

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December 2018 was warmer than normal, with a high of 62°F on 21 December, 27° higher than normal. The low was 13° on 11 December, 5° below normal. Precipitation was slightly higher than normal at 3.04". Snowfall was 10.4" lower than normal at 3.3". January 2019 started out warm with a high of 53° on 1 January, 23° higher than normal. The low temp occurred on 21 January with a temperature of minus 7°, 18° below normal. Precipitation was 4.29", 1.7" above normal. Snowfall was 18.9", 1" higher than normal. February started out colder than normal with a temp of minus 8° on 1 February, 22° below normal. It quickly warmed, and a high of 57° on 5 February was 24° higher than normal. Precipitation was 2.68", .48" higher than normal. Snowfall was 14.1", 1.9" higher than normal. Temperatures fluctuated greatly throughout the entire period with most of the precipitation falling in the form of rain during the warmer periods.

On 9 February, Gail Benson and Tom Burke found a Ross's Goose at Croton Point Park. It remained only through the morning of the 10th before flying off. Almost certainly the same bird turned up in two more locations, on 11 February in Plattekill and 14 February at Glenmere Lake.

On 22 February, the author found a **Trumpeter Swan** on the Rondout Reservoir. Initially thought to be a Tundra Swan, with assistance from Tom Burke and Kevin McGowan it was confirmed to be a Trumpeter. The bird remained through the end of the period and beyond and was seen by many.

On 21 February Peter Schoenberger and Mark DeDea found an adult Tundra Swan on Esopus Creek in Stone Ridge. The bird remained in the general area for a week, seen by many birders.

On 21 January, Ken McDermott found a first winter Glaucous Gull on the Newburgh Water Front. When several birders came to see the bird, a first winter Iceland Gull was found as well.

One of the highlights of the season was the much-anticipated winter finch irruption. Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were reported widely throughout the Region. Evening Grosbeak was recorded in each county during December, with fewer reports of Common Redpolls. By the end of December, both species had retreated to the high elevation conifer forests of Sullivan County where they were seen in good numbers at local feeders throughout the remainder of the period. Pine Siskins were much more widespread and continued throughout the period.

On 2 February, Bruce Nott found an overwintering Lincoln's Sparrow on Onion Avenue in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird remained for a couple of weeks and was seen by many.

On 19 December, Gail Benson found a Yellow-breasted Chat at Marshlands Conservancy. The bird remained through 31 December and was seen by many.

The highlight of the period was a **Say's Phoebe** found on 3 January by Tom Sudol on the Winding Waters Trail at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge in Orange County. The bird remained for two days and was seen by many observers.

With sadness we note the passing of Herb Thompson on January 1, 2019. Herb was Carena Pooth's partner in both birding and life for 25 years. He enthusiastically shared his sightings and his knowledge with other birders, who remember him as a kind and joyful friend. Herb is missed by many in our birding community.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza; **BWMA** – Bashakill WMA; **CPP** – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **GV** – Great Vly WMA; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail; **KP** – Kingston Pt; **LM** – Liberty Marsh; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **MP** – Morningside P; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region; **PP** – Piermont Pier; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR.

WATERFOWL – GREBES

Snow Goose: max 19 OCBDR 19 Dec (DWare); 7 Denniston Road 5 Jan (GB, PD).
Ross's Goose: CPP 9 Feb (GB, Tbu, LTr, ASw); Plattekill 11 Feb (KMa); Glenmere L 14 Feb (KA).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Camel Farm 1 Dec (LSch, MZe); EGR 7 Dec. lower Westchester County thru (GB, Tbu); Wallkill 8 Jan (BNo, JHaa).
Cackling Goose: OCBDR 29 Dec (MZe); 2 Blue Chip Farm 5 Jan (CM, GB, Tbu, PR) Bowman Pd 9 Jan (GB); 2 Wallkill R 15 Jan (BNo); OCBDR 15 Jan (JHaa); Mill Dam Pd 19 Jan (PSch, MD) EGR 2 Feb (JHaa); Liberty Loop 22 Feb (JC).
TRUMPETER SWAN (R9): Rondout Res 22-28 Feb (JHaa, Tbu, GB), *intro*.
Tundra Swan: Willow Brook Farm 19 Feb (DK); Esopus Creek 21 Feb (PSch, MD).
Wood Duck: max 30 BWMA 21 Feb (JHaa).
Northern Shoveler: 12 Twin Lakes P 3 Dec (SO); 12 Rockland L 6 Dec (AW);

