

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December was warmer than usual but was highlighted by some extremes in temperature and precipitation. There was a high in Poughkeepsie of 61° F on 30 December and a low of 6° on 25 December. This resulted in an average overall temperature of 33°, .09° above normal. As is typical here, these numbers didn't

reflect the entire Region. Sullivan and Ulster Counties experienced temperatures as low as -4° over a several-days period at Christmas. The month also was highlighted by two significant snowstorms accounting for much of the precipitation. There was a total of 4.29" of precipitation, .8" above normal. January was warmer than usual. There was a high of 56° on 13 January and a low of 19° on 17 January, and an average of 37° , 9.9° above normal. There was a total of 3.37" of precipitation, .55" above normal, but that fell mostly as rain. February did an about face with the morning of 4 February dawning at -7° with some record lows around the Region. The low of -7° on 4 February and a high of 66° on 15 February resulted in an average of 33.6° , 4.4° above normal. There was 1.13" of precipitation, 1.07" below normal.

Waterfowl continuing from the fall period included the Greater White-fronted Goose at Bowman Avenue Pond in Westchester which moved freely between there and Edith G. Read Sanctuary. A second Greater White-fronted spotted on Wickham Lake in Orange County was found by Ronnie DiLorenzo. On 7 December, while searching for a Northern Shrike, Peter Schoenberger happened upon a **Ross's Goose** on Mill Pond in Ulster County. The bird continued through 10 December. A Cackling Goose was found there soon after, one of many reported around the Region. On 28 December the author had just arrived on Haven Road at the Bashakill when he saw a Tundra Swan fly in. This was especially fortuitous as it was on the Monticello CBC day. An amazing find occurred on 30 December when Wendy Tocci and Peter Schoenberger picked an immature **Harlequin Duck** out of a raft of Common Goldeneye on the Hudson River. This is the first record for Ulster County and only the second record for Region 9. Making the find even more exciting for birders was the fact that the flock also contained a female **Barrow's Goldeneye**. Both birds would continue throughout the period, the Harlequin eventually identified as an immature male.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** made itself at home in a local greenhouse in Putnam County in the fall and spent the entire winter feeding on insects and flowers as well as a feeder in the year-round structure.

River watcher Bruce Nott located many Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls throughout the period with the Newburgh/ Beacon Waterfronts hosting most of the birds.

Continuing from the fall period, two **Long-eared Owls** overwintered at an undisclosed location in Orange County. The birds were reported regularly by locals but to responsibly protect them from disturbance they were not otherwise publicized. Another Long-eared Owl was found in the Region, but the location was not disclosed at the time.

On 9 December the author was counting ducks on the Birch Trail at the Bashakill State WMA when a small flycatcher flew into a tree nearby. As the bird began calling, he realized that it wasn't one of our regular flycatchers. He was able to record it and get some poor photos as he followed it along the trail. He immediately sent his data to Jay McGowan at Cornell who was able to confirm the bird to be **Hammond's Flycatcher**! Only the fourth record for New York and the first for Sullivan County. The bird continued the following day to the delight

of many. More typical of a winter observation was an Eastern Phoebe found at the Wallkill River NWR on 18 January which continued into February.

On 2 December Susan Logan Ward photographed a shrike at Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. It was later determined that it was in fact a **Loggerhead Shrike**, an extreme rarity for Ulster County. The bird continued through 30 January but was very difficult to connect with most of the time. A Northern Shrike was found at Glynnwood Farm on 29 December in Putnam County, a rare bird for the county; it continued through 30 January.

Evening Grosbeaks were first spotted by Ronnie DiLorenzo on 19 December in Neversink Township, Sullivan County. They continued at several locations throughout the period. A single Evening Grosbeak was reported in Dutchess County and continued at a feeder there for a month.

Interesting warblers continuing from the fall period included the **Yellow-throated Warbler** and Orange-crowned Warbler, both in Kingston, first reported by Wendy Tocci. A second Orange-crowned Warbler was found on the Newburgh Waterfront on 2 December by Bruce Nott. That bird continued through the period, being joined briefly by a Nashville Warbler.

