

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December was mild with a high of 67° F on 16 December and a low of 16° on 20 December, an average of 5.4° above normal. There was a total of 1.81" of precipitation, 1.58" below normal. This made for a warm, dry month with almost no snow. January found us in a deep freeze. The morning of the mid-winter waterfowl count, 16 January, dawned at -6°. The following morning the first major snowstorm of the winter dropped up to 9" of snow on the Region. That wouldn't be the end of the cold. 22 January dawned at -10°. There would be three more mornings below zero before the end of the month. The Poughkeepsie site showed temps more in the zero range which was obviously affected by the river and the lower elevation. They showed a high of 54° on 1 January and a low of -3° on 30 January. This gave us an average temperature 23.7°, 3.4° below normal. These were by far the coldest temperatures in the Region in many years. We had a total of 1.22" of precipitation, falling mostly as light snow. This was 1.6" below normal. The long-range forecast for February was above normal temperatures, but 1 February found us at -1°. A major storm hit the Region on 4 February with considerable ice to the north and rain further south. Ulster County had extensive damage that took weeks to clean up. The Poughkeepsie site showed a high of 68° on 23 February and a low of 1° on 1 February with an average temperature of 30.8°, 1.6° above normal. There was a total of 3.07" of precipitation, .86" above normal.

Greater White-fronted Geese were found around the Region from the very beginning of the period. On 14 January Debbie van Zyl was scanning the Canada Geese in Wappingers Falls when she picked out one each of Greater White-fronted Goose and **Pink-footed Goose**. At least one Cackling Goose continued in the Black Dirt Region of Orange County at the beginning of the period. On 11 January Chris Chappell noted a **Ross's Goose** at Sand Dock Road Trail in

Dutchess County; following a period of absence, it was relocated and seen by many. On 10 January R Miller picked a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** out of a flock of Common Goldeneye on the Hudson River in Ulster County. The bird was later seen from Dutchess County as well and continued through the period.

An extraordinary winter gull season got off to a great start when Bruce Nott spotted the adult Iceland Gull, continuing from the fall period, from the Newburgh Waterfront on 4 December. Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls were seen on both sides of the river as well. On 17 February Ari Weiss spotted a **Little Gull** as it landed off Piermont Pier. The Regional mega-rarity remained just long enough for him to get some identifiable photos and was gone. The highlight of the season, though, occurred on 16 December when Ronnie DiLorenzo picked a **Franklin's Gull** out of a flock of Ring-billed Gulls on the Newburgh Waterfront. The bird developed a pattern and was easily viewed at the Newburgh Sewage Treatment Plant when not on the water or at the launch. Uncharacteristically for the species, the bird continued through 8 January. On 4 January Sean Camillieri spotted an unusual gull on the Hudson River which turned out to be a **Black-legged Kittiwake**. Bruce Nott was able to get some identifying shots of this extreme rarity for the Region. Fortunately, several others were able to see the bird before it disappeared.

On 4 December Matt Zeitler found a Snowy Owl perched on the New York Waterways Ferry on the Newburgh Waterfront. It remained only that afternoon but was viewed by many.

On 18 December Richard Leonard came upon a flycatcher at Rockefeller State Park that he didn't recognize. Realizing it was something different, he took several photos identifying it as an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**! This is a mega-rarity for Westchester and Region 9, with only one previous historical record from 1970 (Fritz & Quinlan, *Bull's Birds of New York State*, 1998, p. 370-371). The bird was relocated on 24 December by Steve Rappaport, enabling others to see it as well. It continued through 1 January but was not seen thereafter.

On 2 December Dave Chernack saw a Northern Shrike at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. This was the first of many reports this season.

On 11 January Jim Yates photographed a bluebird at Esopus Meadows Park that was determined to be a **Mountain Bluebird**. Once word got out the bird was very cooperative, spending much of its time there and in Esopus Meadows Lighthouse Park right in the parking lot.

On 23 January Mary Buskey was photographing Song Sparrows along her road when she realized one of the birds was in fact a Vesper Sparrow; rare in the Region in winter, it was viewed by several birders in the following days. On 2 December Charlie Roberto found two **LeConte's Sparrows** at Croton Point Park, at least one continuing from the fall. They remained through the end of the month. On 17 January Jeanne Cimorelli was watching some birds feed along Station Road in Campbell Hall, Orange County when she spotted a bird she didn't recognize. Merlin identified it as a **Lark Sparrow**, and she put the word out. This species is

often accommodating, and it was exactly that for much of its stay through 30 January.