4 Browns Pd 18 Dec (BNo); 5 Rt. 207 Marsh 23 Dec (BNo); 3 Crestwood L 19 Jan (MBo); 2 EGR 6 Feb (GB).
Eurasian Wigeon: Rye Town P 6 Feb (GB, BSt).
Canvasback: 2 Crestview L 22 Dec (BNo); Sylvan L 12 Jan (CP, Ama, JA); 151 Norrie SP 12 Jan (KSch, MK, BM); max 23 KP 28 Jan (NM); max 77 Piermont Pier 29 Jan (KR); Rondout Res 6 Feb (JHaa).
Redhead: 5 Lake Tappan 30 Dec (NB); 2 NW 22 Jan (BNo); Glenmere L 12 Feb (KA); 2 Harcourt Sanctuary 20 Feb (TO).
COMMON EIDER (R9): Five Islands P 13 Dec (VH).
White-winged Scoter: Neversink Res 1 Dec (PD, JHaa, SB); EGR 1 Dec. (KD, MK, GB); 2 Wickham L 2 Dec (MZe, JHaa, KMi); KP 13 Dec (DT); 2 MC 23 Dec (PR); Norrie Pt SP 26 Dec (BB, CV, SJ).
Long-tailed Duck: Neversink Res 7 Dec (KMi, JHaa); Minnewaska SP 29 Dec (NM); 2 Norrie Pt SP 30 Dec (MR); River Rd. 12 Jan (FM, DF); Esopus Light House 12 Jan (RM, PSch, JP); KP 9 Feb (JY).

Red-breasted Merganser: Plum Pt 30 Dec (KMi); max 64 EGR 4 Jan (JR); 6 Rockland L SP 12 Jan (MPap); Croton Landing 19 Jan (KBa); 2 George Island P 5 Feb (FGr); 2 PP 6 Feb (VH); CPP 25 Feb (ASw).

Horned Grebe: Kiamasha L 1 Dec (SBa); 3 Orange L 3 Dec (BNo); Madam Brett P 27 Dec (SI); Dennings Pt 31 Dec (PM); New Croton Res 18 Feb (CR); max 44 EGR 18 Feb (GB, TBu); Kensico Res 21 Feb (NG).

Red-necked Grebe: Chadwick L 3 Dec (BNo); Davenport P 23 Dec (LTr, KBa); Norrie SP 6 Jan (SRo); EGR 14 Jan (FGu, TBr); Kensico Res 27 Feb (NG).

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 2 CPP 15 Dec (MBo); CPP 23 Jan (ASw).

Sandhill Crane: Black Creek Preserve 10 Dec (NM).

Killdeer: CPP 12 Dec (SWr); Davenport P 23 Dec (KBa, LTr); 2 OCBDR 15 Feb (LScr, KA); MC 25 Feb (VH).

Dunlin: EGR 25 Jan (ASw, CR, KBa).

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Larchmont Manor P 24 Dec (TGu); 4 Milton Pt 12 Dec (GB, TBu); Larchmont Manor P 22 Jan (GB).

RAZORBILL (R9): Bronx/Westchester CBC EGR 23 Dec (BWA); EGR 24-25 Dec (GB, TBu).

Laughing Gull: CPP 25 Jan (CR, KBa, K. McGrath).