On 26 December Joe Rothstein spotted an Indigo Bunting at Lenoir Nature Preserve in Westchester County. The bird was seen sporadically throughout the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Ashokan Res, ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **BW** – Beacon Waterfront, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLHP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **SHSRS** – Six and a half Station Road Sanctuary,

ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN; **ws reps** – widespread reports.

Snow Goose: 50 BCF 11 Dec (RDi); 75 OCBDR 11 Dec (MZ); max 4 BCF 1-7 Jan (SAI, mob); max 7500 OCBDR 1 Jan - 28 Feb (MZ, mob).

Ross's Goose: Stone Ridge Pd ULST 7-12 Dec (PS, mob), *intro*.

Greater White-fronted Goose: WL 1-8 Dec (RDi, mob); Bowman Ave Pd and EGR WEST 1 Dec - 28 Feb (GB, mob), *intro*.

Brant: max 150 Rye WEST 1 Dec - 28 Feb (GB, mob).

Cackling Goose: RLSP 1-12 Dec (AWel, mob); Wallkill Ri Walk ULST 1 Dec (BN); BSWMA 13 Dec (JH); Stormville DUTC 14 Dec (AMa); BCF 3 Jan (BN); max 2 Sheldrake L WEST 7-21 Jan (SC, mob); Stone Ridge Pd ULST 9-16 Jan (PS, mob); 2 Camel Farm ORAN 7 Jan (JC); 2 OCBDR 10-14 Jan (LS), *ws reps*.

Canada Goose: max 4500 Wallkill Ri Walk 1-16 Dec (BN).

Tundra Swan: BSWMA 28 Dec (JH, mob); 3 Newtown Pd ORAN 28 Dec (LS); 12 OCBDR 29 Dec (KK); NR 14 Jan (SGr); Drake L DUTC 13-14 Jan (BMA); NR 14 Jan (SGr), *intro*.

Wood Duck: max 2 Bowman Ave Pd 4-27 Jan (SC, mob); max 14 BSWMA 27 Jan - 28 Feb (KMi, mob); max 9 Muscote Res WEST 25 Feb (SC), *ws reps*.

Gadwall: max 12 BP 2-22 Dec (BN); max 2 RR 17 Dec - 1 Jan (SGr, mob); max 17 Stone Ridge Pd ULST 17 Dec - 28 Feb (RM, mob), *ws reps*.

American Wigeon: max 10 Beaver Pd ORAN 9-27 Jan (JC, mob); max 11 Rye Town P WEST 25 Jan (KMcG, mob).

American Black Duck: max 75 BSWMA 2-3 Feb (JH, mob), *ws reps*.

Northern Pintail: max 9 BSWMA 1-31 Dec (JH, mob); max 35 WRNWR 24 Jan - 3 Feb (RDi, mob); max 7 Stone Ridge Pd ULST 1 Jan - 2 Feb (MC, mob) max 150 BSWMA 23-28 Feb (JH, mob), *ws reps*.

Canvasback: max 70 PP 1 Dec - 28 Feb (CW, mob); 24 The Landing, Dobbs Ferry WEST 10 Dec (JA); max 4 Washington L ORAN 27-28 Dec (BN, mob); max 16 EMLHP 7-18 Jan (SR, mob); 8 BSWMA 23 Feb (JH, mob); 6 Orange L ORAN 23 Feb (BN); 7 Cornwall Bay ORAN 23 Feb (BN), *ws reps*.

Redhead: Wixon Pd PUTN 15 Dec (CR); max 13 Washington L ORAN 27 Dec - 1 Jan (BN, mob); max 6 RR 30 Dec - 7 Feb (JH, mob); 7 BP 7-21 Jan (BN); max 14 Purdys Res WEST

11 Jan - 28 Feb (AS, mob); max 6 RLSP 16-30 Jan (AWel, mob), *ws reps*.

Ring-necked Duck: 170 Sylvan L DUTC 1 Jan (KF, CF); 220 NCR 1 Jan (LS), *ws reps*.

Greater Scaup: max 5 RR 27 Dec-18 Feb (JH, mob); max 5 Sylvan L DUTC 22 Dec-5 Jan (BMi, mob), *ws reps*.

Lesser Scaup: max 18 EGR 1-31 Jan (GB, mob), *ws reps*.

Harlequin Duck: River Rd ULST 30 Dec - 19 Feb (PS, WT, mob); Rhinebeck DUTC 6 Jan - 2 Feb (CP, mob), *intro*.

Surf Scoter: RR 2-18 Dec (SGr, mob).

White-winged Scoter: Washington L ORAN 6 Jan (BN, mob); max 4 Rye 10 Jan - 20 Feb (GB, mob).

Black Scoter: 2 OMRLMSP 28 Dec (KB); max 13 Rye 2 Jan - 22 Feb (KMcG, mob).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 RR 1-13 Dec (SGr, mob); 2 Sand Dock Rd Tr DUTC 1 Dec (CCh); max 88 Rye 4 Dec - 28 Feb (GB, mob); Kingston Beach ULST 27 Dec (DS); Glasco Mini P ULST 29-30 Dec (RM, JC); max 4 Orange L ORAN 31 Jan - 1 Feb (RDi, mob); WL 2 Feb (KK).

Common Goldeneye: max 94 RR 1 Dec- 28 Feb (SGr, mob); 42 Kingston ULST 15 Dec (SS, mob); max 6 CPP 1-31 Jan (KL, mob), *ws reps*.

Barrow's Goldeneye: River Rd 30 Dec-20 Feb (PS, WT, mob); Rhinebeck 17 Jan (CP, mob), *intro*.

Hooded Merganser: max 45 Lake Tappen ROCK 5 Jan (CL). *ws reps*.

Common Merganser: max 1100 Lake Tappen 1-16 Dec (AWel, mob), *ws reps*.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 42 Rye 1 Jan - 28 Feb (GB, mob); Plum Pt ORAN 2-16 Jan (BN); max 11 CPP 1-30 Jan (ASw, mob); max 3 CPP 8-15 Jan (ASw, mob); NW 5 Feb (RDi, mob), *ws reps*.

Ruddy Duck: max 17 EGR 1 Jan (GB, mob); max 25 PP 1 Jan (CCo, mob); 50 Sylvan L 1 Jan (KF, CF)

Wild Turkey: max 66 Sullivan Grasslands SULL 6-14 Jan (JH), *ws reps*.

Ruffed Grouse: Plank Rd SULL 7 Jan (NH); Flynn Rd SULL 18 Feb (JH).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 RLSP 1 Dec-28 Feb (AWel, mob); max 9 Croton Falls Res PUTN 2 Jan - 16 Feb (JB, mob); max 2 NCR 8 Jan - 11 Feb (SR, mob).

Horned Grebe: Washington L ORAN 27 Dec (MZ, KMi); max 5 CPP 27 Dec (KL, JWa); max 2 EGR 28-29 Dec (GB, mob); 46 AR 2 Jan (PS); 2 NR 4-5 Jan (SGr, mob).
Red-necked Grebe: Rye 2-27 Jan (LM, mob).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Carmel PUTN 1 Dec-28 Feb (SC), *intro*.

Virginia Rail: CPP 17 Dec (ASw, JWa).
Sora: WRNWR 15 Feb (LS).

Sandhill Crane: max 5 OCBDR 1 Dec - 6 Feb (LS, mob).

Killdeer: max 11 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (GB, mob); max 3 CPP 2-14 Feb (JWa, mob), ws reps.

Purple Sandpiper: max 8 Rye 7 Jan - 25 Feb (MBo, mob).
American Woodcock: Sprout Creek DUTC 14 Feb (JM), ws reps.
Wilson's Snipe: DHCLP 18 Feb (SGr).

Razorbill: 6 EGR 22 Feb (SC), *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: 24 The Landing Dobbs Ferry 24 Dec (JA); max 2 NR 4-5 Jan (SGr, mob); Newburgh Sewage Treatment Plant ORAN 7 Jan (BN); EGR 13 Jan (SC, GB).
Ring-billed Gull: max 400 NW 1-31 Dec (BN, mob), ws reps.
Herring Gull: max 1200 NW 1-31 Dec (BN, mob), ws reps.
Iceland Gull: max 4 NW/BW 1 Dec - 28 Feb (BN, JB, mob); max 2 Mohonk Rd ULST 20-31 Jan (PS, mob).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BW 2-12 Dec (BN); NW 9, 17 Dec (BN, mob); NW 7 Jan (BN, mob); Wallkill ULST 14 Jan (NW); Woodbourne Gravel SULL 6, 15 Feb (JH); SHSRS 19 Feb (DB, JC).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 26 BW 1 Dec - 28 Feb (CCo, mob), ws reps.

Red-throated Loon: max 6 EGR 2 Jan- 28 Feb (MBo, mob).
Common Loon: 4 AR 2 Jan (PS); max 8 EGR 1 Jan - 28 Feb (SC, mob).

Great Cormorant: max 15 Peekskill Landing P WEST 14 Jan (CR); max 4 Haverstraw Marina ROCK (AWel), ws reps.
Double-crested Cormorant: NW 6 Jan (RDi), ws reps.

Black Vulture: max 33 Narrowsburg SULL 15 Jan (SGr), ws reps.

Osprey: EGR 22-28 Dec (TJ, mob).

Golden Eagle: max 3 Pine Plains DUTC 18 Dec - 28 Feb (SC, mob); OCBDR 24 Jan (BN, LS); 2 Sullivan Grasslands 25 Jan (JH, RDa), ws reps.
Northern Harrier: max 10 SGNWR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (SLW, mob); max 11 OCBDR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (LS, mob), ws reps.
Bald Eagle: max 20 Forestburgh SULL 28 Dec (JH), ws reps.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 OCBDR 8-28 Dec (RDi, mob); max 2 SGNWR 13 Dec-28 Feb (KMCD, mob), ws reps.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 BSWMA 11 Dec - 28 Feb (AMa, SBal, mob); max 6 Redhook DUTC 28 Dec (WT, JP), ws reps.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Stony Pt SP ROCK 18 Dec (AWel); 2 BSWMA 19 Dec (SB); 2 CPP 27 Dec (RM), ws reps.
Barred Owl: 2 Forestburgh 28 Dec (JH); max 3 Hurley Rail Trail ULST 5 Jan (DW), ws reps.
Long-eared Owl: max 2 Orange County 1 Dec - 7 Feb (ASc, mob); 1 CPP 13-14 Feb (KL), *intro*.
Short-eared Owl: max 6 OCBDR 1 Dec-28 Feb (LS, mob); max 8 SGNWR 2 Dec - 28 Feb (KMCD, mob); max 3 CPP 30 Jan - 14 Feb (SC).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Smith Lane ULST 17 Dec (PS); Putnam Valley PUTN 7-27 Jan (LU, AMa).

Belted Kingfisher: RR 1 Dec - 18 Feb (JH), ws reps.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Saugerties ULST 7 Jan (PS); Weston Rd Swamp 8 Jan (DT).

Merlin: BSWMA 3,7 Dec (JC, JH); OCBDR 1 Jan - 28 Feb (RDi, mob); ws reps.
Peregrine Falcon: ws reps.

Monk Parakeet: max 75 Red Bridge WEST 1 Dec - 28 Feb (FG, mob).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: BSWMA 9-10 Dec (JH, JM, mob), *intro*.
Eastern Phoebe: WRNWR 18 Jan - 17 Feb (KK, mob), *intro*.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: SGNWR 2 Dec - 30 Jan (SLW, mob), *intro*.

Northern Shrike: Glynnwood Farm PUTN 29 Dec - 30 Jan (JB, mob); Ulster P ULST 5 Jan (SD, mob), *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 175 OCBDR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (JC, mob) max 30 SGNWR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (RM, mob); max 23 Glynnwood Farm PUTN 1-4 Jan (SR, mob).

