Dec thru, low.

Dunlin: 3 MC 1,3,7,20 Dec, 5 Jan.

Wilson's Snipe: CPP 1 Jan; Katonah 27-29 Jan.

Am. Woodcock: arr 26 Feb.

Iceland Gull: Kingston Point 2,21 Dec, 27 Jan, 17 Feb; Beacon 9 Dec; Mohonk 9,17,23 Dec; 3 Beacon 11 Dec; EGR 24,27 Dec; Newburgh 31 Dec, 1,2,3 Jan, 13,15,17 Feb; Mohonk Mountain House 4 Feb; PP 9,10 Feb; 3 Mohonk 17 Feb; EGR 20-23 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Newburgh 10 Feb; 1-2 Newburgh 13, 15 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: Mohonk 27 Jan, 4 Feb; Kinston Point 24 Feb.

DOVEKIE: Durmo Rd, New Paltz 21 Dec (J&AK, MD, AM, PS), ph.

Razorbill: 4 Rye 13 Dec; 2 Davenport Park, New Rochelle 18 Dec (BV,JDr); Rye 20,31 Dec, 1,3,10,15 Jan (BV, JCI); 20 Rye 23 Dec; 6 EGR 23 Dec; 3 EGR 17 Jan.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Wallkill NWR 15 Jan; SGNWR 2 Jan.

E. Screech-Owl: 6 CPP 15 Dec.

Snowy Owl: Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh 14 Dec; Fishkill 16 Dec (JS, J&ADu); Wappinger Falls 28 Dec (JCo).

Barred Owl: more common this season, especially south of I-287 in Westchester where they are not resident.

Long-eared Owl: Accord 15 Dec (NYML); MC 31 Dec; Upton L 7 Jan (JClI); DUTC 23-27 Feb (SG).

Short-eared Owl: 3 SGNWR 13 Dec; 11 SGNWR 11 Jan; 7 SGNWR 23 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Freemont Center 1 Dec; Krumville 15 Dec; Fir Brook 1 Jan; Rhinebeck 8 Jan; Rochester 22 Feb; Pine Plains 27 Feb.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Wappingers Falls, found 7 Nov continued to 5 Dec (B&AG).

Belted Kingfisher: 9 NYML 15 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Rhinecliff 2 Dec; 2 Wallkill 13 Dec; NYML 15 Dec; 1-2 Weston Rd, Ulster 5 Jan thru.

Am. Kestrel: NYPC 29 Dec.

Merlin: SGNWR 15 Dec, 5 Jan; James Baird SP 19 Dec; Yonkers 23 Dec; Rye 23 Dec; Kingston 2 Jan; Vassar 9 Jan; CPP 12 Jan, 3 Feb; Millbrook 20 Jan, 5 Feb; Tivoli 29 Jan.

Monk Parakeet: 30 Aiello P, New Rochelle 3 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: overwintered Pine Plains 14, 23 Dec - 6 Feb (JW,mob).

N. Shrike: Montgomery 15,23 Dec (B&JF, JH,BN); Waterbury Hill 7 Jan(BB,FMa); Ward Pound Ridge 20 Jan (MM); Strauss Farm 25 Feb (CV).

Am. Crow: low numbers on CBCs.

Fish Crow: NYML 15 Dec.

Horned Lark: 25 Mahopac NYPC 29 Dec; 120 Pine Island 30 Dec; 90 Orange Co Airport 30 Dec; 45 Woodbourne 5 Jan.

Tree Swallow: Rosendale 26 Feb (ABow).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: well reported, higher numbers overwintered.

Carolina Wren: 61 NYML 15 Dec.

House Wren: Yonkers 23 Dec (MBo), scarce in winter.

Winter Wren: 8 NYML 15 Dec; well reported, higher numbers overwintered.

Marsh Wren: Harrison 16 Dec; Great Vly, Ulster 20, 23 Dec; MC 23 Dec.

E. Bluebird: 38 CPP 3 Dec; 145 NYML 15 Dec.

Am. Robin: 19 NYML 15 Dec.

Am. Pipit: many reports, overwintered in many areas. Unusual, most normally disappear after first significant snowfall. 42 CPP 3 Dec; 1-3 MC 3,6,28 Dec, 17 Jan; 34 CPP 15 Dec; 41 PP 27 Dec; 5 Constitution Marsh 29 Dec; 1-4 Saugerties Lighthouse 31 Dec-1,2,4,6,7,12 Jan; PP 2 Jan; Red Hook 2 Jan; Goshen 5 Jan; EGR 15 Jan, 13 Feb; 7 Rockland L 17,19 Jan; 24 Montgomery 20 Jan; 31-33 CPP 2,3 Feb; 4 CIES 16 Feb; Black Dirt Region, Goshen 18 Feb.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 Pine Island 30 Dec (KM,SS); Orange Co Airport 30 Dec (KM); Ossining 4 Jan (KB,MN); 1-2 Marbletown 23,24 Feb(DFe,FMu,MD); Indiana road, Goshen 28 Feb (EMi,AGi,BH).

Snow Bunting: 2 Mahopac NYPC 29 Dec; 2 Goshen 30 Dec; 7 Pine Island 30 Dec; 10 Orange Co Airport 30 Dec; 60 Rhinebeck 30 Dec; 60 Woodbourne 5 Jan; 43 SGNWR 5 Jan; 98 Beechwoods 5 Jan; few Marbletown 24 Feb.

Ovenbird: Woodcrest Bruderhof Community, Rifton 15-31 Dec (GTh, NYML), ph.

Orange-crowned Warbler: MC 14-31 Dec, 5,6,8,9,29 Jan.

Nashville Warbler: MC 14 Dec (BV), ph.

Com. Yellowthroat: MC 14-25 Dec (TB).

Magnolia Warbler: Churchland Rd, Saugerties (ASp), rare in winter.

Blackpoll Warbler: MC 4, 5 Dec (TB), State record late, 1st Dec WEST record.

Palm Warbler: ByLane Farm, Katonah 18 Dec (TJ); PUTN 1 Jan.

Pine Warbler: Rock Hill 17,18 Feb (VF,JH).

Wilson's Warbler: Piermont 14-16 Dec (NYRC).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: low numbers on CBCs.

Chipping Sparrow: Rockefeller SP 10, 24 Dec, 14 Jan (EE,AW); 2 Hastings-on-Hudson 23 Dec; NYUD 26 Dec; MC 5 Jan (BV).

Clay-colored Sparrow: MC 9 Dec - 3 Feb, first winter record for WEST (BS, mob); Ward Pound Ridge 24 Dec (DH).

Field Sparrow: 28 Sprain Ridge P, Yonkers 23 Dec.

Vesper Sparrow: Pine I 17 Feb; 1-2 Wallkill River NWR 17-18 Feb.

Savannah Sparrow: 8 Mahopac NYPC 29 Dec.

Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow: CPP 26 Dec, 12 Jan (KB,MBo).

Song Sparrow: 180 NYML 15 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: CPP 12 Dec; NYCD 15 Dec; 4 Orange County Airport 2 Jan; 2 LaGrange 4 Jan; 3 Pleasant Valley 8,9 Jan; 4 Amenia 25 Jan; 2 Wingdale 12 Feb; La Grange 19 Feb.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Stanford 11 Feb (DK), ph

E. Meadowlark: CPP 12,18 Dec; 20 SGNWR 23 Dec; 3 Union Vale 8 Jan; 3 CPP 3,6,15 Feb; 13 SGNWR 23 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Rockland L SP 26 Dec.

Red Crossbill: few NYML 15 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: 15 MC 14 Dec; 2 NYML 15 Dec; 20 MC 24; 17 MC 26 Dec; 8 Roundout Res 1 Jan; 9 Grahamsville 1 Jan; 4 Fir Brook 6 Jan; 2 Pleasant Valley 26 Jan; 15 MC 28 Feb.

Com. Redpoll: many reports from the northern half of Region 9. MC 6,11,12,28 Dec; 3 Wappingers 9 Dec; 30 Livingston Manor 17 Dec; ByLane Farm, Katonah 25 Dec 4,5 Jan; 15 NYML 15 Dec; 14 NYCD 15 Dec; 20 Milan 28 Dec; Fahnestock SP 29 Dec; Katonah 1 Jan; 100 Clinton 1 Jan; Wappinger Falls 1 Jan; 30 Neversink 1 Jan; Westmoreland Sanctuary 3 Jan; Westmoreland Sanc 5 Jan; 50 Tuxedo 5,7 Jan; 100 Claryville 5 Jan; 60 Ellenville 5 Jan; 200 Bashakill 7 Jan; 100 SGNWR early Jan; 6 Barryville 19 Jan.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1-3, ph at feeder Bashakill 31 Dec-27 Feb (SB,JH,LV,ABor); Millbrook 3,6 Jan (AP).

Pine Siskin: MC 1-11 Dec; 22 Wurtsboro 5 Dec; 23 Bashakill 7 Dec; 5 Cold Spring 29 Dec; 9 White L 5 Jan; Millbrook 27 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: Claryville 5 Dec (CB); Parksville 16 Dec (SRA); Kingston 21 Dec FMu, SC).

CORRECTIONS – ADDITIONS

Orchard Oriole: first yr m Chappaqua 21 Oct (ASw), ph.