Iceland Gull: KP 1 Dec (SJ, BM); NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott), BNo, JHaa, GB, AMa); 23 Feb KP (DF, MD, PSch).

Glaucous Gull: NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott), BNo, JHaa, GB, TBu).

LOONS - PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 14 EGR 25 Dec (GB, TBu); 2 MC 31 Dec (ASw, TA, TR); Croton Dam Road 15 Feb (JG).

Common Loon: CPP 15 Dec (MBo); 2 Haverstraw Bay CP 23 Dec (MOI); Rockland L SP 11 Jan (AW); CPP 19 Jan (CR, LG); max. 10 EGR 22 Jan (GB); MC 7 Feb (DJ).

Double-crested Cormorant: Sylvan L 4 Dec (AMa); Dennings Pt 4 Dec. (AL); PP 5 Dec (SBa); Haverstraw Bay CP 9 Dec (AW); CPP 9 Dec. (SWr); Wappingers Creek 10 Dec (J&AD); Esopus Meadows 12 Dec (JY); Stony Pt 16 Dec (AW); NW 1 Jan (KMi, DB, CShe); 3 EGR 4 Jan (JR); 2 Charles Pt 27 Jan (TBre); 2 George's Island P 5 Feb (FGr); 6 Steamboat River P 17 Feb (LTo, NT).

Great Cormorant: Rye Town P 1 Dec (GB); max 6 EGR 27 Dec (GB, BSt, TG) max 10 EGR 13 Jan (GB); Mount Taurus 27 Jan (BH); max 7 Rye Town P 28 Jan (GB, MBo); 8 MC 1 Feb (GB) max 20 Charles Pt 3 Feb (JCI); CPP 10 Feb (K. McGrath.); Haverstraw Bay CP 11 Feb (AW); 27 Stony Pt 19 Feb (DH); max 12 Steamboat Riverfront P 23 Feb (SWa); NW 24 Feb (BNo).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 4 EGR 7 Dec (GB); EGR 13 Dec (GCha); 2 EGR 23 Dec (JA, TBu, GB).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Wright I 13 Jan (TK).

Golden Eagle: Rockland L SP 4 Dec (AW); Harriman SP 7 Dec (AW); Rondout Res 9 Dec (JHaa); Dover Plains 11 Dec (DK); Dover Plains 22 Dec (JA); Storm King Mountain 30 Dec (KMi, CShe, MZe); Beechwoods 27 Jan (JHaa); Pine Plains 14 Feb (DK); Perretti Road 22 Feb (DK); Cooper Road Amenia 23 Feb (SJ).

Northern Harrier: 15 SGNWR 20 Dec (BSw); 38 Minnewaska-Shawangunk CBC (CM, GB, TBu, PR); 9 SGNWR 9 Feb (TG); 4 OCBDR 11 Feb (BNo); 13 SGNWR 18 Feb (MSc, KBu); 11 SGNWR 26 Feb (SBu).

Bald Eagle: 7 Stony Pt 14 Dec (AW); 78 Rio Res Monticello CBC 27 Dec (JHaa, KMi); 28 Iona I 26 Jan (BNo, KA); 30 Charles Point Peekskill 26 Jan (BNo, KA); 30 Steamboat Riverfront P 3 Feb (DK).

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 CPP 22 Jan (CR); 4 SGNWR 1 Feb (TA); 6 OCBDR 26 Jan (KBa, CR).

Eastern Screech-Owl: EGR 9 Dec (MF) Peabody Preserve 16 Dec (EG); OCBDR 19 Dec (SA); Stamfordville 21 Dec (DK); Stewart Forest SP 25 Dec (PD); 2 Rhinebeck Waste Water Treatment Plant 29 Dec (DH); Harriman SP 30 Dec (LD); 3 Tivoli Bays WMA 1 Jan (SRo); Ulster P 9 Jan (DT); Bellvale 12 Jan (DWare); MC 14 Jan (GB, TBu); Minnewaska Trail 20 Jan (CK); Ulster Fair Grounds 22 Jan (GF); Wurtsboro 22 Jan (JHaa); CPP 10 Feb (PC); Strever Farm 12 Feb (CP).