On 4 December Jodi Brodsky had a Baltimore Oriole on her feeders. The bird continued into January and was the first of several reports. On 16 December Leon Meintjes discovered a flock of six Boat-tailed Grackles on Glen Island Park in Westchester County. Eamon Corbett relocated them on 23 December, then numbering eight birds which matched the previous high count for the county. The birds continued sporadically into January.

On 17 December a small group of warblers was found along the Hudson River near the Newburgh Sewage Treatment Plant while birders were observing the gulls. A Yellow Warbler was the most unusual among them. They not only continued into January, but on 8 January Curt McDermott was observing them when he saw a Tennessee Warbler had joined the group.

On 24 December Kim Gragert spotted an unusual bird feeding in a juniper in Putnam Valley. She identified it as a **Western Tanager**, but it wasn't until 9 January that she saw it again and was able to get excellent photos of the bird. Unfortunately, it only returned sporadically and was unable to be viewed by others. On 7 February a photo was posted to Facebook requesting identification of a beautiful **Black-headed Grosbeak** that had come to a private feeder in Westchester County on 6 February but never returned. On 11 January Bob Howard noted an unusual bird in a mixed flock feeding in a cornfield on Rte. 209 in Ulster County. The bird was a bunting, but much discussion ensued as to which bunting. It was ultimately confirmed to be a first year Indigo Bunting, an exceptional find at this time of year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Ashokan Res., ULST; **BW** – Beacon Waterfront, DUTC; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, WEST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Rd, ORAN; **VFEP** – Vassar Farms and Ecological Pres, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN; **ws reps** – widespread reports.

Snow Goose: max 3500 OCBDR 2-28 Feb (RD, RS, mob); max 1500 BSWMA 23 Feb (JH, PD).

Ross's Goose: Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 11, 31 Jan-13 Feb (CC, mob), *intro*.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Bowman Ave Pd WEST (EGR too) 1 Dec-28 Feb (GB, mob); RLSP 3 Dec-23 Feb (DM, mob); Wallkill ULST 4-10 Dec (MZ, mob); OCBDR 29 Dec-6 Jan, 21 Feb (MZ, mob); Wallkill 27 Dec (BN); Wappingers Falls DUTC 14 Jan (DvZ); Sand Dock Rd Trail 2 Feb (CC).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Wappingers Falls 14-17 Jan (DvZ, mob), *intro*.

Brant: max 135 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GB, mob).

Cackling Goose: max 4 OCBDR 1 Dec-1 Jan (LS, mob); 2 EGR 17 Jan (GB, mob); Montgomery ORAN 27 Jan (JC); OCBDR 13-14 Feb (MZ, RD); Sand Dock Rd Trail 14 Feb (BT); 2 Popp Memorial P ULST 27 Feb (JC).

Tundra Swan: 4 CPP 2 Jan (SW).

Blue-winged Teal: Long Dock P DUTC 26 Dec (DvZ).

Northern Shoveler: 3 OCBDR 1 Dec (LS); max 45 RLSP 1 Dec- 28 Feb (CW, mob); max 116 Huguenot L WEST 4-12 Dec (GB, mob); 2 Phillipsport Marsh SULL 14 Dec (JH, SB); 2 BSWMA 25 Feb (JH, mob).

Gadwall: max 56 RLSP 1-14 Jan (KR, mob); *ws reps*.

American Wigeon: max 9 NCR 8-13 Jan (KMcG, mob); max 12 WL 2-11 Jan (DW).

Northern Pintail: max 11 Barrett Pd PUTN 1-2 Jan (ME, mob); 12 CPP 19 Feb (DS), *ws reps*.

Canvasback: max 29 PP 2 Jan-28 Feb (LP, mob); 4 Dockside P PUTN 2 Jan (KB, mob);

SHSR 8-9 Jan (MZ, mob); Five Islands P WEST 1 Jan-2 Feb (KMcG, mob).

Redhead: RLSP 1-8 Jan (CC, mob); 2 Five Islands P 2 Jan (BL, JG); Washington L ORAN 10 Jan (JC, mob);

RR 15 Jan-12 Feb (SG, mob); West Branch Res PUTN 20 Jan-8 Feb (SC, mob).

Ring-necked Duck: max 450 Sylvan L DUTC 1-18 Jan (CP, mob), *ws reps*.

Greater Scaup: WRNWR 3-14 Dec (MZ, mob); Sackett L SULL 29 Dec (JH); Harriman SP ROCK 1-21 Dec (AW); Lake Carmel PUTN 21 Dec (AMa); MRCC 16 Dec (CR); max 120 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GB, mob).

