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Elon Howard Eaton

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Elon Howard Eaton, or Howard Eaton, as he liked to be called by his friends, was born 8 October 1866, in a farmhouse on the Zoar Valley Road about a mile west of the village of Springville in Erie County, New York. He began school in a nearby schoolhouse but he fainted in school one day and his father and mother, who had both graduated from Griffith Institute in Springville, decided to home-school their son. After his lessons he was allowed to roam the fields and woods and he soon taught himself most of the native birds. He also went to Buffalo and enrolled in a course in taxidermy at about this time. Five hummingbirds were brought to him on 31 May 1881 when he was 15 years old and he noticed that the Purple Finch appeared as a common breeding species in Springville at the same time as the growth of numerous spruce and cedar trees, which were planted by the residents in their dooryards.

He graduated from Griffith Institute in 1885 and his senior speech at graduation, as reported by the *Springville Journal and Herald*, was titled, "Erect Your Own Monuments." The article continued, "This young man, whose examinations prove him to be entitled to a regents college entrance diploma, made a most admirable appearance with fine physique, splendid gifts of oratory and masterly acquaintance with the rules of action and address. He displayed talents on the stage which will eminently qualify him for the noble calling he is seeking."

Eaton's 'noble calling' was probably to become a Baptist minister. He entered the University of Rochester in the fall of 1885, which at that time was associated with the Baptist Church. After his junior year he left to teach at Canandaigua Union School, probably to help support his mother and father on the farm and to raise money for himself.

He returned to the University of Rochester in the fall of 1889 to complete his classical education. He also played tackle on the first Rochester football team and was in a college play. His favorite teacher was Herman Fairchild who was a famous glaciologist working out glacial evidence in western New York. It was probably this man who directed him into the natural sciences and away from becoming a Baptist minister. His niece told me he did have a license to preach in the Baptist Church. Later I found out he had become a Mason.

In 1890 Eaton graduated from the University of Rochester with a Phi Beta Kappa key and returned to Canandaigua Union School where he was appointed vice principle and science instructor. He established at this time The Eaton and Wilber Taxidermy Studio which mounted birds and mammals for the general

public as well as institutions. They even mounted the skeleton of a mastodon for Vassar College. In 1895 he left the Canandaigua Union School to teach at the Bradstreet School, located in the Cutler Building in downtown Rochester. There he taught chemistry, physics and natural science, including ornithology and botany. The students were prepared in these subjects to enter the best colleges in the United States. In the afternoons they went on field trips to study geology, flora and fauna at Pinnacle Hill, Irondequoit Bay, the Genesee River Gorge, the Upper Genesee and Allen's Creek. Records were kept on nesting birds and the blossoming of flowers.

Eaton had written to several people inquiring about opportunities to study for the Ph.D. degree in 1899. One of these letters was to Elliott Coues, the leading ornithologist at the time, who replied on 30 May 1899:

"I hardly like to take the responsibility of advising you on as important a matter, knowing nothing of your pecuniary means and present proficiency; but I should suppose that the Johns Hopkins in the east and Leland Stanford in California would be good places for you in this country; while abroad I should say either London or Paris. Very truly yours, Elliott Coues."

He also wrote to the University of Rochester asking if such a degree could be offered. Herman Fairchild replied, asking him to stop in at his office where he would tell him his thoughts on the subject. The result was that eventually the University of Rochester did present him with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree.

In 1899-1900 he took a leave of absence from Bradstreet School to attend Columbia University, taking courses in paleontology from Henry Fairfield Osborn, who also did much to establish the acceptance of Darwinian evolution; Bashford Dean, the famous ichthyologist; and E. L. Thorndike, who helped to establish modern animal psychology.

He returned to Bradstreet School in the fall of 1900 and the next year his *Birds of Western New York* was published by the Rochester Academy of Science. He was then chairman of the bird division there, which consisted of 40 members. Not only was he taking his students at Bradstreet School on field trips, but he also led adults on field trips for birds and other natural history topics such as flowers and mushrooms. A point of departure would be designated and the group might head out by bicycle or streetcar to a favorite designation—Cobb's Hill, Greenleaf Woods, Charlotte, the Erie Canal Wide Waters, Pinnacle Hill, Bay Farm, Float Bridge, Mendon Ponds, or Zargus Mills.

In 1901 Eaton and Howard Bradstreet, the founder of Bradstreet School, built a slab-sided cabin on the west shore of Canandaigua Lake just north of present Bristol Harbor. It was the only real estate Eaton ever even partially owned until he later married and Bradstreet deeded his share to him. This was the place where much of the *Birds of New York* was written. In the 1950s I found two rolls of plates from the *Birds of New York* without captions which had been given to Eaton by the printer as proofs to be reviewed. These we donated later to the Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca.

On 13 September 1902, Eaton saw his last Passenger Pigeon flying over the village of Canandaigua. As a teenager and later he had shot them around

Springville. One immature he had shot was used as the model for the immature illustrated in Fuertes' plate for the male, female and immature Passenger Pigeons. Fuertes had kept the mounted specimen in Ithaca that Eaton had prepared. He returned it to our home in Geneva in 1926. I remember the incident well. My brother—four years older and bolder—asked Fuertes if he would draw him a Ring-necked Pheasant. Paper was provided and in five minutes a beautiful sketch materialized. My brother, now deceased, donated the sketch to the Laboratory of Ornithology not long ago.

In 1904, John M. Clark was the newly appointed Director of the New York State Museum and shortly after his appointment he authorized Eaton to edit a new *Birds of New York* to replace the earlier version written by James E. DeKay in 1844. In the Krock Archives at Cornell University is a letter written 20 February 1905 by Eaton to Louis Fuertes from 259 Park Avenue in Rochester.

“My dear Mr. Fuertes, The book on The Birds of New York State is progressing again and we are looking for good drawings and mounted specimens for reproduction in colors to illustrate the work. I understand that you have a large number of watercolors of our native birds and I have no doubt that many of them would be just what we want. Dr. Clarke, the Director of the Museum, has authorized me to communicate with you and make arrangements, if possible, to look over your drawings and come to some mutual agreement regarding their use in the work. It has occurred to me also that you might be willing to make some drawings of subjects which we might select according to the needs of the book. If you will make an appointment with me for some Saturday or Sunday in March, I would be glad to meet you and examine your drawings, and hope that we can have many of your drawings in the New Book. Very truly yours, E. Howard Eaton.”

So L. A. Fuertes was brought on board as the illustrator of the *Birds of New York*. After a couple of months of correspondence between Dr. Clark of the State Museum and the State Printer, the J. B. Lyon Company, they were awarded the printing contract with Charles M. Winchester as representative. Four of the major personalities were established: Eaton as editor, Fuertes as illustrator, Clark as manager and Winchester as publisher. On 18 April 1907, Winchester wrote Fuertes to tell him that the publisher had awarded the reproduction of the bird plates to Zeese-Wilkinson Co. of New York City, who would do the engraving. The printer had found they could not go to the expense of lithography and accepted the four-color process of the engraver.

In the summer of 1905 from 15 June to the first week in August, Eaton and seven members of the Rochester Academy of Science (including Tom Taylor, father of Joe Taylor) explored the High Peaks around Mt. Marcy in the Adirondacks. This expedition was written up in Volume 1 of the *Birds of New York*. This same year Eaton's father died and in 1906 his mother died as well. Their farm, which had often been referred to in the write-ups of bird species in the *Birds of New York*, was foreclosed to the village of Springville. Eaton had sent money to his parents to keep the mortgage alive during their lifetime, which was probably the reason he was still a bachelor at 40 years. The red brick farm

house on the old Buffalo Road north of Springville next to the trout pond is still in good condition.

By 5 March 1908 Eaton had finished text for *Birds of New York* Volume 1 and had written the preface. It was published by the State Museum in 1910. A circular sent out by the museum announced Volume 1 Water Birds with 42 colored plates, \$3.00. Volume 2 Land Birds with 60 colored plates was later sold for \$4.00. Today on the internet they sell for up to \$100 a volume.

In the fall of 1908 Eaton was hired to develop the Biology Department at Hobart and William Smith College, which had just been established. He was also given the title of Curator of the Museum of Natural History. He became a very charismatic teacher of biology at Hobart. He was one of the first to offer an ornithology course, but hygiene was a favorite. He was famous too for one-liners. A student asked one day in class if it is possible to contract a venereal disease from a toilet seat. Eaton responded, "That's a hell of a place to take a lady."

In 1909, after a whirlwind courtship of Gertrude Yeames, a sister of the Greek Professor at Hobart, Eaton became engaged in June and a wedding was set for 4 September 1909. During the engagement they visited Taughannock Falls near Cayuga Lake and according to the *Birds of New York* the same Gertrude Yeams discovered the Duck Hawk (today Peregrine Falcon) eyrie on the ledge above the falls.

Volume 2 of the *Birds of New York* did not appear until 1914. The pressure of teaching full time, his work for Birge and Juday (who were studying the limnology of the Finger Lakes, taking all their temperatures from the surface to 50 meters) from 1911 to 1918, his marriage in 1909, and the start of his family and a major heart attack in 1913, all slowed production of the text for the second volume. This frustrated the Director of the State Museum who continuously pressured Eaton to complete the text. The cost of producing the plates for Volumes 1 and 2 was considerable and holding up completion produced problems for the printer and the engraver.

While Eaton was struggling to finish the text for Volume 2, Fuertes accompanied Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum on a five month expedition to South America. This must have been hard to swallow for Eaton who would have loved to have gone on the trip.

With the completion of the two volumes he was released from the pressure of producing the text and could spend more time with his family. Elizabeth was born in 1911 and Elon Howard Jr., who was known as Pat because he was born on St. Patrick's Day, was born in 1915.

A few days after Pat's birth Gertrude Eaton died and Dad's sensitivities, strength and philosophy of life must have been terribly shaken. But Gertrude had left him two children and he had finished his Magnum Opus. It had been well received even by such critics as William Brewster, who wrote him on 24 Nov 1914: "It is, as now completed, a truly monumental work, alike to him who wrote it and to the broadminded generosity of the state authorities who have sanctioned what must have been the very heavy expense of publishing and distributing so sumptuous and handsomely illustrated a book."

On 1 September 1915, Eaton married Esther Woodman in Randolph, New Hampshire. A daughter Mary arrived on 4 June 1916, and, two and a half years later, on 22 December 1918, a son, Stephen Woodman Eaton, was born.

After *Birds of New York* was published Eaton received almost countless letters from birders about the state; one that stands out came from 16 Bowen Street, Jamestown, New York:

Dear Mr. Eaton; I have found a Pileated Woodpecker's nest in the swampy woods bordering the Outlet of Chautauqua Lake, about a mile from town. I would like to know if this is very unusual, for I always thought that it never nested in this section. I found the hole about May 10th as the woodpecker was going to bed for the night. I know at least that it was where the bird slept at night, so I resolved to keep tabs. The hole was placed near the top of a tall dead elm stub, about 50 feet from the ground. The other day I returned and the female was at the mouth of the hole. On Friday afternoon when I again visited the place, the female was again at the hole with her head out. I watched her for two hours from a neighboring tree but she did not leave; in fact, she didn't seem to mind my presence. Occasionally she would call to her mate from the hole, and the male came to the nest twice, to see if things were going all right. I took one picture of the male at the hole as I stood below the stub. The picture was extremely sharp but the image of the bird was only about 3/16" long, so I am going to try to get a good enlargement of it. I will send you a copy. There is a second pair of these birds down farther in this woods, because sometimes when this pair would call to each other, a third bird would chime in in the distance.

During the past two years I have seen nine different Pileated Woodpeckers, but this pair on the outlet seems to be the only resident pair. This locality is very thickly settled and only a few small woodlots remain, so the presence of Pileated Woodpeckers is unusual. The outlet woods is the most extensive of any of those close about town, but steamboats go daily through the creek, while streetcar lines close it in on both sides. If it were not for these, wild life would be much more abundant there.

At least 50 pairs of Yellow Warblers nest there, together with about the same number of Redstarts, a few Mourning Warblers and Maryland Yellowthroats; about 25 pairs of Northern Waterthrushes, and about 15 pairs of Canada Warblers. This year there are at least 2 pairs of Brown Creepers nesting there, 1 pair of Woodcocks, 1 pair of Wood Ducks, several pair of Virginia Rails, and 1 pair of Wilson's Snipe (in the marshy meadow near the outlet. Young were found there last year; birds still there this year.)

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are common nesters. Two or three pairs of Alder Flycatchers, 1 pair of Barred Owls, and 2 pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks stay here each year. Yesterday as I was visiting the Pileated Woodpecker's nest, I made my best bird record for this year. I saw my first Carolina Wren. I had, however, heard its ringing, 'Che-whor-tel - Che-whor-tel - Che-whor-tel' several times before in this place, but I could never discover the author of the song until yesterday. I hope that I will find its nest one of these days. This I believe is the first record for the county for the Carolina Wren.

Yours truly, Roger T. Peterson

In 1927, while he was still chairman of the Biology Department at Hobart and William Smith, the New York State Conservation Department hired Eaton for \$1000.00 from 15 Jun to 15 September to head the Lake Unit of the 2nd New York State Biological Survey of the Oswego River System which included the Finger Lakes. He was 60 years old and his crew consisted of T. T. Odell of the Hobart Biology Department, Hobart students Francis J. Trembly and R. A. Vingea, and Genevans George Springstead and Wallace Bishop. They surveyed the Finger Lakes for the kinds of fishes present and where they occurred, and they examined their stomachs for food they had eaten. After completing the survey he wrote the second chapter in the report on the Oswego River System titled, "The Finger Lakes Fish Problem." In the introduction of the chapter he said, "Our problem was to discover some means of conserving the fish supply of the Finger Lakes and increasing it, if possible. A hundred and fifty years ago there was a plentiful supply of fish for the 20,000 Senecas and Cayugas who inhabited the region but now there are more than half a million inhabitants of the counties which border the lakes...."

Potter Swamp was one of Eaton's favorite places along with Montezuma Swamp and Canandaigua Lake. A description of Potter Swamp appears in the *Birds of New York* Volume 2 as it was in 1908. It is located between Seneca and Canandaigua Lakes. In a description he wrote in 1931, "The swamp has the richest bird fauna in any like area known to us in New York in the number of breeding birds." From the early 1920s to the early 1930s many people from Buffalo, Rochester, Ithaca, Canandaigua, Branchport, Penn Yan, Syracuse and Geneva would look for birds in their local areas and then head for the swamp. They would usually meet for lunch at the upper road crossing the swamp to compare notes and to plan the afternoon search. The total list of birds seen in the localities and the swamp was collated by Eaton and the list was printed by Ezra Hale of Rochester. The printed lists start in 1926 and extend through 1931, but there are earlier lists of birds in Eaton's file. Verdi Burtch and Clarence Stone had collected eggs in the swamp in the 1880s, when egg collecting was in vogue.

After World War II developers had the Tully Limestone at the north end of the swamp blown out and this allowed the water in the swamp area to be drawn down by about 20 feet. Much of the area is now in muck farms. Many conservationists from Geneva, Rochester and Buffalo and other localities tried to stop the development of the swamp into muck farms but to no avail. It would be a good project, with today's sensitivity to the environment, to place a lock where the Tully Limestone was blown apart and return this bird haven to its original state. Many wetlands of similar nature are being restored to their former glory. This might be an objective for the New York State Ornithological Association and its Conservation Committee to tackle.

In 1932, Eaton was suffering from very high blood pressure and his doctor said he should take the fall and winter off and go south for the winter. He and Mother spent the winter in South Carolina. In the spring they returned and took the whole family on the North Cape Cruise on the Swedish American Line. It was the last time we were all together. On our return Eaton tried to teach but

soon he became bedridden and on 27 Mar 1934, he died. One of his colleagues wrote in a college publication entitled, “As we were”—

Professor Eaton, who was particularly my friend, possessed more varied knowledge than any man whom I have ever known. Not only did he appear to know everything in his own domain of living things but all the natural objects of the universe seemed to talk to him. He was well acquainted with everything in the outside world from the atom to the galaxy, while his tolerant and humorous comprehension of human nature was as profound as it was delightful. To his training in the sciences, he added the culture of a classical education; to his wide knowledge of the liberal arts, he added those of the vintner and the chef. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and an excellent shot; and those who have enjoyed the game he killed, the wine he made, and the excellent meals he cooked have something to look back upon.



Harriet Taylor Marsi 1912-2008

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Harriet Marsi died in Vestal, NY at the age of 95 on 10 June 2008. She was raised in Port Washington, NY by her parents, Thomas and Matilda Taylor, who supported her early fascination with the world of nature. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College in 1933 and a Master's degree in Zoology from University of North Carolina in 1936. While working in a Manhattan law office where she was employed as a secretary she met Frederick Marsi, an attorney, and they were married in 1938. They moved to Binghamton in 1946, raised two children, Gail and Rick, and remained in that area for the rest of their lives.

Harriet quickly found like-minded people in Binghamton, and in 1950 she and a few others founded the Naturalists' Club of Broome County. She was the first President and served several terms thereafter in that office. She led field trips, "weed walks", bird song classes, banding demonstrations and wetland surveys and gave many nature programs for the club over many years. She became an expert on foraging and preparing wild foods, testing them out on her family, and then serving some she thought to be more successful on field outings and at club meetings.

Over the years Harriet spent hundreds of hours giving nature programs in local school classrooms, conveying infectious enthusiasm, no matter what the topic. A local newspaper article about her said that "she could keep a classroom full of children spellbound as a just-emerged monarch butterfly perched on her finger while she explained how the creatures migrated, what they ate and where to find them. She would tag the butterfly as she did this, then go to the window and send the butterfly on its way" (Frank Roessner, Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin 13 Jun 2008).

Perhaps her most widely publicized conservation success involved a confrontation with the NYS Department of Transportation as they planned an upgrade to Rt 17 in the mid-1960s. When she learned that the highway was slated to go through the Apalachin Marsh about 15 miles west of Binghamton, she and fellow Naturalists' Club member Florence Linaberry went to the site and challenged the NYSDOT engineers to divert the traffic lanes around the marsh. Their initial laughter at the two ladies ultimately changed to respect as the campaign persisted, the route was changed, and the marsh between the east and westbound lanes was preserved. Now that Rt 17 will become Interstate 86, federal officials say that the unique 50-acre nature preserve (called "Harriet's Marsh" by the locals) will continue to be protected. A *New York Times* article on

18 May 1999 gave Harriet Marsi much of the credit for saving the marsh from the bulldozers.

Harriet's lifetime concern for conservation led to leadership in several local and statewide organizations and recognition through many awards. As a conservationist and environmental activist, she was a long-term member and Chairperson of the Broome County Environmental Management Council. In 1976 she was given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "Special Award of Merit" recognizing her "significant contributions to a better environment." She served as President of the Central New York State Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and earned the Oakleaf Award in recognition of her conservation work, and the Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club recognized her with the 2005 Spickard Environmental Award as a longtime advocate for the local environment. She persuaded Binghamton University to relocate a new dormitory in order to preserve a stand of mature forest, and her last campaign involved New York State's role in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Her letter-writing continued until the state joined a multi-state consortium to oversee the issue.

Harriet served in major roles in the (then) Federation of New York State Bird Clubs over many years. She served as Corresponding Secretary (1964-1967 and 1978), Recording Secretary (1979-1980 and 1982), Vice-President (1983-1984) and President (1985-1986). She also served as *Kingbird* Regional Editor for Region 4 for 15 issues between 1982 and 1985, plus several terms as Conservation Chair. She treasured the friendships with other FNYSBC leaders during her era and always looked forward to the social aspects of Annual Meetings and Board Meetings. Her outstanding service to the organization was recognized with the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award, the highest award of the organization, in 1993.

Bird-banding was an interest that spread over many decades of her life. She apprenticed under Les Bemont in the early 1960s and as she became more experienced, taught other people, including at least two who continue to use banding to study birds to this day (her daughter Gail Kirch and this writer). She established a banding station on her property where she was able to document the replacement of Golden-winged Warblers by Blue-winged Warblers between 1961 and 1976 in an article in *North American Bird Bander*. She also participated in a study of fall migration of passerines from about 1970 to 1985 in a series of reports in the same journal.

As her physical health curtailed banding and birding activities, Harriet turned to other studies. Always willing to try something new, she founded three 4th of July Butterfly Counts in the mid-1990s, compiling and reporting the annual results for the North American Butterfly Association. During her last few counts she remained in the car, helping with identification of tricky skippers brought to her and then gently released. Her last butterfly count was in 2007 at age 94, and she was thrilled that a 4-year old on the same count found a Hairstreak that had been missed by the others.

In her latter years, Harriet took many courses through Lyceum, a life-long learning program for seniors affiliated with the University at Binghamton, and enthusiastically enrolled for as many as three classes a week. As in every other

project, she became deeply engrossed in whatever her class was studying, whether it was geology, water conservation, the Chesapeake Bay, or American and Russian literature.

She left a wonderful legacy to those who knew her—a joy for life, great appreciation for everything outdoors, a love of learning, and fascination with the little things, whether child, bird, bug or bud. She had great enthusiasm for passing on her passion for nature as well as a keen sense of responsibility for working to conserve the things she loved. Both bore fruit and will continue to do so for years to come.



**Winston William Brockner
1915-2008**

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Winston Brockner had been a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society for 76 years at the time of his death on November 19, 2008. Winston, sometimes known as “Win” or “Bill,” was born in Buffalo on 22 Jul 1915, and lived here until 1965 when he and his wife, Sylvia Booth, moved to Evergreen, Colorado where he resided for the rest of his life.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society was barely four years old when Winston became a member in 1932. He was 16 years old and had been birding for several years. When he was 11 or 12 and while birding in Delaware Park, he met Harold Mitchell and Clark Beardslee, two of the gentlemen who would soon be founding the B.O.S. They were impressed with his enthusiasm for bird study, encouraged him and were soon including him on their birding expeditions. On one of these trips in the mid-1920s Winston saw his first Cardinal, an extremely rare bird in this area at the time and he loved to tell the story of it: Dr. A.E. Perkins of the Gowanda State Hospital had called Harold Mitchell to report that a Cardinal was visiting her feeder. A trip was quickly organized and all interested, including Winston, went to Gowanda and were rewarded by seeing this rare and beautiful bird. They were still enjoying their sighting when an older teenager arrived on his bicycle, having ridden over from Jamestown. The young man was Roger Tory Peterson who also logged his first Cardinal. These boys became lifelong friends. Winston admitted that he reminded Roger a few times of which boy saw the Cardinal first. They met often at meetings of the A.O.U., *The Kingbird* 2009 June; 59 (2)

A.B.A., Nature Conservancy, etc. and it was Roger who convinced Win that he should keep a life list of birds he saw in the A.O.U. area. Winston's list stands at 754, which is among the top 100 lists in the country.

As a child, Winston frequented the Buffalo Science Museum where he always checked out the "Bird of the Month" case. In this exhibit he first saw the Museum's mounted pair of Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers which captivated and inspired him. He meant to see that bird and in later life made several trips to its haunts, including the Big Thicket of Texas, to no avail. So many of his friends and acquaintances knew of his interest that he received more than 50 phone calls when the report came in of the appearance of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker in Arkansas.

Although Winston was too young to have been a founder of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, he and his close friend Bill Vaughan were considered builders of the Society during the decades from 1930-1970. He served as President in 1947.