Great Horned Owl: 2 Mohonk L-Ashokan Res CBC 15 Dec (PSch); BWMA 4 Jan (SBa) 2 Seamon P 5 Jan (RM); Rondout River Walk 29 Jan (WT); Rondout Res 26 Feb (K. McDermott).

Long-eared Owl: Kripplebush CBC 30 Dec (PSch); CPP 9 Jan (JHal); Tymor Forest P 2 Feb (DS, ES).

Short-eared Owl: max. 5 SGNWR 24 Dec (FP); max. 3 OCBDR 25 Jan (IG); max 12 SGNWR 2 Feb (KK, DK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Mianus River Gorge Preserve 13 Dec (MF); Harriman SP 12 Jan. (JV); East Pound Ridge 13 Jan (JV); CPP 23 Feb (NZ).

Merlin: Stringham P 4 Dec (AMA); Forsythe Nature Center 10 Jan (MD); OCBDR 2 Feb (KA); Blue Chip Farm 12 Feb (SWa).

Peregrine Falcon: EGR 1 Dec (VH) Benedict P 7 Dec (SWa.); CPP 15 Dec (MBo); 2 OCBDR 15 Jan (JHaa); Blue Chip Farm 19 Jan (MD, PSch); NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott); EGR 25 Jan (ASw, GB); OCBDR 10 Feb (KMi, BNo); Harcourt Sanctuary 24 Feb (JB, GB).

Monk Parakeet: max 10 Five Islands P 13 Dec. (VH); 2 Red Bridge Area 15 Jan (FGu, TBr); max 11 Red Bridge Area 15 Feb (FGu, TBr).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Siemens 4 Dec (PSh); Zinsser P 24 Dec (MBo); Kensico Res 29 Dec (NG); Rockefeller SP 7 Jan (LM); Kensico Res 11 Jan (NG); Rockefeller SP 23 Jan (KW); Sleepy Hollow Cemetery 11 Feb (VH).

SAY'S PHOEBE: Winding Waters Trail 3-4 Jan (TS, LScr, BNo, TBu, GB, JHaa), *intro*.

Northern Shrike: SGNWR 15 Dec (SWa); Kenridge Farm 15 Dec (JB, KMi, CShe, DB); Indian Brook Road 2 Feb (RB); Kukuk Lane 3 Feb (MD); Harcourt Sanctuary 24 Feb (PSch, mob).

Horned Lark: max 250 OCBDR 14 Feb (SA, M. Normandia); max. 40 Blue Chip Farm 20 Dec (J&KD), 30 O'Leary Farm 20 Dec (BM); 38 Stone Ridge 25 Jan (PSch); 36 SGNWR 22 Feb (AH); 14 Neversink Res 26 Feb (SG).

Gray Catbird BWMA 5 Dec (JHaa); Rockefeller SP 10 Dec (ASw, mob); CPP 11 Dec. (BSt); EGR 11 Dec (GB, TBu); West Point Poundry Preserve 29 Dec (RB); Harriman SP 7 Jan (AW); Kenridge Farm 14 Jan (BNo).

Evening Grosbeak: 45 Catskill P 1 Dec (ML); 4 Stone Ridge 2 Dec (MZi); 10 Cortlandt Manor 8 Dec (EB); BWMA 9 Dec (SBa); max 150 Neversink Township 1 Dec–28 Feb (SBa, TBu, GB, SSu, JB), *intro*.

Common Redpoll: Hopewell Junction 3 Dec (EM); 2 Gibson Hill Road 8 Dec (JS); max 46 Neversink Township 19 Dec (JHaa, mob); Peach Hill P 12 Jan (JA); 2 Ulster P 13 Jan

(DT); OCBDR 3 Feb (JHaa, BNo) 1 Indian Brook Road 3 Feb (GB), *intro*.