Lesser Scaup: max 5 West Branch Res 19 Jan-23 Feb (SC, mob); max 30 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (KMcG, mob).

Surf Scoter: 3 EGR 2, 22 Jan (RHe, GB); 2 Milton Pt WEST (SC).

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 13 Jan (SC); max 4 EGR 13-17 Jan (SC, MT).

Black Scoter: Five Islands P 28 Jan (TA); Rye Town P WEST 20 Feb (LC, ST).

Long-tailed Duck: NW 1-6 Dec (RD, mob); max 4 RR 28 Dec-3 Jan (SG, JH, mob); Dockside P (KB, CR); max 4 Sylvan L 1-4 Jan (MC, mob).

Common Goldeneye: max 80 RR 1 Dec-28 Feb (JH, mob); max 16 EGR 1-31 Dec (GB); max 115 KP 1 Dec-28 Feb (PS, mob); max 10 CPP 1 Dec-28 Feb (AS, mob); 3 Chadwick L ORAN 10 Dec (BN); 3 CPP 11 Dec (SW).

Barrow's Goldeneye: River Rd ULST 10 Jan (RM, PS); KP 30 Jan-11 Feb (DvZ, mob); Grinnell St. Rhinebeck DUTC 30 Jan-2 Feb (AMa, mob).

Red-breasted Merganser: NW 7 Dec-28 Feb (RD, mob); 3 Dockside P 10 Dec (CR, SC);

WL 11 Dec (MZ); max 7 CPP 8 Jan-20 Feb (SR).

Ruddy Duck: max 64 PP 1-14 Jan (AW, mob); max 38 Tarrytown Lakes P WEST 1-9 Jan (PC); max 6 Sylvan L 1 Jan-24 Feb (CP, mob); 35 Beaver Dam L ORAN 2 Jan (BN); max 39 MC 8 Jan-13 Feb (LM, mob); 30 CPP 18 Feb (JW).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 NCR 1-8 Jan (LT, mob); Washington L ORAN 5-7 Jan (BN); West Branch Res 23-21 Jan (CR, KB).

Horned Grebe: WL 1 Jan (DB, MZ); max 15 AR 5-6 Jan (PS, RL); 2 Rye Town P 13 Jan (PC); max 9 EGR 20 Jan-28 Feb (GB, mob).

Virginia Rail: CPP 18 Dec (MB).

American Coot: 26 WL 1 Dec (KA); max 60 RLSP 1-8 Dec (AW, mob); max 42 NCR 1-8 Dec (MM, mob); max 69 NCR 1 Jan-28 Feb (SCa, mob).

Killdeer: Hitchcock Cattle Farm DUTC 19 Jan (JA); EGR 4 Jan (AS); Stony Kill Farm EEC DUTC 4 Jan (DvZ); BSWMA 12 Feb (JH, mob); SGNWR 11 Feb (RM, mob); 2 OCBDR 12 Feb (RS, mob).

Ruddy Turnstone: Rye Town P 2-19 Jan (KMcG, PC).

Purple Sandpiper: max 9 Rye Town P 9 Dec-20 Feb (TB, mob).

American Woodcock: Wilderness Walk WEST 19 Dec (ND); MC 23-24 Feb (TB, PC); Stony Kill EEC 22-23 Feb (CK, mob).

Wilson's Snipe: OCBDR 26-27 Jan (TS, mob); CIES 19 Jan (JA); max 4 Hurley ULST 6 Feb (MO).

Greater Yellowlegs: Swan L SULL 10-19 Dec (SG, JH), very late.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R9): BW 4 Jan (SCa, mob), *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: Long Dock P (KB, mob); EGR 1 Dec (GB); NW 25 Jan (PC, JC).

LITTLE GULL (R9): PP 17 Feb (AW), *intro*.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: NW 14 Dec-8 Jan (RD, JC, mob), *intro*.

Ring-billed Gull: max 400 NW 18 Jan (BN).

Herring Gull: max 1200 NW 25 Jan (YH), ws reps.

Iceland Gull: BW 16-17 Dec (DvZ, mob); max 6 NW 6 Dec-28 Feb (BN, mob); BW 1 Jan-5 Feb (GB, mob); Rye Town P 18 Feb (TB, mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: BW 1-14 Jan (GB, mob); NW 6-7 Jan (BN, mob); PP 18 Jan (CW); Southern Waterfront P WEST 19 Feb (HW).

Glaucous Gull: BW 6-17 Dec (MZ, BN, mob); NW 17 Dec (YH); NW 4-25 Jan (BN, mob).

Red-throated Loon: max 4 EGR 1 Jan-20 Feb (GB, mob).

Common Loon: max 4 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (GB, mob).

Northern Gannet: max 2 EGR 7-8 Dec, 12 Feb (GB); Milton Pt 4 Feb (GB).

Great Cormorant: max 5 NCR 1-30 Jan (AS, mob); max 8 EGR 1-9 Jan (GB); max 15 Fleischmann's Pier P WEST 3 Jan-13 Feb (MB); max 10 Stony Pt ROCK 10 Feb (AW, mob); max 8 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (KMcG, mob).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 5 NCR 1-16 Jan (LO, mob); max 20 Verplanck WEST 2 Jan-28 Feb (DK); Rye Town P 4 Jan-12 Feb (GB, mob).

American Bittern: Glenwood L WEST 19 Dec (GF).

Black Vulture: max 71 Narrowsburg SULL 16 Jan (SG, JH), ws reps.

Osprey: Mahopac PUTN 24 Dec- 4 Jan (JP, AB, mob).

Golden Eagle: Pine Plains DUTC 1 Dec (DK); 2 I-84 Hawkwatch ORAN 3 Dec (AA); Kripplebush Rd ULST 20 Dec (DN); Storm King Mt ORAN 4-21 Jan (RD, mob); 2 OCBDR 11 Feb (SW).

Rough-legged Hawk: Waterbury Hill Rd DUTC 1-3 Dec (DK, mob); max 2 Beechwoods SULL 5 Dec- 28 Feb (JH, mob); max 9 OCBDR 13 Dec-28 Feb (AA, mob); max 2 SGNWR 4 Jan-28 Feb (SW, mob); OCBDR 3-27 Jan (LS, mob); EMLP 22 Jan (AMa); Abel's Pd DUTC 12-27 Jan (CP, mob); 2 OCBDR 11 Feb (SW), ws reps.

Snowy Owl: NW 4 Dec (MZ, mob); 2 PP 14 Dec (SCo, AW, mob).

Long-eared Owl: Carmel 2 Jan (PUTN CBC).

Short-eared Owl: max 9 SGNWR 1 Dec-28 Feb (RM, mob); max 6 OCBDR 1 Dec-31 Jan (KK, mob); CPP 3 Dec (CR).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Lake Devenoge SULL 16 Dec (NH); Cooper L ULST 27 Jan (PS); Millbrook DUTC 18-23 Feb (AT, mob).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:

RSP 19 Dec-1 Jan (RL, SR, mob), *intro*.

Eastern Phoebe: NW 18 Dec-6 Jan (JH, mob); Suffern ROCK 10 Jan (AW); BSWMA 7 Feb (JH).

Northern Shrike: SGNWR 2-3 Dec (DC, mob); Muthig Rd SULL 7 Dec (JH); Rowe Rd DUTC 19 Dec (MR, mob); Grieg Farm DUTC 29 Dec-8 Jan (RM, mob); WL 5-18 Feb (MZ, mob); BSWMA 15-17 Feb (JH, SG, mob); SGNWR 15 Feb (MB).

Horned Lark: max 300 OCBDR 3-31 Jan (BN, mob); max 43 CPP 4-9 Jan (SK, mob); max 250 O'Leary Farm DUTC 10-16 Jan (BM, mob).

Marsh Wren: PP 7-9 Dec (LP); WRNWR 14 Dec (TS); CPP 16-18 Dec (CR, MB).

Gray Catbird: max 2 CPP 1-8 Dec (AS); VFEP 2-5 Dec (MK, mob); Beechwoods 12 Dec (JH); ws reps.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: EMLP 11-25 Jan (JY, mob), *intro*.

Hermit Thrush: 40 2 Jan (PUTN CBC), ws reps.

American Pipit: max 10 NR 1 Jan (JH, mob); max 12 OCBDR 3-9 Jan (LS, mob); max 6 CPP 7-9 Jan (CR, mob); max 8 OCBDR 18 Jan-7 Feb (RD, mob).

Purple Finch: BSWMA 1 Jan (SB); 7 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 1 Jan (RK); Ulster P ULST 1 Jan (DT); 7 CFSP 2 Jan (KB, mob).

Common Redpoll: Livingston Manor SULL 5 Feb (LV, JH).

White-winged Crossbill: 8 Hunter Rd SULL 23 Dec (JH).