Winston served in the U.S. Army, 101st Infantry Division, in North Africa and Italy from 1943-1945. Since there were no field guides for these areas, Winston wrote detailed descriptions of the birds he saw and sent them to Sylvia who identified them from books in the Research Library of the Museum where she worked.

As a strong believer in Nature Preserves, Winston was a Charter Member of the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York and the Nature Conservancy. He was cofounder and a president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (now NYSOA). In 1968 he and Sylvia founded the Evergreen Naturalists' Audubon Society in Colorado. Winston served as President, wrote a monthly bird column, and kept a daily bird count at Evergreen Lake.

Winston was truly a man who never met a stranger, never forgot a friend, never failed to greet everyone along the trail with a cheerful word and was never, ever without a smile. His many friends are saddened by his death, but as they remember his, they will surely return his smile.

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John Joseph Fritz 1935-2008

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It was predawn, 3 January 2009, and four of us from the Tobay party were spending the first light portion of the Southern Nassau Christmas Bird Count parked in the southwest corner of lot 2 at Jones Beach West End, scanning the dunes for owls. It had become our tradition to start here, though within someone else's territory, and each year for more than a decade we'd invariably be greeted by John's gruff but good-natured voice from behind— "Hey! Are you guys poaching in our territory already?" But this year that voice did not come, and this saddened me deeply; as we drove out of the lot towards our party's rendezvous point, I was reminded again of the sense of loss I had initially felt back on September 11th of the previous year when told that John Fritz had passed away. And it was not just the personal loss of a good friend, but also the realization that our region would no longer have the benefit of John's spirit and tenacity, of his environmental conviction and awareness. A very important regional motivator had become still.

Most of us knew John as a birder, but for many years he was known for other things. Born in Flushing, Queens, on 17 August 1935, John grew up in that borough of New York City. As a young man, John served in the U. S. Army, and it was during a tour in Europe that he met Gerta Oppel, whom he married and with whom he raised two daughters, Coreen and Chris, in Deer Park, Long Island. John had a very distinguished career as a New York City fireman, earning a reputation for personal courage among peers who knew this quality better than most. Beginning in 1971, the Fritz family maintained a cabin on 130 acres in Otsego County, where John enjoyed many kinds of out-door activities.

During this period, a good deal of John's time revolved around sport fishing, and his involvement in environmental concerns and controversies began to flourish. He became well known and respected as a strong advocate for fishermen's rights and actively supported many important initiatives concerning the appropriate uses and conservation of public lands. As a dynamic long-time member of the New York State Fishing Advisory Board and an instrumental Trustee of Suffolk County Parks, John set a standard for all environmental enthusiasts to follow. He was also actively involved with many other organizations, too numerous to list, but which did include a stint as the Conservation Committee Chairman for NYSOA. In recent decades, John's input was constantly sought across a broad range of environmental issues, fellow participants appreciating his knack for proposing and marshalling support for well intentioned and practical resolutions to even the thorniest of problems.

It wasn't until the mid-1980s that John's emphasis began shifting from scales to feathers, and his interest in birding became as strong as his fishing enthusiasm had been. His quest for birds within the ABA area took him all over the country and to Alaska several times in pursuit of what had become, in recent years, a quickly diminishing list of possible new species. I remember an August 2006 midnight ride through heavy rain to see a Western Reef-Heron in southern Maine, only to have one show up in Brooklyn less than a year later—John's comment was something like "Just think of the gas we could have saved if we'd only known, but I guess we would have gone anyway, huh?"

Even after John's tempo and wanderlust had been slowed by ailments, he undertook trips to Arizona and Florida to at last catch up with old nemeses, Northern Jacana and Bananaquit, respectively. I can't recall how many times I'd kidded him that he could go a few hundred miles further south and see dozens of Jacanas and Bananaquits and throw in some Cotingas and Toucans and... but he would have none of it—the southern U.S. border was his limit. His ABA total was one of the highest, an impressive 773, and north of the border he was very well known and respected within birding circles.

That respect, however, was most notably apparent in his home turf here in New York. In the field it was always a pleasure joining forces with John and Gerta, especially if it included sharing a rarity somewhere (many of us enjoyed John's Hammond's Flycatcher at Jones Beach back in late November 2001 until a Merlin decided it would make a tasty breakfast), or perhaps it was just doing a sea watch on the deck at Cupsogue County Park, margaritas in hand (no wonder those watches were so productive), while waiting for Shai to find us another Arctic Tern out on the flats.

After his family, John's love was the outdoors. We have all benefited, whether we know it or not, from the energy and perseverance he expended over the years on numerous issues concerning public policy and the interplay between appreciative naturalists and those with less environmental awareness. It seemed appropriate that he passed away while out birding, and I know that while I am out in the field I will remain thankful that I had the opportunity to know John and to share in the benefits he helped provide to all of us birders.



NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Turkey Vulture Roost on Eastern Long Island

On 10 Jan 2009 I visited the Post Office in New Suffolk, Suffolk County, on the North Fork of Long Island. Kim Norkelun, the Postmaster, knowing my interest in birds, told me that up to 17 Turkey Vultures had been roosting in the Browers Woods section of Mattituck since before Christmas. He described the roost area, which he passed daily while walking his dogs, as consisting of mostly tall, deciduous trees covering about an acre in a wooded residential neighborhood.

Between 11 and 22 January, I made six evening checks of the roost. The average number of vultures I counted was 10 and the maximum was 16. Kim made a similar number of visits with similar results. We both found the roost abandoned on 22 January, but we have good evidence that the vultures remained in the general area. For instance, Kim observed at least 10 vultures investigating a road-killed Mallard behind his house, about a quarter of a mile from the original roost site, on 25 January, and by 31 January as many as 12 vultures were using a second roosting area near his house.

I am not aware of any previous reports of comparable Turkey Vulture roosts on Long Island. Despite this species' southern affinities, it remained notably scarce on Long Island long after becoming numerous in adjacent mainland areas. Only in the last several years has the species shown a dramatic increase in abundance here.

Paul Gillen, P. O. Box 710, Cutchogue, NY 11935

Mallards—What are they dabbling for?

Many of us have had the opportunity to view the Mallard in the Northeast. It is the most commonly noticed wild duck in North America as well as throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere (Pennsylvania Game Commission 2008). Mallards are among the “dabbling ducks” that tilt the head downward in the water while feeding with the tail up in the air for brief periods of time. Usually the plants or animals they consume are out of view from the land-bound observer, leaving one to wonder, *what do they eat?*

On 1 Mar 2008 I was given an assignment for my Avian Biology class at Orange County Community College. The assignment was to report on one bird species, randomly selected by drawing a card with the bird's name on it. To my disappointment, I ended up with the Mallard and wondered what I could possibly learn about a duck I had seen all my life.

After class was over, I drove to a small stream near Middletown, Orange County, New York. The water in this stream was still flowing despite ice and snow on its banks, and the Mallards had been there every day as I drove past it

on the way to work. It was a partly cloudy day and about 35 degrees, so I decided to park my car along the stream where I could quietly view these birds with my binoculars without getting out of the vehicle. This position placed me approximately 30 feet from the stream.

Swimming in the stream and walking on its snowy banks were two female and three male Mallards and a Canada Goose. One female who had been dabbling popped up with something brown in her bill, and she flaunted this in front of the other Mallards. For a moment it appeared to be some type of aquatic plant, but on closer inspection I discovered it was not. To my surprise it was a frog! For several minutes she played with the frog by tossing it in the water, picking it up again and teasing the other ducks with it. She then walked up on the snowy bank and used her feet and bill to pull and stretch the frog. By this process she aligned it in her mouth and tilted her head upward to swallow it but did not succeed. Through binoculars it seemed that the frog was too large for her. After these unsuccessful efforts, she took the frog down to the stream, swished it in the flowing water, and then repeated her attempts to swallow it. It certainly appeared that the duck was trying to moisten her catch to aid consumption. This second attempt failed as well and the duck went back in the water, where she resumed the teasing game with the other ducks. This same female finally lost the frog in her play, and it was then taken up by another female who also played with it and then lost it in the flowing stream, never attempting to eat it.

These exciting personal observations led me to consult some publications to increase my knowledge about the Mallard's versatile feeding habits. In addition to amphibians, the Mallard's menu may include small crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic plants, and grain, such as corn found in fields in the fall and winter months (Pennsylvania Game Commission 2008). A scientific study conducted by Su Sin Teo (2001), Department of Agriculture in Malaysia, compared wild Mallards and six domestic breeds for use in biological control of golden apple snail infestations of rice fields. In this study, Mallards consumed more snails than did the Peking and Cherry Valley domestic breeds.

Literature Cited

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Teo, Su Sin. 2001. Evaluation of different duck varieties for the control of the Golden Apple Snail in transplanted and direct seeded rice. *Crop Protection* 20: 599-604.

Joyce M. Depew, 52 Rockwood Circle, Apt. 4D, Middletown, NY 10941.



FIFTY YEARS AGO IN

The
KINGBIRD

Cackling Goose in the Cayuga Lake Basin: On Thursday, October 1, 1959, a wild Canada Goose dropped in on the pond at Sapsucker Woods and attempted to join our six captive Canadas, but was kept at a distance by the six. The following day a total of 21 wild geese were on the pond, and by late afternoon they were feeding with the captive waterfowl under the Laboratory windows. It was immediately evident that one goose was far smaller and darker than the others and had a relatively shorter neck. Its bill was particularly noticeable as it was stubby and gave the head quite a different profile from those of the other geese.

This small goose remained with us for two weeks, and it was seen by numerous observers at a distance of a few feet as it grazed under the windows. I have had considerable experience with the Cackling Goose both on its nesting ground in Alaska and its wintering ground in California, and I had no hesitancy in identifying this bird as a perfectly typical example of the small dark race of the Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis minima*, which nests in Alaska and normally winters in the Sacramento Valley. It was certainly far out of its migration path, and we would like to think that word of our Refuge at Sapsucker Woods is really getting around!

The wild geese left the pond each day to feed in neighboring fields. On October 17 the Cackler returned limping; the following day it was missing, and it did not appear again.

Fritz Scheider reports that on November 22 a similar Cackling Goose appeared at Howland's Island Game Management Area where several weeks earlier he had also seen an apparent Richardson's Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*). These are the first reports of the Cackling Goose in the Finger Lakes Region—Arthur A. Allen, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

This note originally appeared in Volume IX, No. 4, December 1959, on page 155.



THE 109TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IN NEW YORK STATE

The data below were collected and edited by a team of volunteers, including several individual compilers. Once again, much of the information presented here was collected, with permission, directly from The National Audubon Society's Birdsource site:

< <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>>

Although we have attempted to transcribe the data as accurately as possible, we are aware that errors occur, and we invite compilers and participants to send clarification or corrigenda where appropriate. Furthermore, many discrepancies exist within the database itself, especially between the numbers of participants mentioned in the effort totals vs. the names actually listed. As compilers ourselves, we suspect that many participants are choosing not to pay the \$5 fee to Audubon, resulting in their efforts being acknowledged only anonymously in the effort totals. We strongly encourage individual compilers to contribute data for the 109th CBC directly to *The Kingbird*. Doing so provides an opportunity to include data concerning effort and participants that are difficult or impossible to find on the website, and also allows compilers to present the most up to date documentation and details for unusual records. Compilers interested in doing so are urged to contact the Editor of *The Kingbird* or their Regional Editors for a template.

Researchers and other users of CBC data are advised that we made no effort to distinguish NYS observations from observations in other states or provinces for those counts spanning our state's borders.

Unusual species and unusually high counts of regularly occurring species are indicated with bold font, as are compilers' names. Standard CBC abbreviations include: aq—adequate details; CW—count week; gd—good details; LC—low count; md—marginal details; nc—new to count; nd—no details; ph—photo(s).

Corrigenda for the 108th CBC in NYS—In *Kingbird* Vol. 58 No. 2, p. 130, in the entry for Oneida (NYOD), the species after Mallard should read '**Redhead 1.**' On p. 132, in the entry for Oswego-Fulton (NYOS), the species after Canvasback should read '**Redhead CW.**'

Albany County [NYAC]

42.50° N 73.92° W; 14 Dec 08; 21°-36° F; AM partly cloudy; PM clear; 19 observers. Total party hours 61.

Snow Goose 1; Canada Goose 2196; Mute Swan 1; Am. Wigeon 1; Am. Black Duck 65; Mallard 263; Ring-necked Duck 33; Lesser Scaup 3; Bufflehead 12; Co. Goldeneye 11; Hooded Merganser 32; Co. Merganser 93; Ruddy Duck 6; Ruffed Grouse 3; Wild Turkey 36; **Double-crested Cormorant 1** nc; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 2; Bald Eagle 7; No. Harrier **19**; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 58; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 2; Ring-billed Gull 79; Herring Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 469; Mourning Dove 160; E. Screech-Owl 2;

Great Horned Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 19; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 6; Downy Woodpecker 50; Hairy Woodpecker 12; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 16; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Blue Jay 136; Am. Crow 1588; Co. Raven 1; Black-capped Chickadee 307; Tufted Titmouse 66; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 41; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 5; E. Bluebird 73; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 1065; No. Mockingbird 5; European Starling 4725; Cedar Waxwing 51; **Palm Warbler 1** nc; Am. Tree Sparrow 43; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 79; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 445; Snow Bunting **1027**; No. Cardinal 64; **E. Meadowlark 2**; Brown-headed Cowbird 20; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 71; Pine Siskin 8; Am. Goldfinch 212; House Sparrow 106.

Total: 67 species. **Sponsor:** Audubon Society of the Capital Region. **Participants:** Stan Blanchard, Jocelyn Cole, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, Denise Hackert-Stoner, John Kent, Jory Langner, **Alan Mapes (aamapes@nycap.rr.com)**, Tina Markopoulos, Paul Novack, John Ozard, Patti Packer, Danika Raup, Will Raup, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Jim Suozzo, Craig Thompson, Alison VanKeuren, Sue Wolfe.

Beaver Meadow [NYBM]

42.68° N 78.37° W; 20 Dec 08; 8°-15° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM partly cloudy, light snow; 21 observers. Total party hours 47.

Canada Goose 345; Mallard 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 17; Am. Kestrel 2; Rock Pigeon 418; Mourning Dove 196; E. Screech-Owl 3; Snowy Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 25; Downy Woodpecker 63; Hairy Woodpecker 16; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Blue Jay 292; Am. Crow 401; Horned Lark 22; Black-capped Chickadee 434; Tufted Titmouse 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 30; Carolina Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; Am. Robin 5; European Starling 836; Cedar Waxwing 40; Am. Tree Sparrow 151; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 14; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 245; Snow Bunting 507; No. Cardinal 33; Red-winged Blackbird 1; House Finch 42; White-winged Crossbill 10; Pine Siskin 43; Am. Goldfinch 113; House Sparrow 186.

Total: 39 species. **Participants:** Donna Barski, Lewis Crowell, Taddy Dann, Bev Fehringer, **Paul Fehringer (fehrringer@buffaloaudubon.org)**, Mike Galas, Marty & Linda Hoffman, Kyle Horton, Mark Jackling, Kelvin Jones, Brian Lewandowski, Bill Michalek, John Mitton, Tom & Sue O'Donnell, Rachel Pienth, Priscilla Pratt, Gerry Rising, Mike Zebezhazy.

Binghamton [NYBI]

42.18° N 75.97° W; 14 Dec 08; 20°-42° F; AM partly cloudy; PM partly cloudy; 32 observers. Total party hours 111.25.

Canada Goose 1944; Mute Swan 1; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 48; Mallard 522; **Redhead 2**; Ring-necked Duck 1; Bufflehead 2; Hooded Merganser **71**; Co. Merganser **264**; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 4; Wild Turkey 187; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 19; Bald Eagle 9; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 12; Cooper's Hawk 16; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 66; Rough-legged Hawk 5; **Golden Eagle 2** nd; Am. Kestrel 3; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-billed Gull 25; Herring Gull 22; Rock Pigeon 2236; Mourning Dove 592; E. Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker **13**; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker **3**; Downy Woodpecker **177**; Hairy Woodpecker **66**; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker **17**; Blue Jay 394; Am. Crow 1719; Fish Crow **3**; Co. Raven 3; Black-capped Chickadee 951; Tufted Titmouse 199; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 130; Brown Creeper 16; Carolina Wren 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet 18; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; E.

Bluebird 47; Am. Robin 4; No. Mockingbird 3; European Starling 3100; Cedar Waxwing 349; Am. Tree Sparrow 124; Song Sparrow 34; White-throated Sparrow 29; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 417; Snow Bunting 77; No. Cardinal 231; Co. Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 15; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 339; White-winged Crossbill 103; Co. Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin **432**; Am. Goldfinch **476**; House Sparrow 703.

Total: 72 species. **Participants:** Richard Andrus, Eleanor Carson, Fran Czochara, Helen Dorber, Dan Dunn, Deanna France, Robert Grajewski, Derek Green, Kathleen Hill, Dylane Horvath, Paul Kalka, Sara Kinch, **Gail Kirch (gkirch@stny.rr.com)**, Sharon Krotzer, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Andrea Martin, Courtney Moore, Donald O'Brien, Sandy Olshefski, Janet Ottman, Joseph Sedlacek, Julian Shepherd, Rosalyn Smith, Barry Stevens, Tom Tasber, Claire Theophanis, Jan Trzeciak, Linda Vick, Jon Weeks, Matt Yoskowitz.

Bolton Landing [NYBL]

43.55° N 73.65° W; 14 Dec 08; 19°-30° F; AM cloudy; PM clear; 10 (13) observers. Total party hours 42.5.

Canada Goose 13; Mallard 291; Long-tailed Duck 1; Bufflehead 36; Co. Goldeneye 9; Hooded Merganser 31; Co. Merganser 9; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 24; Co. Loon 4; Bald Eagle 3; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 2; Rock Pigeon 78; Mourning Dove 108; Barred Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 2 nc; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2 nc; Blue Jay 141; Am. Crow 63; Co. Raven **12**; Black-capped Chickadee 262; Tufted Titmouse **43**; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 31; Am. Robin 10; European Starling 115; Cedar Waxwing 71; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 270; Snow Bunting 3; No. Cardinal 16; Purple Finch 2; House Finch **108**; White-winged Crossbill 12; Pine Siskin **304**; Am. Goldfinch **490**; Evening Grosbeak 4; House Sparrow 28.

Total: 44 species. **Participants:** Henry Caldwell, Dawn Fallor, John Gaddy, Bill Gates, Lisa Hall, Jean Holcomb, Doug Houghton, Trinket Houghton, **Chris Krahling (ckrahling@iglc.org)**, Eric Krantz, Tom Miller, Joan Robertson, Kenyon Simpson.

Bronx-Westchester Region [NYBW]

40.88° N 73.75° W; 28 Dec 08; 43°-65° F; AM foggy; PM clear; 89 observers. Total party hours 217.

Snow Goose (white form) **71**; 'Atlantic' Brant 1256; Canada Goose 6195; Mute Swan 101; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 166; Am. Wigeon 145; Am. Black Duck 810; Mallard 1926; No. Shoveler 13; No. Pintail 5; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 25; Canvasback 11 LC; Ring-necked Duck 14; Greater Scaup 3708; Lesser Scaup 12; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter CW; Black Scoter 10; Long-tailed Duck 56; Bufflehead 804; Co. Goldeneye 64; **Barrow's Goldeneye** CW; Hooded Merganser 271; Co. Merganser 16; Red-breasted Merganser 248; Ruddy Duck 2086; Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 14; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Wild Turkey 37; Red-throated Loon 6; Co. Loon 2; Horned Grebe 12; Double-crested Cormorant 25; Great Cormorant 16; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 17; Great Egret 1; Snowy Egret 1; Turkey Vulture **31**; **Osprey** 1 nc; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 9; Cooper's Hawk 16; No. Goshawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 107; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 6; Merlin **4**; Peregrine Falcon **14**; Virginia Rail 1; Am. Coot 3; Killdeer 3; Greater Yellowlegs 2; Purple Sandpiper 21; Am. Woodcock 1; Bonaparte's Gull CW; Ring-billed Gull 4813; Herring Gull 701; Iceland Gull 1; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 97; Rock Pigeon 1737; Mourning Dove 674; Monk Parakeet 7; E. Screech-Owl 8; Great Horned Owl 12; Long-eared Owl 7; No. Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 13; Red-

bellied Woodpecker 128; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 15; Downy Woodpecker 205; Hairy Woodpecker 58; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 34; Blue Jay 534; Am. Crow 372; Fish Crow 31; Horned Lark CW ; Black-capped Chickadee 419; Tufted Titmouse 360; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 127; Brown Creeper 8; Carolina Wren 177; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 21; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 26; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7; Hermit Thrush 17; Am. Robin **1117**; Gray Catbird 7; No. Mockingbird 105; European Starling 2277; Am. Pipit CW; Cedar Waxwing 119; E. Towhee 10; Am. Tree Sparrow 83; Field Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 18; Song Sparrow 295; Swamp Sparrow 24; White-throated Sparrow 1459; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 713; Snow Bunting 1; No. Cardinal 352; **Dickcissel 1** gd; Red-winged Blackbird 102; Rusty Blackbird 13; Co. Grackle 29; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 326; Pine Siskin 138; Am. Goldfinch 735; House Sparrow 1552.

Total: 111 species. **Participants:** Leonard Abramson, Megan Aitchison, George Angehr, John Askildsen, Kirsten Askildsen, Trudy Battely, Janet Beal, Joan Becker, Richard Becker, Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Shane Blodgett, Doug Bloom, Kelli Bochnik, **Michael Bochnik (bochnik@cs.com)**, Joseph Borker, Jackie Bruskin, David Burg, Noah Burg, Thomas Burke, Angel Cardenas, Bernie Conway, George Dadone, Barbara Dexter, Dale Dyer, Cece Fabbro, Tom Fiore, Douglas Futuyama, Yolanda Garcia, Arie Gilbert, Adele Gotlib, Frank Guida, Tim Guida, Jim Halligan, David Havens, Lorri Hewie, Orlando Hidalgo, Edmund Higgins, Rob Jett, Jerry Kamlet, Rich Kelly, Brendan Keogh, David Krauss, David Kunstler, Carol Lange, Jean Loscalzo, Christopher Lyons, Chuck McAlexander, David McIntyre, Lawrence McIntyre, Mark McIntyre, Caroline McLaughlin, Jim McLaughlin, Margaret Merigliano, Michael Merigliano, Eric Miller, Diane Morrison, Tim Moses, Steve Nanz, Joe O'Connell, Paul Oehrlein, Drew Panko, Bruce Pataky, Neil Powell Jr., Kellie Quinones, Ian Resnick, Laura Rizzo, Jack Rothman, Jane Rothman, Joe Ruggeri, Mike Russo, Starr Saphir, Janet Schamacher, Saul Scheinbach, Donna Schulman, Lynn Shaw, Pete Shen, George Siatos, Roy Sinclair, Paul Steineck, Seiji Takagi, Andrew Towle, William Van Wart, Bill Wallace, Kristine Wallstrom, Steve Walter, William Weisner, Bob Wirsneck, John Young.

Brooklyn [NYBR]

40.6° N 73.93° W; 20 Dec 08; 22°-30° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy; 64 observers. Total party hours 105.