Pine Siskin: Warwick Grove 2 Dec (GF); 2 Manitou Point Preserve 3 Dec (RB); 4 MC 3 Dec (DJ); max 42 BWMA 7 Jan (SBa); 8 SGNWR 16 Jan (BK); 15 CPP 10 Feb (SK); 3 D & H Canal Linear P 28 Feb (JHaa).

Lapland Longspur: Huson Road 1 Dec (JHaa); 2 OCBDR 3 Feb (JHaa, BNo); OCBDR 9 Feb (AG); 5 OCBDR 14 Feb (GB, SA, M. Normandia); 3 OCBDR 16 Feb (AW); 2 OCBDR 19 Feb (MZe).

Snow Bunting: 35 Huson Road 1 Dec (JHaa); EGR 1 Dec (GB, MBK, KD); 11 Tymor Forest P 1 Dec (AMA); PP 8 Dec (JC); 5 Sullivan County Community College 8 Dec (PD, KMi); 2 Bowline Pt 9 Dec (AW); 30 OCBDR 15 Dec (JHaa); CPP 20 Dec (SRo); 4 Beechwoods 30 Jan (JHaa); 100 OCBDR 2 Feb (KA); SGNWR 8 Feb (PSch).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Wickham L 2 Dec (MZe); Plank Road 23 Dec (JHaa); EGR 17 Jan. (GB); Clove Road 20 Jan (JA); Harriman SP 24 Feb (LD).

Vesper Sparrow: OCBDR 1 Feb (FP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: OCBDR 2-17 Feb (BNo, LScr, KA, mob).

Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 19-31 Dec (BSH, GB, TG, ASw).

Eastern Meadowlark: max. 11 SGNWR 13 Jan (MZe); LM 17 Feb (AK).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 OCBDR 19 Dec (SA); 9 Weston Road 26 Dec (AW); 5 Verbank Club Road 2 Feb (CP); 30 Ulster P 5 Feb (DT); 3 D & H Canal Linear P 11 Feb (JHaa); 10 Prunyn Sanctuary 15 Feb (ASw).

Common Yellowthroat: Gibson Hill Road 23 Dec (JS).

Palm Warbler: 2 Five Islands P 1 Dec (ASw, DvZ, SRo, mob).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: CPP 1 Dec (SRap); George Young Boulevard 23 Dec (JU, TF, ADa); MC 11 Jan (VH); Ludlow Woods 19 Jan (DK); OCBDR 2 Feb (KA).

ADDENDA

The following reports were inadvertently left out of the Region 9 Fall 2018 report (KB Vol 69, No. 1):

COMMON EIDER (R9): max 7 Playland P 24 Nov (TBu, GB); Playland P 25 Nov (TBu, GB).

Black Scoter: 4 Lake Carmel 9 Oct (A. Macchiarola); PP 14 Oct (C. Weiss); 7 Kiamesha L 14 Oct (JHaa, P. Dechon); Ashokan Reservoir 31 Oct (PSch); Playland P 6 Nov (TBu, GB); Sylvan L 12-23 Nov (C. Pooth, mob).

Red Phalarope: 2 Hillview Res 25 Sep (S. Camillieri, N. Giordano, GB, TBu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Mamaroneck Harbor 27 Oct (TBu, GB), only report.

Northern Gannet: Playland P 15 Nov (TBu, GB); 4 Playland P 16 Nov (TBu, GB); 6 Playland P 25 Nov (GB, TBu).

Long-eared Owl: SGNWR 30 Nov (GB, TBu).

Acadian Flycatcher: MC 3 Oct (TBu, GB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Playland P 17-18 Nov (GB, TBu).

Nelson's Sparrow: 4 MC 10-19 Oct (TBu, GB).