Pine Siskin: 3 West Branch Res 2 Dec (KS); 3 RSP 4 Dec (AS, mob); 2 Roscoe SULL 5-6 Feb (MG, mob).

Lapland Longspur: max 5 OCBDR 8 Jan-13 Feb (MZ, mob); Millerton DUTC 8 Jan (JA); 2 O'Leary Farm 22 Jan-14 Feb (AM, mob).

Snow Bunting: 300 Posquello Creekside Rd ULST (PS); max 30 CPP 1-13 Dec (SR, mob); max 40 EGR 4 Dec (GB, mob); max 40 Posquello Creekside Rd 7 Jan (PS); max 125 OCBDR 8 Jan-16 Feb (BN, mob); max 2 CPP

8 Jan (AS, mob); max 85 BSWMA 5-6 Feb (KM, JH).

LARK SPARROW: Campbell Hall ORAN 17 Jan-1 Feb (JC, mob).

Chipping Sparrow: 2 VFEP 2 Dec (MK), ws reps.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Millerton DUTC 27 Jan (CP).

Field Sparrow: max 3 BSWMA 1 Jan-28 Feb (JH, mob); max 2 CPP 4 Jan-16 Feb (LT, mob); max 2 RSP 3-30 Jan (AS, mob); max 10 OCBDR 6 Feb (LS); 4 VFEP 22 Jan (KB).

Fox Sparrow: 7 Glynwood Farm PUTN 8 Jan (SC, KB); 8 WL 11 Jan (BT); max 3 PP 5-13 Jan (LP, mob); BSWMA 1 Jan-28 Feb (SB, mob), ws reps.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Callicoon SULL 8 Dec (JH); 3 Grieg Farm 1 Jan (MR); 6 Glynwood Farm 2 Jan (KB, mob); max 7 Callicoon 3-28 Jan (JH); 14 OCBDR 3 Jan (BN).

Vesper Sparrow: Bruyn Ave ORAN 23-28 Jan (MB, mob), *intro*.

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: max 2 CPP 2-29 Dec (CR, mob).

Lincoln's Sparrow: CPP 8 Jan (CR, mob); Wappingers Falls 11 Jan (DvZ); MC 20 Feb (LM).

Eastern Towhee: 5 Wonder L SP PUTN 1 Jan (NS); 5 Suffern ROCK 6 Jan (AW); 3 West Pt ORAN 6 Jan (BT), ws reps.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Grape Hollow Rd DUTC 6 Jan (CP, mob).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 8 CPP 1-13 Dec (SR, mob); Hankins SULL 12 Dec (JH); max 5 SGNWR 4-13 Dec (MA); 13 New Paltz ULST 24 Dec (AMe); 1 RSP 2 Jan (HR); CPP 25 Jan-8 Feb (LT, mob).

Baltimore Oriole: Carmel PUTN 4 Dec-9 Jan (JB); Hudson Highlands SP PUTN 1 Jan (KB, mob); OCBDR 11 Jan (LS).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1500 OCBDR 1 Dec-31 Jan (BN, mob).

Rusty Blackbird: max 5 BSWMA 27 Dec-13 Jan (JH, SB); 5 Lake Mahopac PUTN 2 Jan (AS); 2 Prun Sanctuary WEST 7 Jan-11 Feb (AS, mob); Grieg Farm 8 Jan (DS); max 6 DHCLP 13 Jan-20 Feb (JH, SG).

Common Grackle: 1000 Greenville ORAN 2 Jan (BG); 800 Traver Pd DUTC 2 Jan (CP), ws reps.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: max 8 Glen I P WEST 16 Dec-8 Jan (LM, EC, mob), *intro*.

Tennessee Warbler: NW 9-26 Jan (CM, mob), *intro*.

Common Yellowthroat: Greystone WEST 1 Dec (JR).

Northern Parula: max 2 NW 17 Dec-26 Jan (AL, mob).

Yellow Warbler: NW 17 Dec-24 Feb (SCa, mob).

Palm Warbler: West Point ORAN 13 Dec (BT).

Pine Warbler: Goosepond Mt SP ORAN 19 Dec (BF); Marbletown O & W Rail Trail ULST 24 Jan (DW, JS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 8 Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 1-12 Dec (AW, mob), ws reps.

WESTERN TANAGER: Putnam Valley PUTN 24 Dec, 9 Jan (KG), *intro*.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: Tarrytown WEST 6 Feb (anonymous), *intro*.

Indigo Bunting: Rt 209 Cornfield Kingston ULST 11 Jan (RHo).