Snow Goose 176; 'Atlantic' Brant 8661; Canada Goose **6414**; Mute Swan **166**; Wood Duck 5; Gadwall 92; Eurasian Wigeon 1; Am. Wigeon 135; Am. Black Duck 718; Mallard 822; Blue-winged Teal 157; No. Shoveler 362; No. Pintail 8; Canvasback 8; Ring-necked Duck 3; Greater Scaup 3593; Lesser Scaup 45; Co. Eider 1; Surf Scoter 37; White-winged Scoter 8; Black Scoter **675**; scoter sp. 15; Long-tailed Duck 700; Bufflehead 796; Co. Goldeneye 7; Hooded Merganser 32; Co. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 700; Ruddy Duck 710; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Red-throated Loon 19; Co. Loon 40; Pied-billed Grebe 8; Horned Grebe 90; Red-necked Grebe 2; No. Gannet **5516**; Double-crested Cormorant 191; Great Cormorant 91; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 12; Great Egret 2; **Little Blue Heron 1**; Black-crowned Night-Heron 10; No. Harrier 25; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Cooper's Hawk **18**; Red-tailed Hawk 24; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 4; Merlin **12**; Peregrine Falcon **12**; Clapper Rail 1; Am. Coot 41; Black-bellied Plover 28; Killdeer 8; Greater Yellowlegs 2; Ruddy Turnstone 4; Sanderling 482; Purple Sandpiper 23; Dunlin 71; Am. Woodcock 3; Bonaparte's Gull 237; Ring-billed Gull 3985; Herring Gull 2958; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 339; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Rock Pigeon 777; Mourning Dove 95; Monk Parakeet 67; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker 26; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7**; Downy Woodpecker 47; Hairy Woodpecker 3; 'Yellow-shafted' No.

Flicker 30; **White-eyed Vireo 1** nd; Blue Jay 73; Am. Crow 118; Horned Lark 88; Black-capped Chickadee 39; Tufted Titmouse 24; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 22; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 34; Winter Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5; Hermit Thrush **30**; Am. Robin **267**; Gray Catbird 6; No. Mockingbird 68; European Starling 1781; Am. Pipit **99**; Cedar Waxwing 19; Orange-crowned Warbler 3; Yellow Warbler 1; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 348; Palm Warbler 2; **Blackpoll Warbler 1** nd, ph?; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; E. Towhee 5; Am. Tree Sparrow 133; Field Sparrow 12; Savannah Sparrow 158; sharp-tailed sparrow sp. 2; Seaside Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 436; Swamp Sparrow 57; White-throated Sparrow 507; White-crowned Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 251; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 179; No. Cardinal **196**; Red-winged Blackbird 208; E. Meadowlark 11; Rusty Blackbird 4; Co. Grackle 64; Brown-headed Cowbird 54; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 241; Pine Siskin 5; Am. Goldfinch **377**; House Sparrow 288.

Total: 125 species. **Participants:** Robert Bate, David Berreby, Sophie Lair Berreby, Shane Blodgett, Joe Borker, Jean Bourque, Ronald Bourque, Kevin Brooks, Valerie Bull, Rafael Campos, Rick Cech, Sharon Cech, John Criscitiello, Edward Crowne, Donald Davis, Glen Davis, Linda DeLotto, Peter Dorosh, Patricia Duffett, Natalee Ernstrom, Mary J. Eyster, Joe Giunta, Doug Gochfeld, Robert Gochfeld, Emily Goldstein, Stanley Greenberg, Dennis Guiney, Bill Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Peter Joost, **Paul Keim (warblernek@aol.com)**, Avi Lewis, Heydi Lopes, Bob Machover, Deborah Martin, Chuck McAlexander, Karlo Mirth, Steve Nanz, Patti O'Kane, Suzanne Ortiz, Emily Peyton, Tom Preston, Kellie Quinones, Marge Raymond, Don Recklies, Jeff Ritter, Hilary Salk, Eric Salzman, Gil Schrank, Janet Schumacher, Heidi Steiner, Sam Stuart, Nancy Tim, Louise Voccoli, Steve Walter, Barbara Wasserman, Elizabeth White, Scott Whittle, Gabriel Willow.

Buffalo [NYBU]

43° N 78.97° W; 21 Dec 08; 12° -26° F; AM cloudy, heavy snow; PM cloudy, heavy snow; 30 observers. Total party hours 62.5.

Canada Goose 2424; Tundra Swan **475**; Gadwall 82; Am. Wigeon 2; Am. Black Duck 30; Mallard 1234; No. Pintail 1; Canvasback 1715; Redhead 12; Ring-necked Duck 13; Greater Scaup 1298; scaup sp. 1134; Bufflehead 113; Co. Goldeneye 503; Hooded Merganser 47; Co. Merganser 496; Red-breasted Merganser 56; Wild Turkey 18; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 3; Bald Eagle 2; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 14; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Peregrine Falcon 1; Am. Coot 8; Purple Sandpiper 2; **Franklin's Gull 1**; Bonaparte's Gull 445; Ring-billed Gull 4787; Herring Gull 10272; Iceland Gull 5; Lesser Black-backed Gull 11; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 155; Rock Pigeon 197; Mourning Dove 151; E. Screech-Owl 4; Great Horned Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 16; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 9; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 2; Blue Jay 201; Am. Crow 690; Horned Lark 16; Black-capped Chickadee 196; Tufted Titmouse 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; E. Bluebird 6; Am. Robin 59; No. Mockingbird 4; European Starling 1507; Am. Tree Sparrow 203; Field Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 25; White-crowned Sparrow 4; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 148; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 16; No. Cardinal 76; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; House Finch 67; Am. Goldfinch 125; House Sparrow 863.

Total: 71 species. **Sponsor:** Buffalo Ornithological Society. **Participants:** William Bogacki, Drew Campbell, Thomas Connare, Willie D'Anna, Emma Deleon, Robert Deleon, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Michael F Galas, Sylvia Galas, David Gordon,

Michael Hamilton, Douglas Happ, Audrey Horbett, Lynne Landon, Pat Martin, Thomas M O'Donnell, Carol O'Shea, James Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Edward F Ratajczak, Frances M Rew, Gerald R Rising, Donald C Roberson, Vicki Rothman, Timothy Simon, John Stevens, William Watson, Terry Yonker, Michael A Zebechazy.

Captree [NYCA]

40.7° N 73.25° W, center mouth of Brightwaters Canal; 14 Dec 08, 5:00 am-5:00 pm; 25°-45° F; wind SSW 3-25 mph; snow cover 0"; all water open; AM partly cloudy; PM partly clear; 43 observers in 20 parties. Total party hours 146.25; total party miles 250.5; 127.5 hours and 90 miles on foot; 18.75 hours and 160.5 miles by car.

Snow Goose 9; 'Atlantic' Brant 1492; **Barnacle Goose 1** ph, nc; **Cackling Goose 4** ph, nc; Canada Goose **7641**; Mute Swan 74; Gadwall 394; Am. Wigeon 166; Am. Black Duck 2010; Mallard 1226; No. Shoveler 26; No. Pintail 8; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal **199**; Canvasback 9; Redhead **63**; Ring-necked Duck 206; Greater Scaup 25; Co. Eider 1; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 2131; White-winged Scoter 7; Black Scoter **27100**; scoter sp. 2350; Long-tailed Duck **4528**; Bufflehead 903; Co. Goldeneye 107; Hooded Merganser 606; Co. Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 495; Ruddy Duck 387; Red-throated Loon 95; Co. Loon 57; Pied-billed Grebe 14; Horned Grebe 9; No. Gannet 70; Double-crested Cormorant 60; Great Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 64; Black-crowned Night-Heron 2; **Bald Eagle 1**; No. Harrier 16; Sharp-shinned Hawk 17; Cooper's Hawk **6**; Red-tailed Hawk 20; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 4; Peregrine Falcon 4; Virginia Rail 1; Am. Coot 32; Black-bellied Plover 9; Killdeer 4; Greater Yellowlegs 2; **Lesser Yellowlegs 1**; Sanderling 69; Dunlin **2801**; Wilson's Snipe 1; Bonaparte's Gull 21; Ring-billed Gull 2199; Herring Gull 1409; Great Black-backed Gull 269; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; Razorbill 2; Rock Pigeon 386; Mourning Dove 463; **Monk Parakeet 3**; E. Screech-Owl 13; Great Horned Owl 4; Snowy Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; No. Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 27; Red-bellied Woodpecker 16; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 66; Hairy Woodpecker 9; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 98; Blue Jay 78; Am. Crow 184; Fish Crow **306**; Horned Lark 41; Black-capped Chickadee 222; Tufted Titmouse 60; Red-breasted Nuthatch 34; White-breasted Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren **120**; Winter Wren 10; Marsh Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 37; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4; E. Bluebird **12**; Hermit Thrush 9; Am. Robin **797**; Gray Catbird 13; No. Mockingbird 113; Brown Thrasher 3; European Starling 4302; Am. Pipit 14; Cedar Waxwing 8; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 391; Palm Warbler 2; E. Towhee 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 27 LC; Chipping Sparrow **4**; Field Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 69; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 2; **Grasshopper Sparrow 1** nc; sharp-tailed sparrow sp. 1; Fox Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 387; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1**; Swamp Sparrow 34; White-throated Sparrow **967**; White-crowned Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco **416**; Snow Bunting 237; No. Cardinal **166**; Red-winged Blackbird 120; E. Meadowlark 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Co. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 212; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 162; Pine Siskin 10; Am. Goldfinch **361**; House Sparrow 460.

Total: 127 species. **Sponsor:** Great South Bay Audubon Society. **Participants:** Seth Ausubel, Brent Bomkamp, Marc Brody, Sharon Brody, Walter Chaskel, Michael Cooper, Ken Feustel, Sue Feustel, Jack Finkenber, Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyama, John Gluth, Bob Gochfeld, Doug Gochfeld, Bob Grover, Joel Horman, Margaret Horman, Rich Kelly, Dave Klauber, Bob Kurtz, Nicholas Laviola, Allan Lindberg, **Patricia Lindsay** (pjlindsay@optonline.net), Michael McBrien, Mike McBrien, **Shai Mitra** (mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu), Enrico Nardone, Bryce Nevola, Peter Palumbo, Bob Paxton, Bob Puglielli, Linda Puglielli, Jim Romansky, Ed Smith, Jonathon Stocker, Lee

Stocker, Ken Thompson, Mary Beth Tomko, Paul Tomko, Steve Walter, Scott Whittle, Edith Wilson, Robert Wilson.

Catskill-Coxsackie [NYCT]

42.28° N 73.88° W. 16 Dec 08; 19°-44° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy; 10 (24) observers. Total party hours 96.

Snow Goose 1164; Canada Goose 3545; Mute Swan 12; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 203; Mallard 274; No. Pintail 2; Ring-necked Duck 2; **Lesser Scaup 1**; Bufflehead 2; Co. Goldeneye 2; Co. Merganser 112; Ruddy Duck 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 156; **Double-crested Cormorant 3**; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 5; Bald Eagle 16; No. Harrier 46; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 11; Red-tailed Hawk 98; Rough-legged Hawk 5; **Golden Eagle 1** nd; Ring-billed Gull 338; Herring Gull 1548; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 41; Rock Pigeon 557; Mourning Dove 383; E. Screech-Owl 8; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 4; Short-eared Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 46; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7; Downy Woodpecker 127; Hairy Woodpecker 15; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 45; Pileated Woodpecker 17; Blue Jay 183; Am. Crow 878; Co. Raven 2; Horned Lark 132; Black-capped Chickadee 500; Tufted Titmouse 216; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 127; Brown Creeper 18; Carolina Wren 26; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 46; E. Bluebird 76; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 1646; No. Mockingbird 22; European Starling **104485**; Cedar Waxwing 315; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 117; Field Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 29; Swamp Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 325; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 620; Snow Bunting 121; No. Cardinal 159; Red-winged Blackbird **858**; Co. Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; **Baltimore Oriole 1** ph; Purple Finch 45; House Finch 183; Pine Siskin 29; Am. Goldfinch **450**; House Sparrow 375.

Total: 79 species. **Participants:** Larry Alden, Stan Blanchard, John & Alta Cannon/Turner, Joan Cipriani, Scott & Janie Crocoll, David Diaz, Lin Fagan, **Larry Fedderman**, Peter Feinberg, **Richard Guthrie (gaeltic@capital.net)**, Jeremy Kirchman, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Shane May, Danika Raup, Will Raup, Don Schelling, Lilly Schelling, Peter Schoenberger, George Steele, LeRoy & Judy Suess.

Central Suffolk County [NYCS]

40.83° N 72.78° W; 27 Dec 08; 38°-55° F; AM partly cloudy; PM local fog, light rain; 41 observers. Total party hours 98.25.

Snow Goose 10; 'Atlantic' Brant 218; Canada Goose 3112; Mute Swan 149; Wood Duck; Gadwall 8; Am. Wigeon 30; Am. Black Duck 1402; Mallard 776; No. Shoveler 1; No. Pintail 5; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 51; duck sp. 2; Canvasback 40; Redhead 12; Ring-necked Duck 209; Greater Scaup 413; Lesser Scaup 343; scaup sp. 6; Surf Scoter 324; White-winged Scoter 97; Black Scoter 1814; Long-tailed Duck 578; Bufflehead 358; Co. Goldeneye 120; Hooded Merganser 212; Co. Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 586; Ruddy Duck 622; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Wild Turkey 100; No. Bobwhite 18; Red-throated Loon 66; Co. Loon 48; Pied-billed Grebe 4; Horned Grebe 12; No. Gannet 9; Double-crested Cormorant 10; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 41; Black-crowned Night-Heron 2; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 18; Sharp-shinned Hawk 9; Cooper's Hawk 5; No. Goshawk 1; accipiter sp. 2; Red-tailed Hawk 23; Rough-legged Hawk 7; Am. Kestrel 5; Merlin 5; Virginia Rail 2; Am. Coot 55; Black-bellied Plover 24; Killdeer 1; Greater Yellowlegs 3; Sanderling 97; Dunlin 115; Wilson's Snipe 2; Bonaparte's Gull 320; Ring-billed Gull 763; Herring Gull 1337; Great Black-backed Gull 158; Razorbill 2; Rock Pigeon 223; Mourning Dove 941; E. Screech-Owl 7; Great Horned Owl 4; Snowy Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 32; Red-

bellied Woodpecker 48; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 68; Hairy Woodpecker 19; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 41; E. Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 164; Am. Crow 183; Fish Crow 5; Horned Lark 7; Tree Swallow 22; Black-capped Chickadee 281; Tufted Titmouse 134; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 29; Brown Creeper 12; Carolina Wren 134; Winter Wren 2; Marsh Wren 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 97; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; E. Bluebird 50; Hermit Thrush 7; Am. Robin 188; Gray Catbird 12; No. Mockingbird 57; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 4242; Am. Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 73; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 167; E. Towhee 12; Am. Tree Sparrow 8; Chipping Sparrow 1; Field Sparrow 86; Savannah Sparrow 14; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 2; sharp-tailed sparrow sp. 2; Fox Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 241; Swamp Sparrow 18; White-throated Sparrow 445; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 595; Snow Bunting 42; No. Cardinal 157; Red-winged Blackbird 64; E. Meadowlark 42; Co. Grackle 32; **Boat-tailed Grackle 47**; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 118; Pine Siskin 30; Am. Goldfinch 158; House Sparrow 337.

Total: 123 species. **Participants:** Andrew Baldelli, Michele Baron, Paul Baron, Richard Belanger, Steve Biasetti, Jim Clinton, Jr., Anne Codey, Mike Cooper, Karen Copeland, Allyson Dyer, Marilyn England, Jack Finkenber, Bob Gerds, Steve Gould, Mike Higgiston, Joel Horman, Phillip Jermain, Craig Johann, Samantha Johann, Richard Kaskan, Jay Kuhlman, Mary Laura Lamont, John McNeal, Rick Mohlmann, Tamara Moore, Tom Moran, Daniel Morris, Sally Newbert, Kevin Nolan, Alice Osterlund, James Osterlund, Eric Salzman, Richard Sautkulis, **Eileen Schwinn** (beachmed@optonline.net), Lee Stanley, Carl Starace, Sally Swain, Daniel V. Wilson, MaryBeth Wilson, Byron Young.

Chatham [NYCM]

42.37° N 73.65° W. 20 Dec 08; 8°-17° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 26 observers. Total party hours 51.5.

Canada Goose 4476; Mute Swan CW; Am. Black Duck 10; Mallard 100; Co. Merganser 67; Wild Turkey 35; Bald Eagle 4; No. Harrier 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 39; Rough-legged Hawk 6; **Killdeer 1**; Ring-billed Gull 7 LC; Herring Gull 11 LC; Great Black-backed Gull 1 LC; Rock Pigeon 293; Mourning Dove 336; E. Screech-Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 39; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 65; Hairy Woodpecker 22; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay 165; Am. Crow 634; Co. Raven CW; Horned Lark 15; Black-capped Chickadee 226; Tufted Titmouse 97; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 38; Brown Creeper 5; Carolina Wren 7; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; E. Bluebird 33; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 548; Gray Catbird 2; No. Mockingbird 5; European Starling 1271; Cedar Waxwing 50; Am. Tree Sparrow 95; Savannah Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 159; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 527; Snow Bunting 31; No. Cardinal 104; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Co. Grackle 26; Brown-headed Cowbird 12; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 93; Pine Siskin 36; Am. Goldfinch 237; House Sparrow 209.

Total: 58 species. **Participants:** Roberta Bernstein, Clare Brachen, Ron Bussian, **William Cook** (cook@sunycgcc.edu), Elisabeth Grace, Drew Hopkins, Nancy Kern, Mitzi Lobdell, Richard Nord, Jeff Novick, Bill Ritz, George Rodenhause; Kathryn Schneider, William Schneider, Ellen Scott, Debbie Shaw, Carl Specht, Helen Specht, Stephanie Specht, Joan Steiner, Marion Ulmer, Willard Ulmer, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Amy White, Cris Winters, Will Yandik.

Clinton [NYCL]

43.08° N 75.33° W. 20 Dec 08; 14°-20° F; AM partly clear, light snow; PM partly cloudy; 31 observers. Total party hours 67.5.

Canada Goose 457; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 3; Mallard 274; Hooded Merganser 2; Co. Merganser 2; Ring-necked Pheasant CW; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 191; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 2; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 7; accipiter sp. 2; Red-tailed Hawk 63; Rough-legged Hawk 3; *Buteo* sp. 9; Am. Kestrel 2; Peregrine Falcon 1; Rock Pigeon 1046; Mourning Dove 663; Short-eared Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 28; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 93; Hairy Woodpecker 32; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 8; No. Shrike CW; Blue Jay 275; Am. Crow 3905; **Co. Raven 2**; Black-capped Chickadee 535; Tufted Titmouse 50; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 50; Brown Creeper 5; Carolina Wren 1; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; E. Bluebird 10; Am. Robin 249; European Starling 2734; Cedar Waxwing 135; Am. Tree Sparrow 122; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 58; White-crowned Sparrow 1; sparrow sp. 5; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 243; Snow Bunting 143; No. Cardinal 126; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 308; Purple Finch 7; House Finch 209; **White-winged Crossbill 88**; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 153; finch sp. 1; House Sparrow 299.

Total: 56 species. **Participants:** Carol Adams, Betty Armbruster, Dick Bedient, Virginia Billings, Karen Evert, Marcia Garber, Steve Hall, Carol Higgins, Charles Higgins, Judy McIntyre, Pat McIntyre, Cecily Myers, Diane Parrish, Gary Parrish, Frank Perretta, Gail Perretta, **Matt Perry (mperry63@adelphia.com)**, Debby Quayle, Nathan Riley, Ian Rosenstein, Cheri Sassman, Robert Smith, Sheila Smith, Ken Szczesniak, Linda Thomas, Faith Thompson, Mary Zarnoch-Riley.

Conesus-Hemlock-Honeoye Lakes [NYCH]

42.78° N 77.62° W. 27 Dec 08; 40°-60° F; AM cloudy, heavy rain; PM cloudy; 33 observers. Total party hours 92.

Canada Goose 2653; Mute Swan 1; Tundra Swan 91; Gadwall 1; Am. Black Duck 127; Mallard 428; No. Pintail 36; duck sp. 50; Canvasback 3; Redhead 6061; Ring-necked Duck 310; Greater Scaup 2; Lesser Scaup 150; Bufflehead 73; Co. Goldeneye 370; Hooded Merganser 37; Co. Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Ruddy Duck 11; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 54; Co. Loon 1; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Horned Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 3; **Turkey Vulture 1**; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 39; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 3; Am. Coot 62; Ring-billed Gull 407; Herring Gull 218; Great Black-backed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 131; Mourning Dove 236; E. Screech-Owl 12; Short-eared Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 46; Downy Woodpecker 62; Hairy Woodpecker 21; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 38; Pileated Woodpecker 5; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 275; Am. Crow 622; Horned Lark 5; Black-capped Chickadee 660; Tufted Titmouse 50; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 64; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 2; E. Bluebird 47; Am. Robin 41; No. Mockingbird 17; European Starling 22229; Cedar Waxwing 22; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Am. Tree Sparrow 108; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 10; White-crowned Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 179; No. Cardinal 168; Co. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 106; White-winged Crossbill 55; Pine Siskin 37; Am. Goldfinch 233; House Sparrow 261.

Totals: 75 species and 36,991 individuals. **Participants:** Matthew Baker, Randy Baker, Carolyn Barnhart, Jerry Barnhart, Douglas Bassett, John Boettcher, Peter Debes, Jon Dombrowski, Jay Greenberg, Lucretia Grosshans, Kim Hartquist, Jack Hartwig,

Diane Henderson, Monica Herrman-Kokis, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Pat Martin, Bob Mauceli, Sandy Mauceli, Chita McKinney, **Robert McKinney** (rgmckinney2@gmail.com), Phillip Opdycke, Norma Platt, Al Price, Carolyn Ragan, Tom Smith, Robert Spahn, Allan Strong, David Strong, Jerry Sullivan, Mike Tetlow, Bill Welcher, Kinsley Whittum.

Cortland [NYCR]

42.67° N 76.27° W; 14 Dec 08; 19°-43° F; AM cloudy PM cloudy; 26 observers. Total party hours 83.

Greater White-fronted Goose CW; **Snow Goose 550**; **Cackling Goose** CW; Canada Goose 1858; **Gadwall 1**; Am. Black Duck 25; Mallard 487; Redhead 16; Lesser Scaup 4; Bufflehead 5; Co. Goldeneye 57; Hooded Merganser 18; Co. Merganser 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 12; Wild Turkey 105; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; **Bald Eagle 1**; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 9; Red-tailed Hawk **69**; Rough-legged Hawk **10**; **Golden Eagle** CW; Am. Kestrel 2; **Merlin 1**; Ring-billed Gull 231; Herring Gull 110; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Rock Pigeon 1129; Mourning Dove 258; E. Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; **Long-eared Owl 2**; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 21; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** CW; Downy Woodpecker 99; Hairy Woodpecker 35; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; No. Shrike 4; Blue Jay 241; Am. Crow 3715; Co. Raven 7; Horned Lark 34; Black-capped Chickadee 951; Tufted Titmouse **85**; Red-breasted Nuthatch 73; White-breasted Nuthatch 82; Brown Creeper 6; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; E. Bluebird 7; Am. Robin 9; No. Mockingbird CW; European Starling 3083; Cedar Waxwing 87; Am. Tree Sparrow 173; Song Sparrow 3; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 8; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco **443**; Snow Bunting 350; No. Cardinal 99; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 13; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 107; **Red Crossbill** CW; **White-winged Crossbill 333**; Pine Siskin **52**; Am. Goldfinch 358; House Sparrow 280.

Total: 70 species. Participants: James Barry, Gail Benedict, Steve Broyles, Beatrice Busch, Linda Christie, Mike Douglass, Norm Goldstein, Joe Governali, Nancy Governali, Lewis Grove, Steve Kelling, Dave Loparco, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bobbi Monroe, Bard Prentiss, Judy Reed, Ken Rosenberg, Tom Schulenberg, Ernie Spainhower, Michael Stevens, Arnold Talentino, Kris Terrillion, Bill Toner, **Matthew Young** (grosbeak@clarityconnect.com).

Dunkirk-Fredonia [NYFR]

42.43° N 79.28° W; 20 Dec 08; 17°-20° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy; 13 (15) observers. Total party hours 29.

Canada Goose 865; Am. Black Duck 16; Mallard 177; Canvasback 1; Lesser Scaup 4; scaup sp. 6; Bufflehead 51; Co. Goldeneye 26; Hooded Merganser 22; Co. Merganser 112; Red-breasted Merganser 6; Ruddy Duck 3; Wild Turkey 60; Pied-billed Grebe 5; Horned Grebe 5; Double-crested Cormorant 5; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 3; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 13; Am. Kestrel 2; Am. Coot 4; Bonaparte's Gull 17; Ring-billed Gull 269; Herring Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 31; Rock Pigeon 67; Mourning Dove 70; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 13; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 24; Hairy Woodpecker 10; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 87; Am. Crow 398; Horned Lark 25; Black-capped Chickadee 89; Tufted Titmouse **23**; White-breasted Nuthatch 21; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; E. Bluebird 10; Am. Robin 2; European Starling 502; Cedar Waxwing 8; Am. Tree Sparrow 87; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 4; White-crowned Sparrow

6; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 169; Snow Bunting 250; No. Cardinal 38; Co. Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 46; Pine Siskin 15; Am. Goldfinch 65; House Sparrow 97.

Total: 62 species. **Participants:** Allen Benton, **Paul Farver** (Paul.Farver@audubonmember.com), **Joanne Goetz** (goetz@netsync.net), Joe Gula, Phil Hanlon, Carol Hardenburg, Richard Miga, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Robert Peterson, Beverly Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Mary Shearman; Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft.

Dutchess County [NYDC]

41.68° N 73.8° W; 20 Dec 08; 12°-20° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy, light snow; 29 observers. Total party hours 73.75.

Snow Goose 6; Canada Goose **8802**; Mute Swan 22; Wood Duck 4; Am. Black Duck 5; Mallard 237; Ring-necked Duck 21; Hooded Merganser **32**; Co. Merganser **134**; Ruddy Duck 97; Wild Turkey 47; Co. Loon 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 7; Bald Eagle 2; No. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 10; Red-shouldered Hawk **4**; Red-tailed Hawk 54; Rough-legged Hawk 2; **Merlin** CW; Peregrine Falcon 1; Am. Coot 2; Ring-billed Gull 163; Herring Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 2; Rock Pigeon 409; Mourning Dove 262; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 67; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 18; Downy Woodpecker 98; Hairy Woodpecker 17; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 21; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay 226; Am. Crow **13500**; Fish Crow **350**; Co. Raven 2; Horned Lark 77; Black-capped Chickadee 238; Tufted Titmouse 170; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 57; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 31; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; E. Bluebird 65; Hermit Thrush 5; Am. Robin 69; No. Mockingbird 34; European Starling 1993; Am. Pipit 7; Cedar Waxwing 123; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Am. Tree Sparrow 66; **Chipping Sparrow** 1 md; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 40; White-throated Sparrow 306; White-crowned Sparrow 3; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 787; Snow Bunting 156; No. Cardinal **234**; Red-winged Blackbird 49; Co. Grackle 52; Brown-headed Cowbird 90; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 135; **Red Crossbill** 1; **White-winged Crossbill** CW; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 113; House Sparrow 145.

Total: 77 species. **Sponsor:** Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. **Participants:** Barbara Butler, Tammie Carey, Betsy Carswell, **William R. Case** (becase@juno.com), Binnie Chase, Jim Clinton, Bonnie Fair, Bud Fair, Peggy Fasciani, Dorothy M. Fleury, Steve Golladay, Ken Harris, Barry Haydasz, Rodney Johnson, Maha Katmani, Kateri Kosek, Carmelita Liao, Barbara Mansell, Liz Martens, Allan Michelin, Barbara Michelin, Krista Morris, Maryanne Pitts, Carena Pooth, Herbert A. Thompson, Chester Vincent, Frederick Waterman, Robert Williams, Joe Woleader.

Eastern Orange County [NYEO]

41.48° N 74.15° W; 20 Dec 08; 17°-20° F; AM cloudy, light rain; PM cloudy, light rain; 30 observers. Total party hours 84.

Snow Goose **51**; Canada Goose **15990**; Mute Swan 22; Gadwall 4; Am. Wigeon 1; Am. Black Duck 103; Mallard 1021; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 1; Ring-necked Duck 38; Hooded Merganser 18; Co. Merganser 90; Wild Turkey; 41; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant **17**; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 3; Black Vulture **15**; Turkey Vulture 7; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 LC; Cooper's Hawk 7; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 69 LC; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; **Merlin** 1; Ring-billed Gull 356 LC; Herring Gull 56; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 69; Rock Pigeon 188 LC; Mourning Dove 248 LC; E. Screech-Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 77; Yellow-bellied

Sapsucker 5; Downy Woodpecker 106; Hairy Woodpecker 10; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 23; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 489; Am. Crow 7847; Fish Crow 49; Horned Lark 41; Black-capped Chickadee 239 LC; Tufted Titmouse 330; White-breasted Nuthatch 75 LC; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 29; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; E. Bluebird 59; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 171; No. Mockingbird 28 LC; European Starling 2055; Cedar Waxwing 26 LC; Am. Tree Sparrow 67; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 54; White-throated Sparrow 705; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 1141; Snow Bunting 240; No. Cardinal 304; Red-winged Blackbird 51; Rusty Blackbird 7; Co. Grackle 507; Brown-headed Cowbird 9; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 166 LC; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 147; House Sparrow 305 LC.

Total: 74 species. **Participants:** Barry Babcock, Dave Baker, Lynn Barber, Arlene Borko, Karen Brady, Kevin Brady, Jodi Brodsky, Tom Crepet, Joe Cullen, Bill Fiero, Jayne Fiero, Fitz Fitzpatrick, Jan Fitzpatrick, Chris Fryer, Desly Fryer, Jeff Goulding, Scott Graber, John Haas, Richard Hansen, Dave Hultgren, Ken Kijewski, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Dennis Murphy, Mike Pogue, **Robert Slechta (results992@yahoo.com)**, Herb Stein, Linda Strohl, Jane Vecchione, John Yrizaray.

Elizabethtown [NYEZ]

44.21° N 73.6° W, Center at Essex Co. Courthouse. 27 Dec 08; 28°-40°F. AM: cloudy, rain: none to heavy. PM: cloudy, rain: none to heavy; 20 observers. Total party hours 63.5.

Canada Goose 1; Mallard 63; **Ring-necked Pheasant 1;** Ruffed Grouse 4 LC; Wild Turkey 25; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1 LC; Rough-legged Hawk 1 LC; **Merlin 1;** Rock Pigeon 133; Mourning Dove 147; Barred Owl 2; **No. Saw-whet Owl 1;** **Belted Kingfisher 1;** Downy Woodpecker 27; Hairy Woodpecker 30; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 10; No. Shrike 3; Blue Jay 251; Am. Crow 258; Co. Raven 29; Black-capped Chickadee 503 LC; Boreal Chickadee 2; Tufted Titmouse 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 97; White-breasted Nuthatch 20 LC; Brown Creeper 7; Carolina Wren CW; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; E. Bluebird 14; Am. Robin 187; European Starling 346; Cedar Waxwing 97; Am. Tree Sparrow 63; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 217; Snow Bunting 6; No. Cardinal 11; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 24; Purple Finch 5 LC; Red Crossbill 14; White-winged Crossbill 106; Co. Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 470; Am. Goldfinch 232; Evening Grosbeak 7 LC; House Sparrow 109.

Total: 47 species; 2,692 individuals. **Participants:** Becky Bosley, Robin Brown, Joan Collins, Una Creedon-Carey, **Charlotte Demers**, Diane Demers, Beth Edmonds, **Matthew Medler (mdm2@cornell.edu)**, Dan Nickerson, Stan Oliva, Nancy Slack, Carole Slatkin, Laura Smith, Sally Smith, Hank Stebbins, Eric Teed, John Thaxton, Pat Thaxton, Eve Ticknor, Yvette Tillema.

Elmira [NYEL]

42.13° N 76.83° W; 1 Jan 09; 1°-19° F; AM clear; PM clear; 14 (16) observers. Total party hours 67.25.

Canada Goose 603; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 10; Mallard 188; 'Am.' Green-winged **Teal 1;** Co. Goldeneye 1; Co. Merganser 27; Ruffed Grouse 3; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 2; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 50; Rough-legged Hawk 7; Ring-billed Gull 324; Herring Gull 31; **Iceland Gull 1;** Great Black-backed Gull 7; Rock Pigeon 372; Mourning Dove 236; E. Screech-Owl 4; Great Horned Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 19; Downy Woodpecker 70; Hairy Woodpecker 10; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 6; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 127; Am. Crow 870; Co. Raven 7; Horned Lark 18; Black-capped Chickadee 401; Tufted Titmouse 91; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-

breasted Nuthatch 51; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 9; E. Bluebird 25; Am. Robin 2; No. Mockingbird 5; European Starling 1458; Cedar Waxwing 48; E. Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 141; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 16; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 306; No. Cardinal 85; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 83; White-winged Crossbill 21; Pine Siskin 390; Am. Goldfinch 170; House Sparrow 385.

Total: 57 species. **Sponsor:** Chemung Valley Audubon Society. **Participants:** Marty Borko, Dick Clements, Joan Clements, Irving Cook, Wendy Copenhaver, Mike Deming, Jim Emmick, Sharon Emmick, Jeff Holbrook, **Bill Ostrander (browncreeper@stny.rr.com)**, Joan Ostrander, John Palmer, Marilyn Palmer, Steve Seaberg, Donald Sommers, Dale Stevens.

Ferrisburg [VTFE]

44.18° N 73.3° W; 20 Dec 08; 6°-18° F; AM cloudy, heavy snow; PM partly clear, light snow; 36 observers. Total party hours 111.25.

Snow Goose 2; Canada Goose 302; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 116; Mallard 296; Redhead CW; Ring-necked Duck 8; Long-tailed Duck 4; Bufflehead 39; Co. Goldeneye 463; Hooded Merganser 48; Co. Merganser 156; Red-breasted Merganser 12; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Wild Turkey 70; Co. Loon 17; Horned Grebe 9; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; **Turkey Vulture 1**; Bald Eagle 8; No. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 9; No. Goshawk 1; **Red-shouldered Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 66; Rough-legged Hawk 13; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Am. Coot 1; Ring-billed Gull 230; Herring Gull 20; **Iceland Gull 2**; Great Black-backed Gull 20; Rock Pigeon 464; Mourning Dove 557; E. Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 18; Downy Woodpecker 93; Hairy Woodpecker 47; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 12; Pileated Woodpecker 18; No. Shrike 2; Blue Jay 444; Am. Crow 377; Co. Raven 17; Horned Lark 475; Black-capped Chickadee 851; Tufted Titmouse 81; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 98; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; E. Bluebird 19; Am. Robin 493; No. Mockingbird 1; **Brown Thrasher CW**; European Starling 4258; Bohemian Waxwing 28; Cedar Waxwing 1877; Am. Tree Sparrow 544; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 12; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 557; Lapland Longspur 11; Snow Bunting 855; No. Cardinal 208; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 214; White-winged Crossbill 33; Pine Siskin 172; Am. Goldfinch 469; House Sparrow 580.

Total: 80 species. **Participants:** Jim Andrews, Kris Andrews, Steve Antell, Greg Askew, Ric Beck, Barbara Brosnan, David Brown, Debbie Bushy, John Chamberlain, Brendan Collins, Heather Cosgrove, Michael Cosgrove, Penny Goodnick, James Mead, Ted Murin, Barb Oimette, Stan Oliva, Jim Osborn, John Peterson, Judy Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Dick Reid, Peg Rood, Alan Strong, Harriet Szanto, John Thaxton, Pat Thaxton, Yvette Tillem, Henry Trombley, Bob Wei, **Mike Winslow (mikekira@verizon.net)**, Jay Wisner, Jeanne Wisner, Sarah Wisner.

Fort Plain [NYFP]

42.93° N 74.6° W; 2 Jan 09; 0°-30° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM partly clear; 23 observers; Total party hours 60.

Canada Goose 474; Am. Black Duck 35; Mallard 1254; duck sp. 3; **Canvasback 1**; Co. Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 6; Co. Merganser 19; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 141; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 13; accipiter sp. 1; Red-tailed Hawk 118; Rough-legged Hawk 15; Am. Kestrel 5; **Merlin 1**; **Peregrine Falcon 1** nc; Rock Pigeon 1043; Mourning Dove 870; E. Screech-Owl 6;

Great Horned Owl 4; No. Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 22; Downy Woodpecker 81; Hairy Woodpecker 22; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 19; Pileated Woodpecker 2; **E. Phoebe 1**; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 295; Am. Crow 1107; **Co. Raven 2**; Horned Lark 577; Black-capped Chickadee 319; Tufted Titmouse 53; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 48; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; E. Bluebird 35; Hermit Thrush 2; Am. Robin **169**; **Gray Catbird 1**; European Starling 2451; Cedar Waxwing 68; Am. Tree Sparrow 571; **Savannah Sparrow 1** nd; Song Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 151; White-crowned Sparrow 3; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 541; Snow Bunting 200; No. Cardinal 73; Rusty Blackbird 1; Purple Finch 8; House Finch 108; **White-winged Crossbill 126**; Pine Siskin **163**; Am. Goldfinch 390; House Sparrow 307.

Total: 63 species. **Participants:** Ann Adams, Sandy Bright, Cindy Campbell, Germaine Connolly, Kay Crane, Robert Dewell, **Bob Donnelly (rsdonn@yahoo.com)**, Miles Frasier, Ron Frasier, Becky Gretton, Marion Karl, Eleanor Moriarity, Bill Ralston, Danielle Restuccia, Stephanie Restuccia, Chip Reynolds, Dan Reynolds, Nora Reynolds, Larry Rowland, Joann Salo, Tom Salo, Charlie Scheim, Julie Wexler.

Geneva [NYGE]

42.87° N 76.98° W; 14 Dec 08; 35°-35° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy; 26 observers. Total party hours 70.

Snow Goose **14535**; Canada Goose 32394; **Mute Swan 1**; Wood Duck 2; Am. Black Duck 123; Mallard 1381; No. Pintail CW; Redhead CW; Lesser Scaup CW; Bufflehead 5; Co. Goldeneye 32; Hooded Merganser **14**; Co. Merganser 12; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Wild Turkey 27; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; **Bald Eagle 1**; No. Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk **8**; Red-tailed Hawk 55; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 9; **Peregrine Falcon 1** nc; Am. Coot 26; Ring-billed Gull 2369; Herring Gull 61; Great Black-backed Gull 72; Rock Pigeon 722; Mourning Dove 536; E. Screech-Owl 6; Great Horned Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 16; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 36; Hairy Woodpecker 3; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 12; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 159; Am. Crow 9278; Horned Lark 525; Black-capped Chickadee 156; Tufted Titmouse 27; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; E. Bluebird 48; Am. Robin 96; No. Mockingbird 11; European Starling 4614; Cedar Waxwing 31; Am. Tree Sparrow 45; Field Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 169; Lapland Longspur 8; Snow Bunting **1694**; No. Cardinal 86; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; House Finch 54; Am. Goldfinch 64; House Sparrow 775.

Total: 68 species. **Participants:** Linda Benedict, Steve Benedict, Fred Bertram, Jim Blankenberg, Ann Cobb, Don Cobb, Lynn Donaldson, Sheila Ferrari, Charles Gibson, Jane Graves, Bob Guthrie, Lyn Jacobs, Leona Lauster, James Norwalk, Phil Opdycke, Gene Parsons, Brian Perkins, Dolores Perkins, Linda Potter, Charlie Rouse, **Lisa Rouse (ldrouse@rochester.rr.com)**, Carol Slattery, Joseph Slattery, Dave Spier, Wes Utter, Roger VanNostrand.

Greenwich-Stamford [CTGS]

41.08° N 73.62° W; 14 Dec 08; 21°-46° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy; 76 observers. Total party hours 218.75.

Snow Goose 2; 'Atlantic' Brant 711; Canada Goose 4027; Mute Swan 69; Wood Duck 1; Gadwall 82; Am. Wigeon **229**; Am. Black Duck 720; Mallard 1305; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 3; Canvasback 1; Ring-necked Duck 27 LC; Greater Scaup CW; Lesser Scaup 1; White-winged Scoter 1; scoter sp. 4; Long-tailed Duck 334; Bufflehead

625; Co. Goldeneye 357; Hooded Merganser 448; Co. Merganser 358; Red-breasted Merganser 365; Ruddy Duck 51; Wild Turkey 44; Red-throated Loon 24; Co. Loon 15; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 14; No. Gannet 3; Double-crested Cormorant 6; Great Cormorant 55; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 41; Great Egret 1; Black-crowned Night-Heron 4; Black Vulture 3; Turkey Vulture 94; Bald Eagle 3; No. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 15; Cooper's Hawk 19; No. Goshawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 121; Merlin CW; Peregrine Falcon 3; Am. Coot 6; Black-bellied Plover 16; Killdeer 27; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Ruddy Turnstone 27; Purple Sandpiper 2; Am. Woodcock 1; Bonaparte's Gull 45; Ring-billed Gull 1588; Herring Gull 1293; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 92; Rock Pigeon 617; Mourning Dove 689; Monk Parakeet 41; E. Screech-Owl 52; Great Horned Owl 12; Barred Owl 3; Short-eared Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 33; Red-bellied Woodpecker 155; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13; Downy Woodpecker 222; Hairy Woodpecker 53; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 47; Pileated Woodpecker 15; Blue Jay 436; Am. Crow 691; Fish Crow 14; Co. Raven 3; Horned Lark 8; Black-capped Chickadee 504; Tufted Titmouse 464; White-breasted Nuthatch 228; Brown Creeper 8; Carolina Wren 192; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6; E. Bluebird 58; Hermit Thrush 33; Am. Robin 1428; Gray Catbird 8; No. Mockingbird 95; European Starling 2802; Am. Pipit 4; Cedar Waxwing 104; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 18; **Yellow-throated Warbler 1** ph; Palm Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; E. Towhee 11; Am. Tree Sparrow 49; Chipping Sparrow 9; **Clay-colored Sparrow 1** gd; Field Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 439; Swamp Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 1356; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 1515; Snow Bunting 2; No. Cardinal 307; Red-winged Blackbird 552; Rusty Blackbird 8; Co. Grackle 238; Brown-headed Cowbird CW; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 15; House Finch 271; White-winged Crossbill 1; Co. Redpoll 6; Pine Siskin 86; Am. Goldfinch 865; House Sparrow 1325.

Total: 118 species. **Participants:** Michael Aurelia, Tom Baptist, Valentina Baptist, Marty Barris, Trudy Battaly, Steve Beal, Joan Becker, Richard Becker, Billie Belanger, Joe Belanger, Gail Benson, Brian Bielfelt, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Sarah Breznan, Eric Brower, Tom Burke, Bob Burns, Ioa Byrne, Al Collins, Max Collins, Patrick Comins, William Cox, Annette Cunniffe, Daniel Cunniffe, Lisa Curtis, James Dugan, Patrick Dugan, Cynthia Ehlinger, Debby Ethridge, Katie Feldmann, Matt Fry, Kathy Gellman, Ted Gilman, Arthur Green, Frank Guida, Tim Guida, John Hannan, Carol Hartel, Edward Henrey, Bo Hopkins, Kelli Jewell, David Johnson, Elsbeth Johnson, Ryan Maclean, Stefan Martin, Mike Moccio, Tim Moses, Jim O'Brien, Maryann O'Leary, **Brian O'Toole**, **Gary Palmer (mrobbs@audubon.org)**, Jane Palmer, Drew Panko, Melissa Piechucki, Matt Popp, Mike Reese, Stephen Ricker, Laura Rizzo, Polly Rothstein, Joseph Ruggeri, Frank Rupp, Meredith Sampson, Anne Semmes, Penny Solum, Luke Tiller, Andy Towle, Robby Towle, Jim Utter, William Van Loan, Benjamin VanDoren., Jim Voros, Bill Wallace, Mike Warner, Jack Wells, Lynn Zeltman, Adam Adam Zorn.

Hamburg-East Aurora [NYHE]

42.72° N 78.75° W; 28 Dec 08; 30°-60° F; AM cloudy, light rain, light snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 26 (27) observers. Total party hours 86.5.

Canada Goose 57; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 1; Mallard 162; Co. Merganser 80; Wild Turkey 38; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 16; Ring-billed Gull 68; Herring Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 9; gull sp. 12; Rock Pigeon 197; Mourning Dove 62; E. Screech-Owl 2; Long-eared Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 10; Downy Woodpecker 30;

Hairy Woodpecker 5; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker CW; Blue Jay 87; Am. Crow 600; Black-capped Chickadee 313; Tufted Titmouse 48; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren CW; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; E. Bluebird 25; Am. Robin 28; European Starling 1442; Cedar Waxwing 26; Am. Tree Sparrow 29; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 8; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 161; Snow Bunting 23; No. Cardinal 48; Red-winged Blackbird 1; House Finch 84; White-winged Crossbill 22; Pine Siskin 82; Am. Goldfinch 122; House Sparrow 243.

Total: 49 species. **Participants:** Dr. Robert Andrie, Christopher Betrus, Tom Connare, Lewis Crowell, Donna DeLeon, Dr. Robert DeLeon, Emma DeLeon, Paul Fehringer, Michael Galas, Mike Hamilton, Doug Happ, Morgan Jones, Jr., Karen Landau, Joan Lazarus, Paul Lazarus, Mike Morgante, Christian Newton, **Thomas O'Donnell (tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)**, James Pawlicki, Edward Ratajczak, Gerry Rising, Dennis Russell, Sally Uzunov, Nancy Vigyikan, Jim Wojewodski, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth.

Hudson Falls [NYHF]

43.28° N 73.62° W; 14 Dec 08; 13°-34° F; AM clear; PM partly cloudy; 11 observers. Total party hours 37.

Snow Goose 5; Canada Goose 222; Am. Black Duck 25; Mallard 355; Bufflehead 7; Co. Goldeneye 202; Hooded Merganser 29; Co. Merganser 16; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 101; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 5; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 37; Rough-legged Hawk 16; Am. Kestrel 3; Ring-billed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 451; Mourning Dove 285; **Snowy Owl 1**; Short-eared Owl 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker 8; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 36; Hairy Woodpecker 6; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay 112; Am. Crow 1197; Co. Raven 3; Horned Lark 94; Black-capped Chickadee 173; Tufted Titmouse 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 19; Carolina Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 17; E. Bluebird 48; Am. Robin **599**; No. Mockingbird 8; European Starling 874; Cedar Waxwing **174**; Am. Tree Sparrow 77; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 12; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 223; Snow Bunting 74; No. Cardinal 59; **Red-winged Blackbird 1**; House Finch 75; Pine Siskin **153**; Am. Goldfinch 346; House Sparrow 247.

Total: 56 species. **Sponsor:** Southern Adirondack Audubon. **Participants:** Lisa Balschunat, Mona Bearor, Beth Bidwell, Brad Bidwell, Bill Cook, Jason Goldsmith, Greg Greene, Russ Hilliard, Joyce Miller, Joan Robertson, **Linda White (lindaandblake@adelphia.net)**.

Ithaca [NYIT]

42.45° N 76.45° W; 1 Jan 09; 6°-16° F; AM clear; PM clear; 108 observers. Total party hours 218.25.

Snow Goose 1; Canada Goose 4487; Tundra Swan **110**; Gadwall 3; Am. Wigeon 6; Am. Black Duck 50; Mallard 748; Canvasback 100; Redhead 899; Ring-necked Duck 5; Greater Scaup 13; Lesser Scaup 12; scaup sp. 2; Long-tailed Duck **14**; Bufflehead 4; Co. Goldeneye **126**; Hooded Merganser CW; Co. Merganser **127**; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Ruddy Duck 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Wild Turkey 105; Co. Loon 1; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Horned Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 4; Turkey Vulture 4; Bald Eagle 3; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Cooper's Hawk 16; No. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 150; Rough-legged Hawk 7; Am. Kestrel 4; Am. Coot 300; Killdeer CW; Ring-billed Gull 534; Herring Gull 1227; Iceland Gull 6; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 120; Mourning Dove 694; E. Screech-Owl 15; Great Horned Owl 3;

Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker 177; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3; Downy Woodpecker 418; Hairy Woodpecker 147; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 21; No. Shrike 2; Blue Jay 733; Am. Crow 4894; Fish Crow 7; Co. Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 2923; Tufted Titmouse 521; Red-breasted Nuthatch 39; White-breasted Nuthatch 340; Brown Creeper 20; Carolina Wren 26; Golden-crowned Kinglet 18; E. Bluebird 141; Hermit Thrush CW; Am. Robin 28; No. Mockingbird 15; European Starling 3383; Cedar Waxwing 274; Am. Tree Sparrow 386; Song Sparrow 64; Swamp Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 135; White-crowned Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 941; Snow Bunting 281; No. Cardinal 669; Red-winged Blackbird 11; Co. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Purple Finch 7; House Finch 630; White-winged Crossbill 156; Co. Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 343; Am. Goldfinch 1116; House Sparrow 1064.

Total: 88 species. **Participants:** Gwendolyn Barr, Susan Barr, Braam Bezuidenhout, Gladys Birdsall, Wes Blauvelt, Andy Boehm, Jack Booker, Mark Chao, Kathleen Clements, Linda Clougherty, Tom Clougherty, John Confer, Karen Edelstein, Harry Ellsworth, Bill Evans, Nelly Farnham, Steve Fast, Annette Finney, Martha Fischer, John Fitzpatrick, Jeff Gerbracht, Jane Graves, John Greenly, Stephanie Greenwood, Martin Hatch, Susie Hatch, Ann Herzig, Asher Hockett, Jim Houghton, Paul Hurtado, Larry Hymes, Sara Jane Hymes, Judy Jones, Elizabeth King, Gary Kohlenberg, Steve Kress, Carl Leopold, Lynn Leopold, Nicole Lombardo, Jim Lowe, Caroline Manning, Jay McGowan, **Kevin McGowan (kjm2@cornell.edu)**, Bob McGuire, Ann Mitchell, Julie Moore, Connie O'Brien, Jess Orkin, Linda Orkin, Bob Packard, Bruce Packard, Liz Peters, Bill Podulka, Sandy Podulka, Bard Prentiss, Gina Prentiss, Marie Read, Sally Reimer, Colleen Richards, Ken Rosenberg, Ton Schat, Carol Schmitt, Ron Schmitt, Mickey Scingo, Carol Sisler, Dee-dee Slade, Paul Slade, Laura Stenzler, Connie Thomas, Mary VanBuren, Joe Wetmore, Mary Winston, Freida Witmer, Mark Witmer, Ruth Witmer, Margo Yntema.

Jamestown [NYJA]

42.1° N 79.22° W; 14 Dec 08; 24°-43° F; AM clear, light rain, light snow; PM cloudy, light rain, light snow; 31 observers. Total party hours 68.

Canada Goose 1488; Tundra Swan CW; Wood Duck 1; Mallard 675; Redhead 4; Ring-necked Duck 10; Bufflehead 5; Co. Goldeneye 15; Hooded Merganser 27; Co. Merganser 45; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Ruddy Duck 5; Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Wild Turkey 82; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 8; Bald Eagle 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 48; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Am. Kestrel 2; **Peregrine Falcon 1** nc; Ring-billed Gull 459; Herring Gull 19; gull sp. 3; Rock Pigeon 787; Mourning Dove 292; E. Screech-Owl 8; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; No. Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker 17; Downy Woodpecker 58; Hairy Woodpecker 21; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 6; No. Shrike CW; Blue Jay 310; Am. Crow 1240; Horned Lark 10; Black-capped Chickadee 410; Tufted Titmouse 36; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 64; Brown Creeper 8; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; E. Bluebird 12; Am. Robin 3; European Starling 1929; Cedar Waxwing 31; E. Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 49; Song Sparrow 1 LC; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 14; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 221; No. Cardinal 101; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 23; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 154; Co. Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 60; Am. Goldfinch 165; House Sparrow 535.

Total: 68 species. **Participants:** Jim Baer, Mark Baldwin, Ann Beebe, James Berry, Seth Berry, Reta Carden, Leonard DeFrancisco, Joe Fairbank, Todd Gustafson, Margaret

Jewett, Dr. Michael Johnson Sr., Nancy Karp, Ranjit Laha, Frances Lapinski, Ruth Lundin, Steven Maggio, Sally Martinez, Linda O'Brien, Robert Petrolina, Jean Pigman, Bonnie Rappole, John Rappole, Bruce E. Robinson, **William Seleen**, Mary Shaul, Thomas Simmons, Herb Smith, Scott Stoleson, **Robert Sundell** (bird.central@madbbs.com), Robert Ungerer, Donald Watts, John Wendel, Anne Wieland, Andrea Windoft.

Johnstown-Gloversville [NYJG]

43.1° N 74.38° W; 27 Dec 08; 29°-36° F; AM cloudy, light rain; PM cloudy, light rain; 15 observers. Total party hours 50.25.

Am. Black Duck 2; Mallard 160; Ruffed Grouse 4; Wild Turkey **105**; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; No. Goshawk 1; **Red-shouldered Hawk 1** nc; Red-tailed Hawk 17; Am. Kestrel 1; Herring Gull 368; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 84; Rock Pigeon 476; Mourning Dove 367; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker **4**; Downy Woodpecker **56**; Hairy Woodpecker 16; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay **331**; Am. Crow 290; Co. Raven 4; Black-capped Chickadee 920; Tufted Titmouse 58; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 75; Brown Creeper 10; Carolina Wren CW; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; E. Bluebird **28**; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 36; European Starling 1515; Cedar Waxwing 165; Am. Tree Sparrow 124; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 34; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 152; No. Cardinal 33; Purple Finch 18; House Finch 62; Red Crossbill 9; White-winged Crossbill **114**; Co. Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 148; Am. Goldfinch 456; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 100.

Total: 50 species. **Participants:** Lena Andersson, Laurie Freeman, Allen Friers, Marianne Friers, **Pamela Hunt** (biodiva@verizon.net), Sally Jorgensen, Matt Montgomery, Michael Montgomery, Tom Palmer, Larry Rowland, Liz Russo, Paul Russo, Carol Stack, George Steele, Alison Van Keuren.

Letchworth-Silver Lake [NYLS]

42.75° N 78.0° W; 20 Dec 08; 2°-14° F; AM partly cloudy, light snow; PM partly clear, light snow; 12 observers. Total party hours 69.

Cackling Goose 2; Canada Goose 10245; Am. Black Duck 37; Mallard 228; Redhead 39; Lesser Scaup 1; Bufflehead 6; Co. Goldeneye 14; Hooded Merganser 4; Co. Merganser 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Wild Turkey 10; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 30; Merlin 1; Am. Coot 3; Ring-billed Gull 3; Rock Pigeon 672; Mourning Dove 258; E. Screech-Owl 9; Great Horned Owl 2; Snowy Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 34; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3; Downy Woodpecker 65; Hairy Woodpecker 17; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 14; Pileated Woodpecker 6; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 196; Am. Crow 358; Co. Raven 1; Horned Lark 71; Black-capped Chickadee 352; Tufted Titmouse **56**; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; White-breasted Nuthatch 52; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; E. Bluebird 5; Am. Robin 16; No. Mockingbird 2; European Starling 2908; Cedar Waxwing 94; Am. Tree Sparrow 238; Song Sparrow 9; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 20; White-crowned Sparrow 12; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 236; Lapland Longspur 7; Snow Bunting 504; No. Cardinal 107; Brown-headed Cowbird 27; House Finch 64; **White-winged Crossbill 33**; Co. Redpoll 10; Pine Siskin **57**; Am. Goldfinch 196; Evening Grosbeak 6; House Sparrow 649.

Totals: 68 species and 18,041 individuals. **Sponsor:** Genessee West Audubon Society. **Participants:** Carolyn Barnhart, Jerry Barnhart, **Douglas Bassett**

(Douglas.Bassett@oprhp.state.ny.us), Jim Cooney, Kurt Fox, Kim Hartquist, Jim Kimball, Hans Kunze, Pat Martin, Thomas Pedlow, Steph Spittle, Irene Szabo.

Lower Hudson [NJLH]

40.73° N 74.03° W; 14 Dec 08; 30°-45° F; AM clear; PM partly cloudy; 116 observers. Total party hours 140.

Snow Goose 7; 'Atlantic' Brant 660; Canada Goose 2383; Mute Swan 56; Wood Duck 3; Gadwall 200; Am. Black Duck 234; Mallard 1494; No. Shoveler 454; No. Pintail 52; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 1339; Canvasback 113; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 154; Lesser Scaup 5; Bufflehead 184; Co. Goldeneye 34; Hooded Merganser 60; Co. Merganser 43; Red-breasted Merganser 96; Ruddy Duck 582; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Wild Turkey 2; Co. Loon 1; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 13; Double-crested Cormorant 191; Great Cormorant 12; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 23; Great Egret 6; Black-crowned Night-Heron 46; Turkey Vulture 2; Bald Eagle 6; No. Harrier 16; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 12; *Accipiter* sp. 1; Red-tailed Hawk 63; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 5; Merlin 3; Peregrine Falcon 10; Virginia Rail 2; Co. Moorhen CW; Am. Coot 44; Killdeer 11; Ring-billed Gull 5368; Herring Gull 848; Great Black-backed Gull 185; Rock Pigeon 2235; Mourning Dove 272; Monk Parakeet 193; Barn Owl 4; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 2; Long-eared Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 16; Red-headed Woodpecker 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 66; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 23; Downy Woodpecker 100; Hairy Woodpecker 4; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 16; Blue Jay 375; Am. Crow 91; Fish Crow 2; Co. Raven 2; Horned Lark 45; Black-capped Chickadee 95; Tufted Titmouse 239; White-breasted Nuthatch 66; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 19; Winter Wren 6; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10; Hermit Thrush 35; Am. Robin 186; Gray Catbird 4; No. Mockingbird 75; Brown Thrasher 2; European Starling 7976; Am. Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 28; Orange-crowned Warbler 4; Nashville Warbler 1; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Palm Warbler 1; Co. Yellowthroat 1; E. Towhee 7; Am. Tree Sparrow 82; Chipping Sparrow 1; Field Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 58; Fox Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 287; Swamp Sparrow 44; White-throated Sparrow 1383; White-crowned Sparrow 5; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 174; Snow Bunting 5; No. Cardinal 140; Red-winged Blackbird 99; E. Meadowlark 3; Co. Grackle 666; Brown-headed Cowbird 15; House Finch 96; Am. Goldfinch 232; House Sparrow 1908.

Total: 109 species. **Participants:** Joan Abel, Michael Addis, Ken Allaire, Deborah Allen, Karen Asakawa, Andrew Baksh, Jean Barrett, Catherine Barron, Belinda Beetham, John Beetham, Carl Bernzweig, Claude Bloch, Marian Bloch, Elise Boeger, Ardith Bondi, Michael Britt, Peter Bruland, David Burg, Ben Cacace, Irving Cantor, Janet Castelpiasta, John Criscitiello, Joe Cruickshank, Nancy Cruickshank, Jean Dane, Michael DeCarte, Nicole Delacretaz, Mary Denver, Alice Deutsch, Alan Drogin, Edna Duffy, Alison Dundy, Richard Dundy, **Susan Elbin**, Sarah Elliott, Steve Fahmie, Tom Fiore, John Flicker, Alex Falcon Gershon, Andrew Gershon, **Dick Gershon**, Leslie Gershon, Beth Goffe, Adele Gotlib, Kay Gunn, Scott Haber, Minona Heaviland, Kenneth Hicks, Pat Hilliard, Claus Holzapfel, Jon Hyman, Brenda Inskeep, Laura Jacobs, Jerry Kamlet, Elisabeth Karp, Brenda Kenneally, **Kirsten Klipp**, James Knox, Jeff Kraus, Lynn Kraus, David Krauss, Robert Krinsky, Anne Lazarus, J. Arthur Le Moine, Eve Levine, Richard Lieberman, Ben Loehnen, Chris Lyons, Harry Maas, Douglas MacDonald, Neil Maruca, Sandra Maury, Chuck McAlexander, Deborah McMillan, Helen Mencher, Melvin Mencher, Greg Miller, Malcolm Morris, Kim-Nora Moses, Linda Mulaney, Doug Murray, Michael Newhouse, Geoffrey Nulle, Suzanne Ortiz, Josephine Parrilla, Tony Perrotta, Fred Pfeiffer, Glenn Phillips, Pat Pollock, Sandra Power, Anita Randolfi, Bonnie Raphael, Tom Roche, Lewis Rosenberg, Sheila Rosenberg, Kellye Rosenheim,

John Rowden, Richard Rubin, Diane Schenker, Susan Schulz, Steve Seegmiller, Pete Shen, Tasha Sims, David Speiser, Lloyd Spkalknik, Alicia Swenson, Lenore Swenson, Chris Takacs, Bill Valentine, James Vance, Cal Vornberger, Sally Weiner, Joan C. Weiss, Delta Willis, Marie Winn, John Wittenberg, D. Bruce Yolton, Scott Zevon.

Massena-Cornwall [NYMC]

44.97° N 74.9° W; 27 Dec 08; 27°-37° F; AM cloudy, light rain; PM cloudy, light rain; 21 observers. Total party hours 50.5.

Canada Goose 127; Am. Black Duck 3; Mallard 89; Ring-necked Duck 1; Bufflehead 46; Co. Goldeneye 203; Hooded Merganser 16; Co. Merganser 229; Red-breasted Merganser 3; Ruffed Grouse 15; Wild Turkey 299; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Rough-legged Hawk 1; **Merlin 2** nc; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Ring-billed Gull 17; Herring Gull 214; Iceland Gull 4; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 412; Rock Pigeon 549; Mourning Dove 238; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 59; Hairy Woodpecker 49; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 6; No. Shrike 3; Blue Jay 299; Am. Crow 690; Co. Raven 10; Black-capped Chickadee 480; Tufted Titmouse 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 82; Brown Creeper 7; **Carolina Wren 1**; Am. Robin 87; European Starling 552; Cedar Waxwing 78; Am. Tree Sparrow 127; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 84; Snow Bunting 133; No. Cardinal 62; Brown-headed Cowbird 38; Pine Grosbeak 9; Purple Finch 9; House Finch 35; White-winged Crossbill 133; Pine Siskin 28; Am. Goldfinch 220; House Sparrow 177.

Total: 56 species. **Participants:** Joanne Ackerman, Nobi Ackerman, Marilyn Badger, Jacques Bouvier, Laurie Brown, Sheila Cerwonka, Mary Curtis, **Bruce DiLabio** (bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca), Andree Dubois-Lavolette, Mark Gawn, Tom Hanrahan, Ian Jones, Paul Jones, Lance Lavolette, Paul Martin, Brian Morin, Mick Panesar, Eileen Van Duyn, Eileen Wheeler.

Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir [NYML]

41.85° N 74.13° W; 20 Dec 08; 13°-22° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy; 20 observers. Total party hours 64.75.

Snow Goose 286; Canada Goose 7454; Mute Swan 8; Am. Black Duck 7; Mallard 715; Hooded Merganser 20; Co. Merganser 18; Ring-necked Pheasant CW; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 2; Black Vulture 2; Bald Eagle 2; No. Harrier 14; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 18; Rough-legged Hawk 5; Am. Kestrel 1; **Merlin 1**; Ring-billed Gull 161; Herring Gull CW; Great Black-backed Gull CW; Rock Pigeon 147; Mourning Dove 308; E. Screech-Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 53; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 8; Downy Woodpecker 92; Hairy Woodpecker 17; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 9; Pileated Woodpecker 11; **E. Phoebe 1**; Blue Jay 336; Am. Crow 444; Co. Raven 3; Horned Lark 120; Black-capped Chickadee 269; Tufted Titmouse 210; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; White-breasted Nuthatch 51; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 14; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; E. Bluebird 108; Hermit Thrush 4; Am. Robin 289; No. Mockingbird 26; European Starling 1004; Cedar Waxwing 414; **Orange-crowned Warbler 1**; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; Am. Tree Sparrow 93; Field Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 68; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1** nc; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 488; White-crowned Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 1239; **Lapland Longspur** CW; Snow Bunting 31; No. Cardinal 211; Red-winged Blackbird 72; Co. Grackle 265; Brown-headed Cowbird 88; Purple Finch 13; House Finch 203; Pine Siskin 76; Am. Goldfinch 199; House Sparrow 317.

Total: 69 species. **Participants:** David Arner, Steve Chorvas (schorvas@verizon.net), Bea Conover, Mark DeDea, Jaime Deppen, Lin Fagan, Christine Guarino, Catherine Kingsley, Jim Marks, Maeve Maurer, Jeff Nerp, Julie Noble, Steve Noble, Ethan Pierce, Bob Rifenburg, Evelyn Rifenburg, Jonathan Rosenthal, Thomas Sarro, Peter Schoenberger, Selden Spencer, Steve Stanne, John Thompson, Glen Van Gorden, Radka Wildova.

Montauk [NYMK]

41.05° N 72.0° W; 20 Dec 08; 24°-31° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy, light rain, light snow; 41 observers. Total party hours 150.

Snow Goose 20; 'Atlantic' Brant 5; Canada Goose 814; Mute Swan 12; Gadwall 1; Am. Black Duck 218; Mallard 300; No. Pintail 1; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 2; Greater Scaup 96; Lesser Scaup 1; King Eider 1; Co. Eider 650; Harlequin Duck 2; Surf Scoter 2282; White-winged Scoter 2090; Black Scoter 2569; scoter sp. 618; Long-tailed Duck 296; Bufflehead 64; Co. Goldeneye 41; Hooded Merganser 62; Red-breasted Merganser 478; Ruddy Duck 47; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Wild Turkey 44; Red-throated Loon 649; Pacific Loon 396; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 36; Red-necked Grebe 3; No. Gannet 1051; Double-crested Cormorant 9; Great Cormorant 7; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 11; Great Egret 1; No. Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 5; No. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 20; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Virginia Rail 1; Am. Coot 2; Black-bellied Plover 26; Killdeer CW; Greater Yellowlegs 2; Ruddy Turnstone 31; Sanderling 139; Purple Sandpiper 2; Dunlin 65; Wilson's Snipe 1; Am. Woodcock 3; Black-headed Gull 2; Bonaparte's Gull 86; Ring-billed Gull 254; Herring Gull 1633; Iceland Gull 1; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 378; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Razorbill 51; Rock Pigeon 114; Mourning Dove 208; E. Screech-Owl 10; Great Horned Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 28; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 39; Hairy Woodpecker 4; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 38; E. Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 229; Am. Crow 216; Horned Lark 3; Black-capped Chickadee 333; Tufted Titmouse 100; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 23; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 97; Winter Wren 8; Marsh Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; E. Bluebird 23; Hermit Thrush 14; Am. Robin 228; Gray Catbird 6; No. Mockingbird 63; Brown Thrasher 5; European Starling 1774; Am. Pipit 1; Cedar Waxwing 8; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 118; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; E. Towhee 16; Am. Tree Sparrow 9; Field Sparrow 14; Savannah Sparrow 55; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 299; Swamp Sparrow 37; White-throated Sparrow 475; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 221; Snow Bunting 56; No. Cardinal 197; Red-winged Blackbird 35; E. Meadowlark 14; Brown-headed Cowbird 12; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 116; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 48; House Sparrow 268.

Total: 116 species. **Participants:** Jim Ash, Andrew Baldelli, Gail Benson, Bobby & Janice Berlingeri, Steve Biasetti, Barbara Blaisdell, Thomas Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Theodore Chase, Terry Clarke, Andrew Farnsworth, Doug Futuyama, John Gluth, Andrew Guthrie, Ethel Hill, Ed Johan, Pat Jones, Brian Kane, Rich Kelly, Ellen Kornhauer, Linda Lee, Patricia Lindsay, **Hugh McGuinness (hmcguinness@ross.org)**, Bruce Pataky, Bob & Sarah Paxton-Plimpton, Bryan Pfeiffer, Peter Polshek, Richard O Prum, Sandra Reynolds, Chris Roberts, Karen Rubinstein, Diana Teta, John Todaro, Michael Troyan, Guy Tudor, Bob Wick, **Angus Wilson (gadflypetrel@hotmail.com)**, Marguerite Wolffsohn.

Montezuma [NYMZ]

43.0° N 76.73° W; 20 Dec 08; 13°-19° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy; 32 observers. Total party hours 86.75.

Snow Goose 100; Canada Goose 10155; Trumpeter Swan 38; Tundra Swan 73; Am. Black Duck 145; Mallard 1819; Redhead 8; Ring-necked Duck 4; Co. Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 10; Co. Merganser 9; **Ruddy Duck 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant CW; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 66; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 10; Bald Eagle 15; No. Harrier 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 12; Red-tailed Hawk 67; Rough-legged Hawk 8; Am. Kestrel 2; **Merlin 1**; **Sandhill Crane 4**; **Bonaparte's Gull 2**; Ring-billed Gull 115; Herring Gull 68; Great Black-backed Gull 3; Rock Pigeon 494; Mourning Dove 905; E. Screech-Owl 15; Great Horned Owl 16; Short-eared Owl 8; Belted Kingfisher 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 54; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 114; Hairy Woodpecker 25; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 28; Pileated Woodpecker 20; Blue Jay 238; Am. Crow 715; Horned Lark 54; Black-capped Chickadee 354; Tufted Titmouse 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 58; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 1; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; E. Bluebird 44; Am. Robin 229; No. Mockingbird 1; European Starling 5626; 'Myrtle' **Yellow-rumped Warbler 4**; Am. Tree Sparrow 616; **Fox Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 7; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 29; White-crowned Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 192; Snow Bunting 19; No. Cardinal 142; Red-winged Blackbird 12; E. Meadowlark 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 21; House Finch 117; **White-winged Crossbill 26**; Co. Redpoll 1; Am. Goldfinch 201; House Sparrow 337.

Total: 73 species. **Participants:** Camille Burns, Elizabeth Clark, Jim Eckler, Crystal Evener, Riley Evener, Tyler Evener, **Jane Graves** (jgraves@skidmore.edu), Lewis Grove, Chris Kenyon, Leona Lauster, Tim Lenz, Andrew Mackie, Matt Medler, Anita Messina, Frank Morlock, Dave Nutter, Linda Potter, Carolyn Ragan, Tim Simmons, Dave Spier, George Steele, **Carol Stokes-Cawley** (cstokes-cawley@audubon.org), Wes Utter, John Warner, Mark Witmer, Mary Dreiling, Chuck Gibson, William Gillette, Bob Guthrie, Asher Hockett, Robert Spahn, Terry Warner.

Monticello [NYMT]

41.57° N 74.63° W; 27 Dec 08; 26°-45° F; AM cloudy, light rain; PM cloudy; 24 observers. Total party hours 58.75.

Canada Goose 597; Wood Duck 2; Am. Black Duck 99; Mallard 186; No. Pintail 1; Bufflehead 3; Hooded Merganser 1; Co. Merganser 32; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Wild Turkey 108; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 26; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-shouldered Hawk 8; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Ring-billed Gull 265; Herring Gull 500; **Iceland Gull 2**; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Pigeon 230; Mourning Dove 237; Great Horned Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 9; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 73; Hairy Woodpecker 19; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Blue Jay 305; Am. Crow 308; Co. Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 1118; Tufted Titmouse 146; Red-breasted Nuthatch 61; White-breasted Nuthatch 118; Brown Creeper 23; Carolina Wren 11; Winter Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; E. Bluebird 48; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 40; No. Mockingbird 7; European Starling 728; Cedar Waxwing 74; **Palm Warbler 1**; Am. Tree Sparrow 55; **Savannah Sparrow 1** nc; Song Sparrow 21; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 41; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 454; Snow Bunting 1; No. Cardinal 89; House Finch 51; White-winged Crossbill 140; Pine Siskin 158; Am. Goldfinch 138; House Sparrow 114.

Total: 61 species. **Sponsor:** Sullivan County Audubon Society. **Participants:** Scott Baldinger, Arlene Borko, Brian Bury, Mary Collier, Bill Cutler, Renee Davis, Patrick

Dechon, Greg Faller, Valerie Freer, Margaret Gorton, John Haas, Dick Hirshman, Phyllis Jones, Laura Kunzman, Ruth McKoen, Deanna Mendels, **Daniel Niven** (dniven@audubon.org), Aaron Schmitt, Barb Schmitt, Ken Schmitt, Rachel Schmitt, Kathy Scullion, Ruth Shursky, Dave Smith, Lance Verdame.

New Woodstock-Southern Highlands [NYNW]

42.85° N 75.82° W; 4 Jan 09; 0°-28° F; AM partly cloudy; PM partly cloudy; 15 observers. Total party hours 63.25.

Snow Goose 1; Canada Goose 362; Am. Black Duck 1; Mallard 130; **No. Pintail 1**; **'Am.' Green-winged Teal 2** nc; Ring-necked Pheasant CW; Ruffed Grouse 9; Wild Turkey **478**; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 4; No. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk **54**; Rough-legged Hawk 12; Am. Kestrel CW; Ring-billed Gull CW; Herring Gull CW; Rock Pigeon 547; Mourning Dove 476; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; **Red-headed Woodpecker 1**; Red-bellied Woodpecker 21; Downy Woodpecker **81**; Hairy Woodpecker 26; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker **12**; No. Shrike 3; Blue Jay **297**; Am. Crow **1492**; Co. Raven 20; Horned Lark 25; Black-capped Chickadee 821; Tufted Titmouse 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 31; White-breasted Nuthatch **62**; Brown Creeper 5; Carolina Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 10; E. Bluebird 6; Am. Robin 13; European Starling 2643; Cedar Waxwing 161; Am. Tree Sparrow 63; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; Swamp Sparrow CW; White-throated Sparrow 13; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 162; **Lapland Longspur 2**; Snow Bunting 497; No. Cardinal **46**; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 72; **Red Crossbill 14**; **White-winged Crossbill 72**; Co. Redpoll 13; Pine Siskin **133**; Am. Goldfinch 169; Evening Grosbeak 5; House Sparrow 201.

Total: 62 species. **Participants:** Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Bernie Carr, Ron Chiarello, Linda Christy, Kevin McGann, Bobbi Monroe, Bill Purcell, Judy Read, Jean Ryan, Linda Sherman, C. Spagnoli, Brian White, **Matthew Young** (grosbeak@clarityconnect.com).

Northern Nassau County [NYNN]

40.87° N 73.6° W; 20 Dec 08; 24°-25° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 55 observers. Total party hours 161.

Snow Goose 1; 'Atlantic' Brant **650**; Canada Goose 8348; Mute Swan 95; Gadwall 156; Am. Wigeon 77; Am. Black Duck 864; Mallard 1731; No. Pintail 9; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 18; Canvasback 56; Redhead 2; Ring-necked Duck 35; Greater Scaup 2839; Lesser Scaup 6; Surf Scoter **330**; White-winged Scoter 215; Long-tailed Duck **2171**; Bufflehead 478; Co. Goldeneye 99 LC; Hooded Merganser 97; Co. Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 130; Ruddy Duck 312; duck sp. X Mallard (hybrid) **11**; Red-throated Loon 13; Co. Loon 15; Horned Grebe 49; Double-crested Cormorant 8; Great Cormorant 3; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 20; Great Egret CW; Black-crowned Night-Heron 3; No. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-shouldered Hawk CW; Red-tailed Hawk 35; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon CW; Am. Coot 2; Black-bellied Plover 4; Killdeer 10; Ruddy Turnstone **35**; Purple Sandpiper **17**; Dunlin 7; Ring-billed Gull 1317; Herring Gull 1236; Great Black-backed Gull 52 LC; Rock Pigeon 404; Mourning Dove 189; E. Screech-Owl 7; Great Horned Owl 7; Belted Kingfisher 18; Red-bellied Woodpecker 68; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker **14**; Downy Woodpecker 90; Hairy Woodpecker 17; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 26; Blue Jay 136; Am. Crow 62 LC; Fish Crow 1; Black-capped Chickadee 186 LC; Tufted Titmouse 95; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 48 LC; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 57; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet 36; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; E. Bluebird 7; Hermit Thrush 8; Am. Robin 405; Gray Catbird 6; No. Mockingbird 57; European

Starling 1087; Cedar Waxwing 6; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; **Pine Warbler 1**; E. Towhee 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 11; Field Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 292; Swamp Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 1099; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 889; Snow Bunting 15; No. Cardinal 272; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Rusty Blackbird 7; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 43 LC; Pine Siskin CW; Am. Goldfinch 187; House Sparrow 323 LC.

Total: 94 species. **Participants:** Chris Anderson, Matt Bayer, Brent E Bomkamp, Brent W Bomkamp; Marc Brody, Sharon Brody, Blair Broughton, Abbey Brown, Ralph Cioffi, Barbara Connolly, Sam Crosby, Steven D'Amato, Simone DaRos, Virginia Dankel, Roni Downey, Scott Emmons, Mary Eschwei, John Gaglione, Ken Harris, Jane Jackson, Maria Kelly, David Klauber, Connor Kleemann, Norman Klein, Allan Lindberg, Lois Lindberg, James Madden, Dan Mahoney, Ginger Mahoney, Peggy Maslow, Ralph Matragrano, Bob May, Helen McClure, Stephanie Meiser, Stella Miller, Herb Mills, Charlotte Miska, Wendy Murbach, Donald G Niddrie, Lindy Nielsen, Lynne Normandia, Mary Normandia, Corey Prelich, Greg Prelich, Zu Proly, Antonio Quinn, **Glenn Quinn (gqcq@optonline.net)**, William Reeves, Richard Ryder, Steven Schellenger, Vinnie Schiappa, John Taylor, Russell Taylor, Aaron Virgon, Jennifer Wilson-Pines.

Oak Orchard Swamp [NYOO]

43.13° N 78.37° W; 27 Dec 08; 45°-52° F; AM cloudy, light-heavy rain; PM cloudy, light rain; 20 observers. Total party hours 152.

Cackling Goose 1; Canada Goose 1026; Am. Black Duck 115; Mallard 454; No. Pintail 65; Co. Merganser **50**; Ring-necked Pheasant 13; Wild Turkey 39; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 5; Bald Eagle 2; No. Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 47; Am. Kestrel 6; Ring-billed Gull 29; Herring Gull 23; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Pigeon 257; Mourning Dove 334; E. Screech-Owl 3; Snowy Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 49; Downy Woodpecker 75; Hairy Woodpecker 15; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 43; Pileated Woodpecker 6; No. Shrike 6; Blue Jay 180; Am. Crow 425; Horned Lark 60; Black-capped Chickadee 255; Tufted Titmouse 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 51; Brown Creeper 14; Carolina Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; E. Bluebird 22; Am. Robin 121; Gray Catbird 3; European Starling 5489; Cedar Waxwing 103; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; Am. Tree Sparrow 193; Song Sparrow 11; Swamp Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 19; White-crowned Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 247; Lapland Longspur 3; Snow Bunting 25; No. Cardinal 141; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Rusty Blackbird 2; Co. Grackle 57; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 110; **White-winged Crossbill 24**; Pine Siskin 4; Am. Goldfinch 453; House Sparrow 536.

Total: 63 species. **Participants:** Douglas Beattie, Janice Beglinger, Greg Coniglio, Kurt Fox, David Friedrich, Mike Galas, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Scott Meier, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, James Ochterski, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, **Gail Seamans (gails@rochester.rr.com)**, Paula Stone, Mike Vickner, Elizabeth Wells.

Oneida [NYOD]

43.08° N 75.65° W; 1 Jan 09; -4°-11° F; AM clear; PM clear; 11 observers. Total party hours 47.

Snow Goose (white form) 2; Canada Goose 71 LC; Am. Black Duck 50; Mallard 273; Co. Goldeneye CW; Co. Merganser CW; Wild Turkey 23 LC; **No. Bobwhite 4**; Bald Eagle CW; No. Harrier CW; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 63; Rough-legged Hawk 14; Am. Kestrel 3; Ring-billed Gull 11 LC; Herring Gull 1 LC; Great Black-backed Gull CW; Rock Pigeon 414; Mourning Dove 442; E. Screech-

Owl 2; Great Horned Owl CW; Short-eared Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker **19**; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 75; Hairy Woodpecker 30; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 3; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 115; Am. Crow **2792**; **Co. Raven 2**; Horned Lark 29; Black-capped Chickadee **589**; Tufted Titmouse **71**; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 50; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 2; E. Bluebird 4; Am. Robin 17; European Starling 2485; Am. Tree Sparrow 277; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 3; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco **124**; No. Cardinal 98; Pine Grosbeak 8; House Finch 182; White-winged Crossbill 6; Co. Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin 20; Am. Goldfinch 259; House Sparrow 519.

Total: 48 (49) species. **Sponsor:** Nature Club of Central New York. **Participants:** Dave Baldrini, **Brenda Best (bestbird@verizon.net)**, Lauren Kras, Doug Linstruth, Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Daniel Skinner, Deb Skinner, Judy Thurber, Kyle Wright.

Oneonta [NYOT]

42.55° N 74.98° W; 20 Dec 08; 12°-20° F; AM cloudy; PM partly cloudy; 21 observers. Total party hours 49.25.

Canada Goose 1548; Am. Black Duck 6; Mallard 35; Co. Merganser 29; Ruffed Grouse 10; Wild Turkey 327; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 2; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk **34**; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 468; Mourning Dove 404; E. Screech-Owl 3; Barred Owl 1; **Short-eared Owl 1** nc; Downy Woodpecker **85**; Hairy Woodpecker 32; Pileated Woodpecker **9**; Blue Jay 362; Am. Crow **1040**; Co. Raven 6; Black-capped Chickadee 787; Tufted Titmouse 65; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; White-breasted Nuthatch 73; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 1; Am. Robin 1; European Starling 1193; Am. Tree Sparrow 72; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 323; No. Cardinal **55**; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 41; House Finch 98; Pine Siskin **149**; Am. Goldfinch **418**; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 101.

Total: 44 species. **Participants:** Dianne Benko, Sandra Bright, Jerry Cahill, Rod Carter, Bob Donnelly, Laurel Elder, Elma Holway, David Kiehm, Karl Marion, Barbara Marsala, Andy Mason, **J. Robert Miller (millerj3@hartwick.edu)**, Jean Miller, Eleanor Moriarty, Betty New, Amy Parr, Charles Scheim, Jim Wheeling, Susan Young.

Orient [NYOR]

41.1° N 72.33° W; 3 Jan 09; 20°-35° F; AM clear; PM partly clear; 65 observers. Total party hours 165.

'Atlantic' Brant 35; Canada Goose 3096; Mute Swan 87; Gadwall 1 LC; Am. Wigeon 14; Am. Black Duck 1392; Mallard 710; No. Pintail 15; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 2; Canvasback 6; Ring-necked Duck **35**; Greater Scaup 112; Lesser Scaup 17; Surf Scoter 580; White-winged Scoter 1183; Black Scoter 194; Long-tailed Duck 1044; Bufflehead **1599**; Co. Goldeneye 892; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 184; Co. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 948; Ruddy Duck 1 LC; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Wild Turkey **19**; Red-throated Loon 25; Co. Loon 175; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 49; No. Gannet 5; Double-crested Cormorant 11; Great Cormorant 11; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 44; Great Egret 1; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 15; Cooper's Hawk **10**; Red-tailed Hawk 51; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 4; Merlin 6; Peregrine Falcon 1; falcon sp. 1; Clapper Rail 1; Virginia Rail 1; Black-bellied Plover 2; **Spotted Sandpiper 1**; Ruddy Turnstone 40; Sanderling 110; Purple Sandpiper 13; Dunlin 4; Am. Woodcock 1; Bonaparte's Gull 8; Ring-billed Gull 1262; Herring Gull 3235; Great Black-backed Gull

268; Razorbill 4; Rock Pigeon 176; Mourning Dove 343; E. Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 7; Belted Kingfisher 27; Red-bellied Woodpecker 88; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 6; Downy Woodpecker 82; Hairy Woodpecker 22; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 142; Blue Jay 439; Am. Crow 882; Horned Lark 49; Black-capped Chickadee 404; Tufted Titmouse 188; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 73; Brown Creeper 12; Carolina Wren 160; House Wren 1; Winter Wren 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; E. Bluebird 23; Hermit Thrush 29; Am. Robin 714; Gray Catbird 16; No. Mockingbird 111; Brown Thrasher 4; European Starling 2464; Am. Pipit 8; Cedar Waxwing 43; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 147; E. Towhee 19; Am. Tree Sparrow 38; Chipping Sparrow 2; Field Sparrow 23; Savannah Sparrow 17; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 20; Song Sparrow 398; Swamp Sparrow 28; White-throated Sparrow 991; White-crowned Sparrow 1 LC; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 261; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 140; No. Cardinal 308; Red-winged Blackbird 91; E. Meadowlark 9; Rusty Blackbird 3; Co. Grackle 2005; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 363; Pine Siskin 10; Am. Goldfinch 166; House Sparrow 204.

Total: 116 species. **Participants:** Andy Baldelli, Jim Benson, Susan Benson, Steve Biasetti, Scott Boomer, Margot Booth, Kevin Brooks, John Brush, John, Brush Jr., Vicki Bustamante, Lou Celenza, Jim Clinton Jr., James Clinton III, Mel Cowgill, Tom Crowley, Tom Damiani, Al Daniels, Jack Finkenberg, Bob Gerdtts, Eileen Gerle, John Gluth, Beth Gustin, Nick Hamblet, Bruce Horwith, Doug Kalunas, Richard Kaskan, Linda Kedenburg, Rick Kedenburg, Payton King, Ellen Kornhauser, Tom Lambertson, Eric Lamont, **Mary Laura Lamont** (elamont@optonline.net), Mike Laspia, Susan Laspia, Anne Lazarus, Joe Lynch, Elaine Maas, Sandra Maury, Rob McGuinness, John McNeil, Peter Meybaum, Dan Morris, Kevin Nolan, Larry Penny, Sandra Reynolds, Jim Romansky, George Rowsom, Rich Sautkulis, Lynne Scheibel, Mike Scheibel, Eileen Schwinn, John Sep, Nate Shampine, Carolyn Spillman, Carl Starace, Peter Stoutenburgh, Larry Sturm, Linda Sullivan, Terrance Sullivan, Sally Swain, Diana Teta, Kenton Van Boer, Rich Willott.

Oswego-Fulton [NYOS]

43.37° N 76.45° W; 14 Dec 08; 20°-45° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy, light rain; 12 observers. Total party hours 44.25.

Canada Goose 1614; Am. Black Duck 11; Mallard 672; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup CW; Lesser Scaup 3; White-winged Scoter 4; Long-tailed Duck 122; Bufflehead 21; Co. Goldeneye 66; Hooded Merganser 12; Co. Merganser 53; Red-breasted Merganser 62; Ruddy Duck 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 24; Red-throated Loon 1; Co. Loon 2; Pied-billed Grebe 4; Red-necked Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant 15; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 30; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Coot 2; Ring-billed Gull 781; Herring Gull 106; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 52; Rock Pigeon 359; Mourning Dove 223; E. Screech-Owl 2; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 22; Downy Woodpecker 46; Hairy Woodpecker 7; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; No. Shrike 3; Blue Jay 72; Am. Crow 271; Black-capped Chickadee 296; Tufted Titmouse 17; White-breasted Nuthatch 27; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; E. Bluebird 15; Am. Robin 16; No. Mockingbird CW; European Starling 1234; Cedar Waxwing 38; Am. Tree Sparrow 32; **Field Sparrow** 2; Song Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 10; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 69; Snow Bunting 45; No. Cardinal 43; House Finch 34; Co. Redpoll CW; Am. Goldfinch 28; House Sparrow 283.

Total: 66 species. **Participants:** Betty Armbruster, Dave Baldri, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joe Brin, Jared Caster, Martin Caster, Mary Dreiling, Bill Gruenbaum, Kevin McGann, **Bill Purcell** (wpurcell@twcny.rr.com), **Margaret Rusk**.

Owego [NYOW]

42.12° N 76.35° W; 28 Dec 08; 36°-57° F; AM local fog; PM cloudy; 18 observers. Total party hours 52.75.

Canada Goose 1074; Am. Black Duck 2; Mallard 21; Co. Merganser 20; Ruffed Grouse 10; Wild Turkey 244; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 53; Rough-legged Hawk 13; Am. Kestrel 4; Ring-billed Gull **73**; Herring Gull 11; Rock Pigeon 528; Mourning Dove 271; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 35; Hairy Woodpecker 7; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 110; Am. Crow 890; Co. Raven 4; Black-capped Chickadee 250; Tufted Titmouse 37; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 44; Carolina Wren 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; E. Bluebird **73**; Am. Robin 1; No. Mockingbird 5; European Starling 847; Cedar Waxwing 31; Am. Tree Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 6; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 84; No. Cardinal 67; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; House Finch 128; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 180; House Sparrow 233.

Total: 46 species. **Participants:** Cutler Baldwin, Jeannette Baldwin, Lois Bingley, Eleanor Ernst, Jeff Hunt, Spencer Hunt, Diane Krein, Bill Kuk, Ron Milliken, Tom Morse, Virginia Orendorf, **Rita Pantle** (rjpbird@frontiernet.net), Robert Pantle, Sandy Rosenberger, George Wade, Don Weber, Joanne Weber, Colleen Wolpert.

Pawling (Hidden Valley) [NYHV]

41.53° N 73.57° W; 1 Jan 09; 1°-24° F; AM clear; PM clear; 34 observers. Total party hours 105.5.

Canada Goose 471; Mute Swan **71**; Gadwall 2; Am. Black Duck 62; Mallard 580; **No. Shoveler 1** nc; Ring-necked Duck 11; Lesser Scaup 1; **Long-tailed Duck 1**; Bufflehead 5; Co. Goldeneye 27; Hooded Merganser 34; Co. Merganser 2359; Ruddy Duck 53; Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 3; Wild Turkey 113; Pied-billed Grebe 6; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 3; Black Vulture 33; Bald Eagle **13**; No. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 7; No. Goshawk **2**; Red-shouldered Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 80; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; **Wilson's Snipe 1**; Ring-billed Gull 482; Herring Gull 197; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Rock Pigeon 60; Mourning Dove 203; E. Screech-Owl 6; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 62; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker **19**; Downy Woodpecker 146; Hairy Woodpecker 32; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 42; Pileated Woodpecker **14**; Blue Jay 224; Am. Crow 870; Fish Crow 1; Co. Raven 10; Black-capped Chickadee 553; Tufted Titmouse 341; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 154; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren **37**; **House Wren 2**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; E. Bluebird 117; Hermit Thrush 8; Am. Robin 158; Gray Catbird 3; No. Mockingbird 35; European Starling 1502; Cedar Waxwing 41 LC; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; **Pine Warbler 1** nc; Am. Tree Sparrow 101; Chipping Sparrow CW; Field Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 89; Swamp Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 602; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 1221; No. Cardinal **280**; Red-winged Blackbird 12; Rusty Blackbird 3; Co. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 30; Purple Finch 11; House Finch 289; **Red Crossbill 8** nncn; Pine Siskin **381**; Am. Goldfinch 344; House Sparrow 295.

Total: 83 species. **Participants:** Pat Bailey, Don Breeger, Barbara Butler, Bob Cartoceti, Binnie Chase, **Angela Dimmitt**, Jim Dugan, Larry Fischer, Dorothy Fleury,

Carol Fredericks, Ken Fredericks, Sibyll Gilbert, Steve Golladay, Linton Hamilton, John Johnson, Rodney Johnson, Margery Josephson, Anne Kehma, Debi Kral, Dennis Larkin, Kelly Liao, Bill Liedlich, Judy Kelley Moberg, Russ Naylor, Nancy Nichols, Maryanne Pitts, **Carena Pooth (pawlingcbc@watermanbirdclub.org)**, Sally Spence, Nick Thold, Herb Thompson, Jim Utter, Chet Vincent, Ricky Vogel, Bill Wallace.

Peekskill [NYPE]

41.25° N 73.85° W; 20 Dec 08; 18°-23° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy; 33 observers. Total party hours 106.75.

Snow Goose 1; Canada Goose **4843**; Mute Swan 113; Gadwall 9; Am. Wigeon 15; Am. Black Duck 241; Mallard 533; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 3; Canvasback 84; Redhead 8; Ring-necked Duck 41; Greater Scaup 49; Lesser Scaup 1; Bufflehead 123; Co. Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 136; Co. Merganser 333; Ruddy Duck 783; Wild Turkey 40; Co. Loon 1; Pied-billed Grebe 9; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant **34**; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 8; Black Vulture 25; Turkey Vulture 16; Bald Eagle 19; No. Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 6; No. Goshawk 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 53; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Am. Coot 42; Am. Woodcock 1; Ring-billed Gull 810; Herring Gull 48; Great Black-backed Gull 16; Rock Pigeon 145; Mourning Dove 93; E. Screech-Owl 4; Barred Owl 4; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 13; Red-bellied Woodpecker 55; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 8; Downy Woodpecker 118; Hairy Woodpecker 25; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 27; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Blue Jay 140; Am. Crow 565; Co. Raven **8**; Horned Lark 26; Black-capped Chickadee 319; Tufted Titmouse 241; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 102; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 41; Winter Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 35; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; E. Bluebird 47; Hermit Thrush 10; Am. Robin 239; Gray Catbird 10; No. Mockingbird 27; European Starling 1225; Cedar Waxwing 66; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; E. Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 48; Field Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 21; Fox Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 170; Swamp Sparrow 18; White-throated Sparrow 540; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 851; No. Cardinal 204; Red-winged Blackbird 52; Rusty Blackbird 23; Co. Grackle 11; Brown-headed Cowbird 51; House Finch 74; **White-winged Crossbill 3**; Pine Siskin 5; Am. Goldfinch 140; House Sparrow 441.

Total: 91 species. **Sponsor:** Bedford Audubon Society, Teatown Lake Reservation.

Participants: Richard Anderson, **John Askildsen (askildsen@verizon.net)**, Trudy Battaly, Andrew Block, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Tom Cavano, Chris Drury, Chris Gorman, John Grant, Jim Guelin, Rik Kaufman, Michael Kogut, Paul Lewis, Richard Machin, Michael Newhouse, Joseph O'Connell, Ralph Odell, Drew Panko, Mauguerie Pitts, Charlie Roberto, David Salmon, Pete Salmonsohn, Ponie Sheehan, Anne Swaim, Larry Trachtenberg, Michael Usai, James Utter, William Wallace, Joe Zygala.

Plattsburgh [NYPL]

44.65° N 73.48° W; 14 Dec 08; 6°-34° F; AM cloudy; PM partly cloudy; 25 observers. Total party hours 68.5.

Snow Goose 13; Canada Goose 1586; Am. Black Duck 47; Mallard 439; Ring-necked Duck 3; Bufflehead 3; Co. Goldeneye 450; Hooded Merganser 3; Co. Merganser 111; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 53; Co. Loon 1; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 2; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-billed Gull 147; Herring Gull 64; Great Black-backed Gull 13; Rock Pigeon 388; Mourning Dove 537; **No. Hawk Owl 1** ph; Downy Woodpecker 53; Hairy Woodpecker 40; Pileated

Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 226; Am. Crow 1548; Co. Raven 2; Horned Lark 154; Black-capped Chickadee 466; Tufted Titmouse 17; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; White-breasted Nuthatch 57; Brown Creeper 2; E. Bluebird 1; Am. Robin 38; No. Mockingbird 1; European Starling 641; Bohemian Waxwing 4; Cedar Waxwing 141; Am. Tree Sparrow 49; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 273; Snow Bunting **927**; No. Cardinal 78; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 67; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 50; Co. Redpoll 25; Pine Siskin 26; Am. Goldfinch 434; House Sparrow 182.

Total: 59 species. **Participants:** Tom Armstrong, Bob Booth, Helen Booth, John Brown, Gwendoline Canteenwalla, Jim Cayea, Joan Clark, Julie Dumas, Keitha Farney, Elizabeth Fitts, Peter Galvani, **Judith Heintz (heintzjf@verizon.net)**, Harold Klein, William Krueger, Dayna Lalonde, Julie Lattrell, Brian McAllister, **Melanie McCormack**, Janet Mihuc, Jim Nolan, Nancy Olsen, Carol Pinney, Janet Stein, Gary Sturgis, Irma Teittinen, Saana Teittinen-Gordon, Dan Vogt.

Putnam County [NYPC]

41.4° N 73.8° W; 3 Jan 09; 20°-38° F; AM partly cloudy; PM foggy; 48 observers. Total party hours 135.0.

Canada Goose 519; Mute Swan 37; Wood Duck 2; Am. Black Duck 231; Mallard 415; No. Pintail 1; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal **7**; Ring-necked Duck 183; scaup sp. 3; Bufflehead 43; Co. Goldeneye 23; Hooded Merganser 114; Co. Merganser 433; Ruddy Duck 51; Wild Turkey **113**; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 1; Black Vulture 28; Turkey Vulture 29; Bald Eagle **24**; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk **10**; Cooper's Hawk **8**; Red-shouldered Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk **85**; Rough-legged Hawk 1; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Ring-billed Gull **1853**; Herring Gull 46; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Rock Pigeon 60; Mourning Dove 266; E. Screech-Owl 3; Great Horned Owl CW; Barred Owl **4**; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 77; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker **22**; Downy Woodpecker 141; Hairy Woodpecker 24; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker **8**; Pileated Woodpecker **24**; Blue Jay 172; Am. Crow 544; Co. Raven **23**; **Horned Lark 1**; Black-capped Chickadee 559; Tufted Titmouse 353; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 168; Brown Creeper 4; Carolina Wren 49; Winter Wren 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; E. Bluebird 133; Hermit Thrush 13; Am. Robin 154; Gray Catbird 3; No. Mockingbird 37; European Starling 913; Cedar Waxwing 160; E. Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 83; Field Sparrow **8**; **Savannah Sparrow 1** nc; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 172; Swamp Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 631; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 942; No. Cardinal 275; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Rusty Blackbird 7; Co. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 16; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 145; White-winged Crossbill 5; Pine Siskin 449; Am. Goldfinch 699; House Sparrow 146.

Total: 82 species. **Participants:** Jane Alexander, Rich Anderson, John Askildsen, Kirsten Askildsen, Marc Breslav, Robert Brush, Tom Carano, Pete Charbaroneau, Joe Cullen, Walt Fowler, Douglas Gochfeld, Robert Gochfeld, Angela Gorman, Chris Gorman, Christina Gorman, Teresa Gorman, John Grant, Arthur W. Green, Pat Grove, Mike Hannon, Anne Jones, Rik Kaufman, Judy Kelley, Ian Kingsley, Lew Kingsley, Paul Lewis, Rich Machin, Paul Maus, Ralph Odell, Renee Palay-Bain, Gerhard Patch, John Plutino, Eileen Reilly, **Charlie Roberto (ccamroberto@verizon.net)**, David Salmon, Arlene Seymour, Ponie Sheehan, Robert Slechta, David Small, Christine Smith, Anne Swain, Lauri Taylor, Larry Trachtenberg, Henry Turner, Bonnie VanAsselt, Gary VanAsselt, Bill Wallace, Janet Zeman.

Queens [NYQU]

40.7° N 73.75° W; 20 Dec 08; 23°-31° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy; 24 observers. Total party hours 71.

Snow Goose (white form) 579; Snow Goose (blue form) 2; 'Atlantic' Brant 3221; Canada Goose 3583; Mute Swan 11; Gadwall 38; Am. Wigeon 20; Am. Black Duck 173; Mallard 925; No. Shoveler 92; No. Pintail 1; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 29; Canvasback 22; Redhead 8; Ring-necked Duck 11; Greater Scaup **53062**; Lesser Scaup 48; Surf Scoter 24; White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter **355**; scoter sp. 11; Long-tailed Duck 51; Bufflehead 702; Co. Goldeneye 8; Hooded Merganser 134; Co. Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 72; Ruddy Duck 364; Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Red-throated Loon 21; Co. Loon 60; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Horned Grebe 7; No. Gannet 42; Double-crested Cormorant 51; Great Cormorant 15; Am. Bittern 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 12; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1; No. Harrier 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk **8**; Red-tailed Hawk 26; Peregrine Falcon 2; Am. Coot 54; Greater Yellowlegs 8; Lesser Yellowlegs 1; Ruddy Turnstone 6; Sanderling 73; Purple Sandpiper 27; Wilson's Snipe 1; Laughing Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 50; Ring-billed Gull 2244; Herring Gull 1140; **Glaucous Gull 1**; Great Black-backed Gull 218; Rock Pigeon 701; Mourning Dove 133; Great Horned Owl CW; No. Saw-whet Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 14; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker CW; Downy Woodpecker 43; Hairy Woodpecker 7; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 15; **Blue-headed Vireo 1** nc, nd; Blue Jay 106; Am. Crow 41 LC; Fish Crow 2; Horned Lark 5; Black-capped Chickadee 55; Tufted Titmouse 49; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 15; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 18; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3; Hermit Thrush 16; Am. Robin **497**; Gray Catbird 5; No. Mockingbird 54; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 903; Am. Pipit 3; Orange-crowned Warbler 3; Nashville Warbler CW; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 105; **Prairie Warbler** CW nc, nd; Palm Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 44; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 26; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 2; Seaside Sparrow 1; E. Fox Sparrow 26; Song Sparrow 144; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 355; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 58; Snow Bunting 74; No. Cardinal 102; Red-winged Blackbird 22; E. Meadowlark **9**; Rusty Blackbird 27; Co. Grackle 11; Boat-tailed Grackle 16; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; House Finch 32; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 124; House Sparrow 425.

Total: 107 species. **Sponsor:** Queens County Bird Club. **Participants:** Seth Ausubel, Chuck Beilman, George Dadone, **Robert Dieterich** (robertdieterich@hotmail.com), Corey Finger, Arie Gilbert, David Gillen, Linda Kedenburg, Rick Kedenburg, Bernard Klempner, Linda Klempner, Alexei Kondratiev, Stuart Lipkin, Peter Lopez, Jean Loscalzo, Denis Macrae, Danny Melore, Eric Miller, Peter Reisfeld, Ian Resnick, Starr Saphir, Donna Schulman, Gary Straus, Lou Widerka.

Quogue-Watermill [NYQW]

40.87° N 72.47° W; 14 Dec 08; 20°-46° F; AM partly cloudy; PM partly cloudy; 27 observers. Total party hours 87.0.

'Atlantic' Brant 294; Canada Goose 1135; Mute Swan 165; Wood Duck 1; Gadwall 9; Am. Wigeon 26; Am. Black Duck 1103; Mallard 493; No. Shoveler 34; No. Pintail 1; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 15; Canvasback 41; Ring-necked Duck 72; Greater Scaup 53; Lesser Scaup 174; scaup sp. 8; Co. Eider 17; Surf Scoter 1498; White-winged Scoter **715**; Black Scoter 3870; scoter sp. 2430; Long-tailed Duck 735; Bufflehead 1076; Co. Goldeneye 208; Hooded Merganser 287; Red-breasted Merganser 1406; Ruddy Duck 2284; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Wild Turkey **26**; Red-throated Loon **345**; Co. Loon **199**; Pied-billed Grebe 10; Horned Grebe 41; No. Gannet 57; Double-crested Cormorant 38;

Am. Bittern CW; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 71; Black-crowned Night-Heron 5; No. Harrier 14; Sharp-shinned Hawk 10; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 16; Am. Kestrel 2; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 2; Clapper Rail 1; Virginia Rail 2; Am. Coot 15; Black-bellied Plover 107; Killdeer 1; Greater Yellowlegs 10; Red Knot 1; Sanderling 487; Dunlin 434; Laughing Gull 5; Bonaparte's Gull 64; Ring-billed Gull 364; Herring Gull 2379; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 487; Razorbill 3; Rock Pigeon 153; Mourning Dove 195; E. Screech-Owl 9; Great Horned Owl 7; Snowy Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 15; Red-bellied Woodpecker 24; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4; Downy Woodpecker 42; Hairy Woodpecker 9; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 39; E. Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 112; Am. Crow 669; Fish Crow 1; Horned Lark 27; Tree Swallow 1; Black-capped Chickadee 222; Tufted Titmouse 71; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 30; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 81; Winter Wren 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; E. Bluebird 9; Swainson's Thrush 1 aq; Hermit Thrush 4; Am. Robin 509; Gray Catbird 11; No. Mockingbird 47; Brown Thrasher 2; European Starling 993; Am. Pipit 2; Cedar Waxwing 3; Orange-crowned Warbler 2; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 96; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; E. Towhee 7; Am. Tree Sparrow 6; Field Sparrow 17; Savannah Sparrow 27; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 20; Seaside Sparrow 9; Fox Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 325; Swamp Sparrow 68; White-throated Sparrow 694; White-crowned Sparrow 17; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 269; Snow Bunting 111; No. Cardinal 146; Red-winged Blackbird 163; Co. Grackle 15; Boat-tailed Grackle 93; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 166; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 225; House Sparrow 202.

Total: 120 species. **Sponsor:** E. Long Island Audubon Society. **Participants:** Andy Baldelli, James Benson, Susan Benson, Steve Biasetti (sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org), Vicki Bustamante, Ben Chaleff, Bill Chaleff, James Clinton Jr., Mel Cowgill, Eileen Gerle, Mike Higgiston, Phil Jermain, Richard Kaskan, Jay Kuhlman, Edward Kush, Hugh McGuinness, Kevin Nolan, Karen Rubinstein, Rich Sautkulis, Al Scherzer, Eileen Schwinn, Don Spates, Gigi Spates, Carl Starace, Sally Swain, Dianne Taggart, Angus Wilson.

Rochester [NYRH]

43.22° N 77.65° W; 14 Dec 08; 28°-47° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy, none-light rain; 62 observers. Total party hours 137.75.

Snow Goose 1; **Ross's Goose 1** nc; Cackling Goose 1; Canada Goose 8659; Mute Swan 219; Wood Duck 3; Gadwall 15; Am. Wigeon CW; Am. Black Duck 85; Mallard 1354; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 1; Canvasback 2; Redhead 72; Ring-necked Duck 2; Greater Scaup 909; Lesser Scaup 115; **Co. Eider 1**; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 274; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 1680; Bufflehead 34; Co. Goldeneye 403; Hooded Merganser 30; Co. Merganser 606; Red-breasted Merganser 1786; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Wild Turkey 49; Red-throated Loon 45; Co. Loon 15; Pied-billed Grebe CW; Horned Grebe 7; Red-necked Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant 6; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 27; Bald Eagle 3; No. Harrier 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 13; Cooper's Hawk 9; Red-tailed Hawk 52; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 9; Peregrine Falcon 1; Am. Coot 1; Purple Sandpiper CW; Bonaparte's Gull 143; Ring-billed Gull 4948; Herring Gull 1070; Iceland Gull 3; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 83; **Black-legged Kittiwake 1**; **Razorbill 1** nc, ph; Rock Pigeon 1112; Mourning Dove 610; E. Screech-Owl 80; Great Horned Owl 5; Snowy Owl 1; Long-eared Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 121; Downy Woodpecker 143; Hairy Woodpecker 53; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 18; Pileated Woodpecker 9; No. Shrike 2; Blue Jay 301; Am. Crow 22909; Horned Lark 1; Black-capped Chickadee 572; Tufted Titmouse 98; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-

breasted Nuthatch 82; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 12; Winter Wren 7; Marsh Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; E. Bluebird 8; Hermit Thrush CW; Am. Robin 2918; Gray Catbird 2; No. Mockingbird 12; European Starling 9029; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Cedar Waxwing 103; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; Co. Yellowthroat 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 218; Song Sparrow 28; Swamp Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 166; White-crowned Sparrow CW; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 211; Snow Bunting 24; No. Cardinal 366; Red-winged Blackbird 434; Co. Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; House Finch 323; White-winged Crossbill 47; Pine Siskin 66; Am. Goldfinch 267; House Sparrow 1060.

Totals: 101 species and 64,235 individuals. **Participants:** Carolyn Barnhart, Jerry Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Douglas Bassett, John Boettcher, Gary Chapin, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Jon Dombrowski, Josiah Finch, Sharon Galbraith, Andrew Garland, Chris Goldoff, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Kim Hartquist, Jack Hartwig, Bill Heckman, Monika Hermann-Kokis, Paul Lang, Fred Lawrence, Gregory Lawrence, Holly Lawrence, John Lehr, Gerhard Leubner, Ben Levy, David Levy, Bill Maier, Bob Marcotte, Cindy Marino, Patricia Martin, Judy Massare, Ferne Merrill, Thomas Nash, Jim Ochtanski, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Al Price, Carolyn Ragan, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Pat Smith, Tom Smith, **Robert Spahn** (rspahn@prodigy.net), Susan Spahn, Kimberly Sucey, Jerry Sullivan, William Symonds, Jo Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Donald Traver, Donna Traver, Cristopher Wood.

Rockland County [NYRC]

41.13° N 73.97° W; 14 Dec 08; 24°-43° F; AM clear; PM partly cloudy; 42 (61) observers. Total party hours 83.25.

Snow Goose (white form) 2; Canada Goose 4069; Mute Swan 14; Wood Duck 8; Gadwall 34; Am. Black Duck 43; Mallard 868; No. Shoveler 71; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal CW; Canvasback 654; Ring-necked Duck 3; Long-tailed Duck CW; Bufflehead 49; Co. Goldeneye 69; Hooded Merganser 54; Co. Merganser 2237; Ruddy Duck 314; **Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 1**; Wild Turkey 55; Pied-billed Grebe CW; Horned Grebe CW; Double-crested Cormorant 25; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 14; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1; Black Vulture 51; Turkey Vulture 70; Osprey 2; Bald Eagle 18; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Cooper's Hawk 8; Red-tailed Hawk 68; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Peregrine Falcon 1; Am. Coot 26; **Greater Yellowlegs 1**; **Lesser Yellowlegs 1** nd; Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 1447; Herring Gull 16; Great Black-backed Gull 33; Rock Pigeon 362; Mourning Dove 214; E. Screech-Owl 12; Great Horned Owl 9; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker 43; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 100; Hairy Woodpecker 21; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 25; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Blue Jay 236; Am. Crow 610; Fish Crow 2; Co. Raven 3; Horned Lark 1; Black-capped Chickadee 189; Tufted Titmouse 206; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 50; Brown Creeper 6; Carolina Wren 49; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9; E. Bluebird 8; Hermit Thrush 11; Am. Robin 446; Gray Catbird 1; No. Mockingbird 104; European Starling 5874; Am. Pipit 15; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; E. Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 24; Savannah Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 148; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 294; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 665; No. Cardinal 180; Red-winged Blackbird 415; Rusty Blackbird 1; Co. Grackle 76; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 62; Co. Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 353; House Sparrow 588.

Total: 92 species. **Sponsor:** Rockland Audubon Society. **Participants:** Danny Albantides, Debbie Bell, Frank Bonanno, Jr., Eugene Brown, Drew Ciganek, Ronald

Conzo, Karen D'Alessandri, Azucena Dow, Tom Dow, Philip Faurot, Glenys Foster Roberts, Susan Freiman, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Joanna Galdone, Michael Garber, Stephanie Garber, Larrie Goetz, Tom Harten, Christopher Healy, Gene Herskovics, Frank Kemmer, Karl Knoecklein, Bonnie Koop, Veronika Krause, Sandy Mattson, Ken McNichol, Marsha Meyer, Patricia Murray, Gloria North, Donna Nye, Jeremy Pardo, Vince Plogar, Jim Previdi, Helen Russell, Joan Totton, Jessie Traband, John Tyler, Julia Warger, Carol Weiss, **Alan Wells (awells@bestweb.net), Della Wells.**

Rome [NYRM]

43.22° N 75.33° W; 28 Dec 08; 24°-38° F; AM partly clear, light snow; PM partly cloudy, light snow; 14 (15) observers. Total party hours 41.5.

Canada Goose 6 LC; Am. Black Duck 6; Mallard 22; Ruffed Grouse 9; Wild Turkey 223; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 30; Bald Eagle 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 25; Rough-legged Hawk 6; Merlin 1; Ring-billed Gull 28; Herring Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 610; Mourning Dove 284; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 8; Downy Woodpecker 23; Hairy Woodpecker 7; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 142; Am. Crow 603; Co. Raven 9; Black-capped Chickadee 424; Tufted Titmouse 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 26; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 1; E. Bluebird 2; Am. Robin 3; European Starling 1232; Am. Tree Sparrow 23; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 45; Snow Bunting 255; No. Cardinal 12; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Co. Grackle CW; House Finch 33; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 27; Co. Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin 32; Am. Goldfinch 89; House Sparrow 176.

Total: 52 species. **Participants:** Brenda Best, **Bruce Carpenter (brucecar@aol.com)**, Cindy Carpenter, Candis Cesari, Dave Cesari, Dick Hill, Laura Hurley, Pat Hurley, William Parkin, Bill Purcell, Debbie Ringlehan, John Ringlehan, Dan Smith, Garrie Smith, Maureen Staloff.

Sagaponack [NYSG]

40.92° N 72.23° W; 21 Dec 08; 27°-43° F; AM cloudy, heavy rain; PM cloudy, light rain; 23 (25) observers. Total party hours 93.75.

Snow Goose 34; Cackling Goose 1; Canada Goose 5847; Mute Swan 170; Tundra Swan 3; Wood Duck 4; Gadwall 31; Eurasian Wigeon 1; Am. Wigeon 12; Am. Black Duck 770; Mallard 1326; No. Shoveler 5; No. Pintail CW; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 12; Canvasback 3; Ring-necked Duck 7; Greater Scaup 11; Co. Eider 1; Surf Scoter 923; White-winged Scoter 268; Black Scoter 1314; scoter sp. 80; Long-tailed Duck 290; Bufflehead 463; Co. Goldeneye 514; **Barrow's Goldeneye** 2; Hooded Merganser 115; Co. Merganser 30; Red-breasted Merganser 169; Ruddy Duck 270; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Wild Turkey 101; Red-throated Loon 409; Co. Loon 122; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Horned Grebe 29; No. Gannet 566; Double-crested Cormorant 12; Great Cormorant 5; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 10; No. Harrier 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 3; No. Goshawk 1; *Accipiter* sp. 2; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Merlin 2; Peregrine Falcon CW; Am. Coot 31; Black-bellied Plover 4; Killdeer 15; Greater Yellowlegs 2; Ruddy Turnstone 5; Sanderling 118; Purple Sandpiper 5; Dunlin 23; **dowitcher sp.** 2 US; Wilson's Snipe 27; Am. Woodcock 3; Bonaparte's Gull 123; Ring-billed Gull 809; Herring Gull 2156; Iceland Gull 3; Lesser Black-backed Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 321; Black-legged Kittiwake 13; large alcid sp. 1; Rock Pigeon 151; Mourning Dove 405; E. Screech-Owl 3; Great Horned Owl 2; Snowy Owl CW; No. Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker 17; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 24; Hairy Woodpecker 1; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 31; Blue Jay 144;

Am. Crow 386; Horned Lark 176; Black-capped Chickadee 194; Tufted Titmouse 93; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 5; Carolina Wren 59; Winter Wren 3; Marsh Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; E. Bluebird 13; Hermit Thrush 4; Am. Robin 355; Gray Catbird 9; No. Mockingbird 43; Brown Thrasher 3; European Starling 2760; Am. Pipit 10; Cedar Waxwing 13; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 62; E. Towhee 5; Am. Tree Sparrow 48; Field Sparrow 34; Savannah Sparrow 49; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 542; Swamp Sparrow 123; White-throated Sparrow 973; White-crowned Sparrow 24; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 168; Snow Bunting 18; No. Cardinal 182; **Dickcissel 1**; Red-winged Blackbird 1411; E. Meadowlark 4; Co. Grackle 4692; Brown-headed Cowbird 122; House Finch 79; Am. Goldfinch 48; House Sparrow 282.

Total: 117 species. **Participants:** Ryan Anderson, Jim Ash, Andy Baldelli, Gail Benson, Steve Biasetti, Tom Brown, Thomas Burke, Douglas Futuyama, Andrew Guthrie, Paul Hagen, Brian Kane, Richard Kaskan, Nicholas Laviola, Bob McGrath, **Hugh McGuinness** (hmcguinness@ross.org), Peter Osswald, Bryan Pfeiffer, Peter Polshek, Chris Roberts, Karen Rubinstein, Jarrod Santora, Carl Starace, Sally Swain, Richard R Veit, Angus Wilson.

Salem [NYSA]

43.13° N 73.42° W; 3 Jan 09; 22°-25° F; AM partly cloudy; PM clear; 27 observers. Total party hours 61.25.

Canada Goose 380; Am. Black Duck 8; Mallard 15; Co. Goldeneye 10; Hooded Merganser 2; Co. Merganser 29; Ruffed Grouse 8; Wild Turkey 163; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) CW; Bald Eagle 6; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 5; No. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk **99**; Rough-legged Hawk **11**; Golden Eagle 1; Am. Kestrel CW; Rock Pigeon 1246; Mourning Dove 521; Barred Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 32; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2**; Downy Woodpecker 75; Hairy Woodpecker 35; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Blue Jay 352; Am. Crow **982**; Co. Raven **55**; Horned Lark 261; Black-capped Chickadee 639; Tufted Titmouse **151**; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 69; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 1; E. Bluebird 65; Am. Robin 246; No. Mockingbird 1; European Starling **5383**; Cedar Waxwing 66; Am. Tree Sparrow 228; Song Sparrow 28; White-throated Sparrow 18; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 1173; Snow Bunting 30; No. Cardinal 80; Purple Finch 16; House Finch 116; **White-winged Crossbill 11** nc; Co. Redpoll **20**; Pine Siskin **83**; Am. Goldfinch **576**; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 452.

Total: 54 species. **Participants:** Roy Arenella, Quentin Beaver, Mary Emma Campbell, Al Cormier, Jay Cummings, Dave DeVries, Bonnie Dundas, Scott Dundas, Bill Eberle, Jim Foisset, Laurie Freeman, Alan Gee, Liz Gee, Bo Harris, Jan Harris, **John Helft** (drj@empireone.net), Kevin Hemeon, John Hubbard, Jon Lundgren, Bob Page, Gary Pockock, Lisa Randles, Ron Renoni, Sue Rosenberg, David Steinberger, Sue Van Hook, Karen White.

Saranac Lake [NYSL]

44.3° N 74.08° W; 3 Jan 09; 10°-23° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM clear; 30 observers. Total party hours 94.75.

Am. Black Duck 10; Mallard 261; Hooded Merganser 14; Co. Merganser CW; Ruffed Grouse 5; Wild Turkey 14; Bald Eagle **4**; Sharp-shinned Hawk **2**; Rock Pigeon 195; Mourning Dove 108; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher CW; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 23; Black-backed Woodpecker 2; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker CW; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 206; Am. Crow 125; Co. Raven **67**;

Black-capped Chickadee 984; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 119; White-breasted Nuthatch 23; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Am. Robin CW; European Starling 85; Am. Tree Sparrow 30; White-throated Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 66; No. Cardinal 26; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Pine Grosbeak 7; Purple Finch 8; Red Crossbill 4; White-winged Crossbill 119; Co. Redpoll 14; Pine Siskin 2021; Am. Goldfinch 253; Evening Grosbeak 128; House Sparrow 22.

Total: 40 species. **Participants:** Pat Thaxton, John Brown, Joan Collins, Tom Dudones, Ed Grant, Julie Hart, Debbie Kanze, Ed Kanze, Ned Kanze, Tassie Kanze, Linda LaPan, Fuat Latif, Ted Mack, John Marshall, **Larry Master** (larry@masterimages.org), Brian McAllister, Matt Medler, Sean O'Brien, Mary O'Dell, Peter O'Shea, Stan Oliva, Carol Pinney, Liz Resseguie, Lew Rosenberg, Sheila Rosenberg, Bill Schoch, Nina Schoch, Janet Stein, John Thaxton, Yvette Tillema, Tom Wheeler, Uta Wister.

Saratoga Spa S.P. [NYSS]

43.07 ° N 73.7 ° W; 20 Dec 08; 11°-15° F; AM cloudy, heavy snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 19 observers. Total party hours 57.5.

Snow Goose 6; Canada Goose 694; Am. Black Duck 17; Mallard 159; **Long-tailed Duck 1** nc; Co. Goldeneye 195; Hooded Merganser 3; Co. Merganser 195; Wild Turkey 11; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 3; *Accipiter* sp. 1; Red-tailed Hawk 35; Rough-legged Hawk 7; Ring-billed Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 5; Rock Pigeon 276; Mourning Dove 232; Barred Owl CW; Red-bellied Woodpecker 22; Downy Woodpecker 82; Hairy Woodpecker 27; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Blue Jay 176; Am. Crow 340; Co. Raven CW; Horned Lark 462; Black-capped Chickadee 371; Tufted Titmouse 156; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 63; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; E. Bluebird 35; Am. Robin 21; **Gray Catbird 1** nc; No. Mockingbird 3; European Starling 975; Am. Tree Sparrow 209; Song Sparrow 10; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1** nc, nd; White-throated Sparrow 22; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 378; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 425; No. Cardinal 98; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 108; crossbill sp. 12; Am. Goldfinch 323; House Sparrow 221.

Total: 53 species. **Sponsor:** Capital Region Audubon. **Participants:** John Adair, Sue Adair, Susan Beaudoin, Tom Beaudoin, Tom Cobb, William Ehmann, Craig Fosdick, Dave Gibson, Bruce Goodale, Ron Harrower, Jean Holcomb, Ellen Kiehl, Kevin Matocha, Ray Perry, Barb Putnam, Jack Rebar, **Larry Rowland** (lrowland@nycap.rr.com), Edwin Schiele, Alison Van Keuren.

Schenectady [NYST]

42.75° N 73.92° W; 20 Dec 08; 10°-18° F; AM cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 20 observers. Total party hours 61.75.

Snow Goose 1; Canada Goose 621; Mute Swan 1; Am. Black Duck 55; Mallard 808; No. Pintail 1; Co. Goldeneye CW; Hooded Merganser 3; Co. Merganser 68; Ruffed Grouse CW; Wild Turkey 25; **Double-crested Cormorant 1**; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 7; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 76; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-billed Gull 15; Herring Gull 253; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 36; Rock Pigeon 383; Mourning Dove 319; E. Screech-Owl 6; Great Horned Owl 3; Short-eared Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 32; Downy Woodpecker 78; Hairy Woodpecker 19; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 171; Am. Crow 2116; Co. Raven 1; Black-capped Chickadee 278; Tufted Titmouse 106;

Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 63; Carolina Wren 6; Winter Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; E. Bluebird 66; Am. Robin 1594; No. Mockingbird 10; European Starling 1910; Cedar Waxwing 16; Am. Tree Sparrow 83; Song Sparrow 15; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 149; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 286; Snow Bunting 79; No. Cardinal 133; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 121; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 176; House Sparrow 202.

Total: 62 species. **Sponsor:** Hudson Mohawk Bird Club. **Participants:** Lawrence Alden, Janet Betlejeski, Stan Blanchard, Joan Cipriani, Carl George, Catherine Graichen, Bernard Grossman, Christine Grossman, John Hershey, Edwin Hicks, **William Lee (bileej@hotmail.com)**, Kathleen LoGuidice, Alan Mapes, Thomas R. Palmer, Gregg Recer, Jim Ries, Peggy Rudis, Henry Stebbins, Jaime Taft, Robert Yunick.

Scio [NYSO]

42.17° N 78.07° W; 20 Dec 08; 14°-20° F; AM partly48cloudy, light snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 11 (12) observers. Total party hours 33.25.

Canada Goose **1236**; Mallard 25; Co. Merganser 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Wild Turkey 58; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; **Turkey Vulture 1**; **Bald Eagle 1**; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Herring Gull 14; Rock Pigeon 788; Mourning Dove 125; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 5; Downy Woodpecker 28; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 1; No. Shrike 2; Blue Jay 175; Am. Crow **681**; Co. Raven 3; Horned Lark 35; Black-capped Chickadee 271; Tufted Titmouse 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 18; Carolina Wren 4; Am. Robin 10; European Starling 376; Cedar Waxwing 43; Am. Tree Sparrow 78; Field Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 10; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 217; Snow Bunting 150; No. Cardinal 24; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Purple Finch 24; House Finch 18; Pine Siskin 95; Am. Goldfinch 139; House Sparrow 37.

Total: 48 species. **Sponsor:** Allegany County Bird Club. **Participants:** Colby Allen, Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, **Doris Burton**, Steven Chaffee, Peter Finlay, Walt Franklin, James Horn, Anne Pival, Robert Pival, Ernest Rositzke, Robert Smalley.

Sherburne [NYSH]

42.68° N 75.5° W; 20 Dec 08; 12°-23° F; AM cloudy, light-heavy snow; PM partly cloudy; 21 observers. Total party hours 54.25.

Canada Goose 544; Am. Black Duck 7; Mallard 109; Co. Merganser 9; Ruffed Grouse 3; Wild Turkey 237; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 1; No. Harrier CW; Sharp-shinned Hawk **6**; Cooper's Hawk **5**; Red-tailed Hawk 33; Rough-legged Hawk 5; Am. Kestrel 1; Rock Pigeon 1287; Mourning Dove 453; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 52; Hairy Woodpecker 28; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 208; Am. Crow **1807**; Co. Raven 2; Horned Lark 30; Black-capped Chickadee **498**; Tufted Titmouse **39**; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch **86**; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; Gray Catbird CW; European Starling 2249; Cedar Waxwing 33; Am. Tree Sparrow 145; Song Sparrow 7; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 9; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 238; Snow Bunting 167; No. Cardinal **83**; Red-winged Blackbird CW; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Purple Finch 11; House Finch 20 LC; White-winged Crossbill **49**; Pine Siskin **25**; Am. Goldfinch 188; House Sparrow 326.

Total: 47 species. **Sponsor:** Chenango Bird Club, Rogers Environmental Education Center. **Participants:** Anne Altshuler; Stan Benedict, Laura Carey, Holly Crouch, Jim Davis, Chris DeCesare, Anne Geary, Aaron Graves, Esther Graves, Marsha Guzewich,

John Knapp, Suzanne Knapp, Tom Knapp, Linda Mason, Van Mason, Suzanne Schwarz, Nigel Seddon, Mark Tanis, Deborah Whitman, Donald Windsor, **Fred von Mechow** (vonmechow@frontiernet.net).

Skaneateles [NYSK]

42.95° N 76.43° W; 3 Jan 09; 20°-33° F; AM cloudy, heavy snow; PM cloudy, light snow; 20 observers. Total party hours 71.5.

Canada Goose 1099; **Mute Swan 1** nc; Tundra Swan 7; Am. Black Duck 131; Mallard 527; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 4; Ring-necked Duck 1; Bufflehead 97; Co. Goldeneye 18; Hooded Merganser 9; Co. Merganser 28; **Ruddy Duck 1** nc; Ruffed Grouse 3; Wild Turkey 248; **Red-necked Grebe 2**; **Double-crested Cormorant 1** nc; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 2; No. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 53; Am. Kestrel 1; Am. Coot 2; Ring-billed Gull 108; Herring Gull 90; Great Black-backed Gull 9; Rock Pigeon 285; Mourning Dove 518; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 57; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 90; Hairy Woodpecker 16; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 20; Pileated Woodpecker 5; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 203; Am. Crow 2487; **Co. Raven 1**; Black-capped Chickadee 438; Tufted Titmouse 76; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 69; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; E. Bluebird 38; Am. Robin 286; European Starling 2365; Am. Tree Sparrow 144; **Chipping Sparrow 4** nc, nd; Song Sparrow 15; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 26; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 378; Snow Bunting 228; No. Cardinal 213; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Co. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 130; **White-winged Crossbill 30**; Pine Siskin 10; Am. Goldfinch 236; House Sparrow 330.

Total: 68 species. **Participants:** Sue Boettger, Joe Brin, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Bernie Carr, **John Cashier** (fjcash@twcny.rr.com), Roger Daigle, Hank Elice, David Graham, Derek Green, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Robin Jowaisis, Caroline Manring, Margaret Manring, Kevin McGann, Don O'Brien, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Thomas Riley.

Smithtown [NYSM]

40.87° N 73.2° W; 27 Dec 08; 38°-47° F; AM cloudy, light rain; PM foggy; 21 observers. Total party hours 136.

'Atlantic' Brant 461; Canada Goose 1878; Mute Swan **337**; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall **530**; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; Am. Wigeon **804**; Am. Black Duck 581; Mallard 1034; No. Shoveler 27; No. Pintail 48; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 10; Canvasback 20; **Redhead 1**; Ring-necked Duck 276; Greater Scaup 8; Lesser Scaup 2; Surf Scoter 46; White-winged Scoter 495; Black Scoter 40; Long-tailed Duck **752**; Bufflehead 278; Co. Goldeneye 499; Hooded Merganser 222; Co. Merganser **214**; Red-breasted Merganser 613; Ruddy Duck 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Red-throated Loon 42; Co. Loon **151**; Pied-billed Grebe 4; Horned Grebe 72; No. Gannet 5; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 73; Great Egret 9; Snowy Egret 2; Black-crowned Night-Heron 22; **Bald Eagle CW**; No. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 28; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Clapper Rail 2; Virginia Rail 2; Am. Coot 77; Black-bellied Plover 8; Sanderling 268; Purple Sandpiper **12**; Dunlin 86; Laughing Gull CW; **Black-headed Gull 1**; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 1816; Herring Gull 1406; Great Black-backed Gull 182; Razorbill 5; Rock Pigeon 148; Mourning Dove 166; E. Screech-Owl 14; Great Horned Owl **10**; **Short-eared Owl 1**; Belted Kingfisher 34; Red-bellied Woodpecker 57; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 82; Hairy Woodpecker 24; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 48; Blue Jay 93; Am. Crow 1671; Fish

Crow 20; Horned Lark 19; Black-capped Chickadee 265; Tufted Titmouse 64; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 30; Brown Creeper 9; Carolina Wren 184; Winter Wren 22; Marsh Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 38; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; Hermit Thrush 3; Am. Robin 244; Gray Catbird 7; No. Mockingbird 87; Brown Thrasher 3; European Starling 1128; Cedar Waxwing 190; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 47; E. Towhee 4; Am. Tree Sparrow 33; **Chipping Sparrow 2**; Field Sparrow 1; **Savannah Sparrow 1**; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 228; Swamp Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 413; White-crowned Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 177; Snow Bunting 32; No. Cardinal 176; Red-winged Blackbird 83; Rusty Blackbird 10; Co. Grackle 26; Brown-headed Cowbird 37; House Finch 39; Pine Siskin 44; Am. Goldfinch 114; House Sparrow 129.

Total: 112 species. **Participants:** Luci Betti, Brent Bomkamp, Sean Duffy, Douglas Futuyama, **Rich Gostic** (rgostic@optonline.net), Jeff Gottlieb, Susan Krause, Jim LaRosa, Bill Maars, Hugh McGuinness, Robert McGrath, Daniel Oliveri, Doreen Oliveri, Marc Oliveri, Peter Osswald, Glenn Quinn, Peter Scully, Diane Spitz, Tom Stock, Jordan Wolf.

Southern Nassau County [NYSN]

40.62° N 73.6° W, center Baldwin Bay; 3 Jan 09, 6:30 am-5:00 pm; 28°-38° F; wind NW 5-22 mph; snow cover 0-2"; AM partly cloudy; PM partly clear; 72 observers in 30 parties (non-owling) plus 4 at feeders. Total party hours 216; party miles 389; 179.5 hours and 136 miles on foot; 34.5 hours and 258 miles by car; 2 hours and 5 miles by boat. Feeder effort 18 hours by 4 observers; owling effort 1.5 hours and 1.5 miles.

Greater White-fronted Goose 1; Snow Goose 12; **Ross's Goose CW**; 'Atlantic' Brant 31739; Canada Goose 5620; Mute Swan 156; **Tundra Swan 1**; Gadwall 342; Eurasian Wigeon 1; Am. Wigeon 134; Am. Black Duck 6798; Mallard 2583; Blue-winged Teal 1; No. Shoveler 235; No. Pintail 210; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 384; **Eurasian Green-winged Teal 1**; Canvasback 7; Redhead 38; Ring-necked Duck 46; Greater Scaup 424; Lesser Scaup 193; scaup sp. 60; King Eider 1; Co. Eider 2; Harlequin Duck 5; Surf Scoter 447; White-winged Scoter 20; Black Scoter 1891; Long-tailed Duck **2063**; Bufflehead 297; Co. Goldeneye CW; Hooded Merganser **1235**; Co. Merganser 37; Red-breasted Merganser **3659**; Ruddy Duck 486; Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 17; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Red-throated Loon 217; Co. Loon 85; Pied-billed Grebe 17; Horned Grebe 78; No. Gannet 1402; Double-crested Cormorant 41; Great Cormorant 34; cormorant sp. 1; Am. Bittern 3; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 106; Tricolored Heron 2; Black-crowned Night-Heron 67; No. Harrier 43; Sharp-shinned Hawk **25**; Cooper's Hawk **17**; accipiter sp. 1; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 29; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; Merlin 7; Peregrine Falcon 15; Virginia Rail 2; Am. Coot 155; Black-bellied Plover 127; Killdeer 5; Am. Oystercatcher 1; Greater Yellowlegs 22; Lesser Yellowlegs CW; Ruddy Turnstone 14; Red Knot CW; Sanderling 282; Purple Sandpiper 46; Dunlin 1011; Long-billed Dowitcher 6; Wilson's Snipe 2; Am. Woodcock 2; Black-headed Gull 2; Bonaparte's Gull 663; Ring-billed Gull **6805**; Herring Gull 4341; Iceland Gull 1; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 572; Dovekie CW; Razorbill 1; Rock Pigeon **1640**; Mourning Dove 287; **Monk Parakeet 3**; Barn Owl 3; E. Screech-Owl 1; Snowy Owl 4; Long-eared Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 12; **Red-headed Woodpecker 1**; Red-bellied Woodpecker 26; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Downy Woodpecker 82; Hairy Woodpecker 13; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 85; Blue Jay 55; Am. Crow 143; Fish Crow 5; Horned Lark **364**; Tree Swallow 10; Black-capped Chickadee 80; Tufted Titmouse 38; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 20; Brown Creeper 11; Carolina Wren **71**; Winter Wren 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 34; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12; Hermit Thrush 4; Am.

Robin 521; Gray Catbird 18; No. Mockingbird 191; Brown Thrasher 1; European Starling 3815; Am. Pipit 52; Cedar Waxwing 15; Orange-crowned Warbler 2; 'Audubon's' Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 ph; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 1370; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; E. Towhee 6; Am. Tree Sparrow 34 LC; Field Sparrow 10; Savannah Sparrow 43; 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow 3; **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** 1 gd; Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2; sharp-tailed sparrow sp. 1; Seaside Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 30; Song Sparrow 454; Swamp Sparrow 33; White-throated Sparrow 448; White-crowned Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 54; Lapland Longspur 10; Snow Bunting 293; No. Cardinal 212; Red-winged Blackbird 30; E. Meadowlark 1; Rusty Blackbird 16; Brown-headed Cowbird 176; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 297; Pine Siskin 27; Am. Goldfinch 214; House Sparrow 794.

Total: 141 species. **Participants:** Megan Aitchison, Seth Ausubel, Robert Bate, Matt Bayer, Gail Benson, Bob Berlingeri, Mary Beth Billerman, Shawn Billerman, Shane Blodgett, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Marc Brody, Sharon Brody, James Browne, Jackie Bruskin, David Burg, Thomas W. Burke, Mike Cooper, Ed Coyle, Steven D'Amato, George Dadone, Joseph DiCostanzo, Jacob Drucker, Patricia Duffet, Michael Farina, Ken Feustel, Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, Brendan Fogarty, Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyama, Andy Gershon, Leslie Gershon, Richard Gershon, Joe Giunta, Jeff Glassberg, Valerie Gryntysz, Dennis Guiney, David Havens, Gene Herskovics, Mitchell Horowitz, Rob Jett, Pat Jones, Rich Kelly, Jeffrey Kimball, David Klauber, David Kunstler, Robert Kurtz, Emanuel Levine, Mickey Levine, **Patricia Lindsay** (pjlindsay@optonline.net), Jean Loscalzo, Debbie Martin, Paul Matulonis, Chuck McAlexander, Barbara McBrien, Michael McBrien, Hugh McGuinness, Eric Miller, **Shai Mitra** (mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu), Steve Naham, Mary Normandia, Bob Paxton, Sarah Plimpton, Peter Post, Joan Quinlan, Bill Reeves, Seymour Schiff, Jane Scott, Sean Sime, Lloyd Spitalnik, Joe Vigiotta, Aaron Virgin, John Walsh, Scott Whittle, John Zarudsky.

Southern Orange County [NYSU]

41.3° N 78.33° W; 27 Dec 08; 30°-42° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy; 18 observers. Total party hours 52.

Canada Goose 2067; Mute Swan 24; Gadwall 6; Am. Wigeon 1; Am. Black Duck 35; Mallard 246; No. Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 1; Bufflehead 13; Co. Goldeneye 7; Hooded Merganser 9; Co. Merganser 61; Ruddy Duck 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Wild Turkey 87; **Red-throated Loon** 1 nc; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 8; Black Vulture 64; Turkey Vulture 11; No. Harrier 13; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Cooper's Hawk 14; Red-shouldered Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 73; Rough-legged Hawk 13; Am. Kestrel 4; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Killdeer 1; Ring-billed Gull 826; Herring Gull 86; Rock Pigeon 387; Mourning Dove 404; Barred Owl 2; Long-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 40; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3; Downy Woodpecker 60; Hairy Woodpecker 9; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 26; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 301; Am. Crow 2498; Co. Raven 4; Horned Lark 92; Black-capped Chickadee 190; Tufted Titmouse 148; White-breasted Nuthatch 64; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 26; Winter Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; E. Bluebird 53; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 614; No. Mockingbird 54; European Starling 5168; Cedar Waxwing 173; 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warbler 10; Am. Tree Sparrow 262; Field Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 112; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 455; White-crowned Sparrow 40; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 798; No. Cardinal 166; Red-winged Blackbird 52; Rusty Blackbird 19;

—continued on page 169

PHOTO GALLERY
Winter 2008-09



Figure A. Orange-crowned Warbler, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Kings County, 20 Dec 08, copyright Doug Gochfeld.



Figure B. White-winged Crossbills, Golden Hill SP, Niagara County, 19 Jan 09, copyright Brad Carlson.



Figure C. White-winged Crossbill, Jones Beach West End, Nassau County, 20 Jan 09, copyright Ken Feustel; Snow Bunting, Jones Beach West End, Nassau County 26 Dec 08, copyright Ken Feustel.



Figure D. “Eurasian” Green-winged Teal, Milburn Pond, Nassau County, 24 Jan 09, copyright Steve Walter; “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler, Tobay, Nassau County, 4 Jan 09, copyright Steve Walter.

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Co. Grackle **504**; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Purple Finch 42; House Finch 206; Pine Siskin 30; