

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The first half of December saw near normal temperatures and then a see-saw battle ensued. Poughkeepsie dipped to a low of 5° F on 16 December, followed by a high of 50° two days later. On 20 December the temperature dipped to 2°. This was followed by moderate temperatures. Christmas Bird Counts were hampered by snow on 17 December but most counts saw more open water than normal. December ended with only 2.6" of precipitation; 1" below normal. January was very warm, but not before the first snow for the area; a moderate 0-5" snowfall on 7 January. The snow caused some bird movement to feeders. A Baltimore Oriole made a brief visit to the heated bird bath at Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers during the snowfall. Kevin and Paula Landdeck found and photographed a male **PAINTED BUNTING** at their feeder in Yonkers on 8 December. This was followed by a brief cold snap where Poughkeepsie saw a low of -1° a day later. The rest of January was well above normal and finished 6.5° warmer than normal with normal precipitation. Many lakes and ponds remained unfrozen. February continued abnormally warm and felt at times like spring, especially on 24 February when Poughkeepsie hit 73°! Larger bodies of water remained unfrozen. The month finished 6.0° warmer than normal, with only 1.9" of precipitation.

Greater White-fronted Geese were seen on and off at various locations throughout the period; including a maximum of five at Stone Ridge Pond in Stone Ridge. Three **ROSS'S GEESE** were reported. One was in Monroe from 14-16 January. The second appeared for one day at Tibbett Brook Park in Yonkers 5 February. It was photographed by Arthur Ellen and is the first record for Westchester County. This is probably the same bird seen and photographed by many at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx just days earlier. The third Ross's

Goose was in the Wallkill River on 24 February. A **Ross's/Snow Goose hybrid** was described and photographed at Blue Chip Farm on 25 February. Cackling Goose reports continue to increase and are not as noteworthy as in years past. A **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** appeared at the Camel Farm, Black Dirt Region on 2 December, marking Orange County's third record. It was relocated nearby on Turtle Bay Road from 3 to 8 December. Another Pink-footed Goose was discovered by Bruce Nott at Blue Chip Farm on 6 December and was seen the next day in nearby Gardiner and at the Shawangunk Correctional Facility in Wallkill. This is Ulster County's first record. A **Trumpeter Swan** appeared in Nyack Beach State Park in early December and hung around until 2 February. It seemed to prefer the waters off the development to the south. I would consider this bird's origin as unknown.

As for other waterfowl, two birds with once abundant numbers had poor showings, perhaps due to our warmer winters. Canvasback continued their trend with very low numbers, especially in the first half of winter. For the first time in seventy years, the Bronx-Westchester Count missed the bird. The large rafts of Greater Scaup usually found in Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye or along the shore of Long Island Sound never materialized. On the other side more species of duck were found in the northern parts of Region 9 due to the open water.

A Red-tailed Hawk identified as the "Northern" subspecies *abieticola* was first reported by Mark French at the Shawangunk Grasslands on 10 December. Linda Scrima photographed one at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 12 December. A **Gyr Falcon** was seen by Vincent Nichnadowicz on 27 January in Hastings-on-Hudson. It was a dark phase bird first seen going up the Hudson River at 12:40 p.m., then seen flying above the town. The bird is likely the well-documented and photographed New Jersey bird seen by many across the river at the State Line lookout.

A few Eastern Phoebe along with Chipping Sparrows seemed to have overwintered, making it difficult to determine an arrival date for the spring. Tree Swallows arrived as early as 18 February. Sean Camillieri found a very late Barn Swallow at Bog Brook Reservoir on 9 December. He was able to watch it for ten minutes and gave a good description. This appears to be a new late date for Putnam County and Region 9. One was collected by Stanley Grierson at the Purdy's School on 1 December, 1953 in Westchester.

A **Northern Parula** was found outside the Peekskill Brewery, and a Pine Warbler was found at Teatown Lake Reservation on the Peekskill CBC on 17 December. Another Pine Warbler was found a month later at Cliffdale Farm, Croton-on-Hudson on 21 January.

An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found and photographed by Lynn Baker Masanotti on 10 December; it was visiting her bird feeder with a large flock of Common Grackles on Mill Dam Road, Stone Ridge. It was found and photographed again two days later by Peter Schoenberger in a group of Common Grackles along Hurley Mountain Road, Marbletown. A very late Orchard Oriole found in Millbrook on 3 December was quite a find. Not as

unexpected, a few Baltimore Orioles were noted in Middletown, Lenoir Nature Preserve, and Bashakill. Evening Grosbeaks made it south to Sullivan, Ulster, and Dutchess Counties this winter.

The Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir count (NYML) found a record 84 species on 17 December. An American Coot was new to the count. Notable species included Lapland Longspur, Long-eared Owl, and count week Yellow-headed Blackbird. Four Merlin was a new high count. The Bronx-Westchester count found 118 species, with 105 found in Westchester on 26 December. Highlights from the Westchester area included Black-headed Gull, Iceland Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, Nashville Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and four Red Crossbills in Greenwood Union Cemetery, Rye. The Ulster/Dutchess (NYUD) Christmas Bird Count was conducted on 28 December and found 80 species. A Palm Warbler in Kerley's Corner was new to the count. Other notable observations included eight Merlins and 17 Eastern Screech-Owls. Count Week birds included a Chipping Sparrow.

Other notable species include Sandhill Crane, Razorbill, N. Shrike, and Dickcissel

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Turtle Bay Rd, Black Dirt Region 1, 6 Dec (KMc, BN); Camel Farm, Black Dirt Region 2 Dec (KMc, BN); Pine Plains 4 Dec, 8 Feb (DK, CV); Kingston 14 Dec (JC); EGR 19-25, 27 Dec, 9, 10 Jan, 14-16 Feb (TB, GB); 6-8 Stissing P/Pine Plains 16 Jan, 4, 6, 8 Feb (CPo, BM, MBo); Gardiner 23 Jan (CG); Kemeys Cove, Ossining 4, 7 Feb (ChM, LT); Rockefeller SP Preserve 8 Feb (VH, EG); Blue Chip Farm 22, 23 Feb (CS, PS); 5 Stone Ridge 24 Feb (PS, FM).

Snow Goose: 8000 Kingston 14 Dec; 8450 Kingston 15 Dec; 3 Pleasant Valley 15, 17 Jan. **ROSS'S GOOSE (R9):** Monroe 14-16 Jan (KMc, BN, LS, CuM, MD, MZ, KM, MA), ph; Tibbett Brook Park, Yonkers 5 Feb (AE), ph, 1st Record WEST; Wallkill River 24 Feb (BN).

Ross's/Snow Goose hybrid: Blue Chip Farm 25 Feb (CS, PS, BN, SB).

Brant: max 225 EGR 28 Feb.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Camel Farm, Black Dirt Region 2 Dec (KMc, BN), ph; 3rd ORAN record; relocated to nearby Turtle Bay Rd 3-8 Dec (BN, MZ); Blue Chip Farm area 6,7 Feb (MD, KMc, DF, FM, BN, JH, SS), 1st ULST record.

Cackling Goose: Camel Farm, Black Dirt Region 2 Dec; 2 Turtle Bay Rd 3, 5 Dec; Hunns L 9 Dec; Sylvan L 22 Dec, 5 Jan; Skinners Lane, Black Dirt Region 26 Dec; Wallkill 14 Jan; Blue Chip Farm 14 Jan; Round P, Amenia 15 Jan; Wappinger L 22 Jan; New Hampton, Black Dirt Region 25 Jan; Tarrytown L 6, 12, 22 Feb; Wallkill 6 Feb; Rockefeller SP Preserve 8 Feb; CPP 19 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 13 Lake Superior, Bthel 5 Dec (SB, JH).

Trumpeter Swan: Nyack Beach SP early Dec – 2 Feb (SA, EE), origin unknown.

Wood Duck: max 55 Crestwood L, Yonkers 26 Dec.

N. Shoveler: 4 Stone Ridge 24 Feb, unusual for ULST in winter.

Canvasback: low numbers in early winter.

Redhead: Croton Bay 2 Dec; Kensico Res 5 Dec; Ossining 12 Dec, 16 Jan; EGR 20-26 Dec, 8 Jan-28 Feb; Piermont Pier 12 Dec, 1-7 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: max 320 Saugerties 27 Feb.

Greater Scaup: no large flocks at EGR or for the Long Island Sound.

Surf Scoter: 10 Larchmont 18 Jan (TB); Port Ewen 29 Jan, 8 Feb (MD, JP, WT, PS); Esopus 19-22 Feb (KW, RMi).

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 11, 22 Dec (AS); 112 Milton Pt 17 Jan (TB, GB); 35 Larchmont 18 Jan (TB).

Black Scoter: Larchmont 18 Jan (TB); 3 Norrie Pt 22 Feb (CF).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Port Ewen 1 Jan; max 45 New Rochelle 18 Jan; Vanderburgh Cove 23 Feb.

Ruffed Grouse: Woodstock 8 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: max 20 Mamaroneck 18 Jan.

C. Loon: max 19 Kensico Res 6 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 Croton Res 11 Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 51 Ashokan Res 6 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: Hillview Res, Yonkers 11 Jan (JM); New Windsor 27, 29 Jan (BN, KM).

N. Gannet: 4 EGR 30 Dec; Larchmont 18 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: max 116 Croton-on-Hudson 5 Jan.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: 30 SGNWR 10 Dec; 15 Black Dirt Region 14 Jan; 14 SRNWR 14 Jan.

N. Goshawk: Kensico Res 15 Jan; Saugerties 14 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: good numbers for winter.

Red-tailed Hawk *abieticola* ssp: SGNWR 10 Dec, 14 Jan, 28 Feb (MF, SH, CS); Wallkill River NWR 10, 12 Dec (LS), ph; Black Dirt Region 10 Feb (LS).

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 SGNWR 25 Dec; 4-5 SGNWR 1 Jan; 2 Wingdale 1 Jan; 7 Black Dirt Region 14 Jan; SRNWR 14 Jan; other scattered reports, scarcer than normal.

Golden Eagle: Saugerties 4 Dec; Dover Plains 8 Dec-18 Feb; Storm King SP 13 Dec, 4 Jan;

Claryville 16 Dec; Millerton 6 Jan, 17 Feb;
 Forsyth P 13 Jan; Kingston 13 Jan; 10 Mile Ri
 Preserve 11, 17 Feb; Hook Mt 24 Feb.
Clapper Rail: MC 26 Dec.
Virginia Rail: Bashakill 19 Feb, early (TP).
Am. Coot: max 40 Orangeburgh 1 Dec; Fourth
 Binnewater Lake 17 Dec (NYML).
Sandhill Crane: 2 Campbell Hall 10 Dec
 (MF); 4 Rye Brook 10 Dec (MW,DWa); 3
 Yonkers 9 Jan (SC).
Killdeer: arr in northern parts of Region 9
 Dover and Salt Pt 23 Feb.
Purple Sandpiper: 6 Rye 11 Dec; 24 EGR 4
 Jan; 26 EGR 28 Feb.
Wilson's Snipe: more reports for winter than
 usual; max 3 Stone ridge 18 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: Rye Neck School 26 Dec; arr
 MC 20 Feb.
Razorbill: 2 Rye 17 Jan (TB,GB).
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Newburgh 15 Dec (BN).
Black-headed Gull: Five Island P, New
 Rochelle 20 Dec-18 Jan (AS, MBo, TB).
Iceland Gull: Millerton 2,18 Dec; Rye 26 Dec;
 Newburgh 10,16 Jan; Mohonk Mountain House
 composting site 22 Jan; Kingston 5,24 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Dennings Pt 31
 Dec; Newburgh 16 Jan; Walkway over the
 Hudson 23 Feb.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Ulster Co 18 Feb 9 (PS).
E. Screech-Owl: max 17 NYUD 28 Dec.
Long-eared Owl: Marblertown 17 Dec.
Short-eared Owl: 6 Black Dirt Region 14 Jan;
 10-11 SRNWR 1, 25 Dec, 5, 14, 15 Jan; max 15
 SGNWR 9 Feb.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Sloan Gorge 2 Dec; 2 Ward
 Pound Ridge Reservation 16 Feb.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-2 New Paltz 1
 Dec-28 Feb; Strauss Marsh 10 Dec; LaGrange
 29 Jan; Hyde P 17 Feb.
Merlin: 4 NYML 17 Dec; 8 NYUD 28 Dec;
 many other scattered reports. Poughquag 1, 2
 Jan; Millerton 10 Jan; Dover Plains 22 Jan; MC
 27 Jan.
GYRFALCON: Hastings-on-Hudson 27 Jan
 (VN).
Monk Parakeet: 42 New Rochelle 18 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Bashakill 5 Jan (JH, KMt); Liberty
 Marsh 8, 22, 25 Jan (JSh, SC); Thorn Preserve,
 Woodstock 4 Feb (MD, DO); D&H Canal
 Linear P 21 Feb (JH).

N. Shrike: Neversink 2 Dec (JH); Strauss
 Marsh 9 Dec (CPo, HT, CV); Onatru Town
 Park, South Salem 19-27 Dec 1 Jan (NF, CPl,
 RMa); SGNWR 5, 21 Jan, 8 Feb (SL, SB, MZ).
Horned Lark: 800 Amenia 31 Dec; 500 Black
 Dirt Region 14 Jan.
Tree Swallow: Liberty Marsh 18, 19 Feb
 (T&JP); 2 CPP 21 Feb (SC); Amenia 25 Feb
 (CV).
Barn Swallow: Bog Brook Res 9 Dec (SCa),
intro.
House Wren: Newburgh 10 Dec (BN).
Marsh Wren: arr Hamptonburgh and Pine
 Plains 19 Feb (SRO, NM)
Gray Catbird: SGNWR 5 Jan (SL); Saugerties
 22 Feb (SC).
Am. Pipit: 4 SGNWR 17 Dec (NYML);
 Rhinebeck 18 Dec; Kensico Res 29 Jan.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Marblertown 4 Dec (PS);
 Accord 17 Dec (NYML); Millerton 19 Dec
 (JA); 13 Black Dirt Region (Old Warren Sod
 Farm) 30 Dec (KMc); 2 Northeast 8 Jan; 2
 Black Dirt Region 14 Jan (MBr, MF);
 Kripplebush 18 Feb (PS).
Snow Bunting: 200 Black Dirt Region 14 Jan
 (MBr, MF).
Nashville Warbler: Twin Lakes P, Eastchester
 26 Dec (SO, BC, BO), ph
Com. Yellowthroat: Bashakill 1, 13 Dec;
 Buttercup Sanc 23 Dec (MNI),
N. Parula: Peekskill 17 Dec (MNe, ZB),ph.
Palm Warbler: Kerley's Corner 27, 28 Dec
 (PS, NYUD).
Pine Warbler: Rockefeller SPP 7, 14 Dec, 1
 Jan (EE); Teatown Lake Reservation 17 Dec
 (HS); Clifffdale Farm, Croton-on-Hudson 21 Jan
 (JG).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: Hillview Res 19-21, 23
 Dec; CPP 23 Dec; Twin Lakes P, Eastchester
 26 Dec, ph; Red Hook 30 Dec; Walden 3 Jan;
 Six and a Half Station Rd. Sanctuary 5 Jan;
 Wappingers 18 Jan- 24 Feb.
Vesper Sparrow: Millerton 12, 14-16, 25 Feb.
"Ipswich Sparrow: Black Dirt Region, old
 Warren Sod Farm 31 Dec, 1 Jan (LS), ph; CPP
 14 Feb (AS), video.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 Marblertown
 23 Dec (JC).
PAINTED BUNTING: Yonkers 8 Jan, ph
 (PL).
Dickcissel: Newburgh 21 Jan (DHu)

E. Meadowlark: 2-3 CPP 14 Dec- Feb; 4 SGNWR 1 Jan; Pine Plains 23 Feb.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Stone Ridge 10 Dec, ph (LBM); Marletown 12 Dec, ph (PS).

Rusty Blackbird: max 40 Harcourt Wildlife Sanc, New Paltz 29 Jan.

Orchard Oriole: N Mabbettsville Rd, Millbrook 3 Dec (AP).

Baltimore Oriole: Middletown 1-31 Dec, 17 Jan, 9, 12, 17, 26 Feb (KMc), present since 25 Nov; Lenoir Nature Preserve 7 Jan (MS, DC); 2 Bashakill 9 Feb (SB).

Red Crossbill: 4 Greenwood Union Cemetery, Rye 26 Dec (GB, TB).

Pine Siskin: max 25 Mohonk Mountain House 17 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: Ulster Park 7 Dec; 3 Wurtsboro 8 Dec; Rye 15 Dec; 3 Ashokan Res area 17 Dec; Salt Point 20, 21 Dec; 7-16 Olivebridge 25, 28 Jan; Shady 26 Dec; 15-17 Stone Ridge 15 Jan -28 Feb; 30 Olivebridge 24 Jan -28 Feb; Warwick 30 Jan; 8 Parksville 2 Feb.

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Kensico Res 8 Dec (JSa), escaped bird.