Tree Swallow: max 14 CPP 18-28 Feb (ASw, mob).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 NW 6 Jan-2 Feb (KK, mob), ws reps.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 RR 1 Jan (JH); max 4 Madam Brett P DUTC 4-24 Jan (MV), ws reps.

Cedar Waxwing: 29 West Point Foundry PUTN 4-11 Jan (CR); 22 Kakiat P ROCK 7 Jan (CW, mob), ws reps.

Gray Catbird: NW 8 Jan (KK); 2 Verplanck WEST 2 Jan (SL); Sheldrake L 15-17 Jan (GB, mob).

Brown Thrasher: Manitou Train Station PUTN 2 Jan (JA, SC), Middletown ORAN 28 Feb (JD).

American Pipit: max 34 CPP 2-17 Dec (JWa, mob); max 4 Ulster P 1 Jan - 6 Feb (DT, mob).

Evening Grosbeak: max 42 Woodard Rd SULL 19 Dec - 28 Feb (RDi, mob); max 37 Blue Hill Rd SULL 27 Dec - 8 Feb (JH, mob); Wappingers Falls 16 Jan - 16 Feb (SI, mob).

Purple Finch: ws reps south in single digits.

Red Crossbill: 2 BSWMA 10-13 Dec (JM, SBal); 14 Fishkill Rd DUTC 2 Jan (KB, mob), *intro*.

Pine Siskin: 3 Poughkeepsie DUTC 10 Jan (DvZ); 2 Roscoe SULL 13-14 Jan (MG, JH); 6 Diddell Rd DUTC 14 Jan (DvZ); max 4 Blue Hill Rd SULL 8-24 Feb (JH, mob)

Lapland Longspur: 2 OCBDR 11 Dec (MZ); Hurley Mt Rd ULST 13 Dec (RM); OCBDR 1 Jan - 8 Feb (JC, mob); Ulster P 23 Jan (DT).

Snow Bunting: 8 Tarrytown P WEST 10 Dec (JK, SGI); max 8 Hurly Mt Rd 8-13 Dec (RM); max 6 Muhlig Rd SULL 18-20 Dec (JH, mob); max 50 OCBDR 1-8 Jan (MZ, mob); max 100 Ulster P 23-31 Jan (DT, mob); max 5 Muhlig Rd SULL 31 Jan - 3 Feb (MV, mob), ws reps.

Chipping Sparrow: Dennings Pt DUTC 1 Dec (AL); SGNWR 24-28 Jan (JWo, mob); Kingston 31 Jan (DS), ws reps.

Fox Sparrow: max 2 CPP 4-11 Feb (SR, mob), ws reps.

Vesper Sparrow: Greig Farm DUTC 14 Dec (SBau); Wallkill Ri Walk 17 Dec (JH, BF).

Eastern Towhee: 2 OCBDR 4 Jan (BN); max 2 Rye 2-29 Jan (LM, mob), ws reps.

Yellow-breasted Chat: EGR 25-26 Dec (GB, mob); Stony Pt SP 5 Feb (AC).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 15 SGNWR 1 Dec - 31 Jan (BN, mob); Lower Wisner Rd ORAN 15 Jan - 5 Feb (MZ, mob).

Baltimore Oriole: Kingston 3 Dec (RG).

Rusty Blackbird: max 87 Kimball P ORAN (JC), ws reps.

Orange-crowned Warbler: NW 2 Dec-26 Feb (BN, mob); Kingston 4, 27 Dec (WT); Haverstraw Landfill 18 Dec (AWel, mob), *intro*.

Nashville Warbler: NW 6-9 Jan (KK, mob).

Common Yellowthroat: CPP 8,12 Dec (CR, JWa).

Palm Warbler: Sterling Forest SP ORAN 21 Jan (AMc).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: BSWMA 10 Dec (JM); NCR 17 Dec (SC).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Kingston 1-27 Dec (WT, mob), *intro*.

Indigo Bunting: Lenoir Nature Pres WEST 26 Dec, 14 Jan, 5 Feb (JR), *intro*.

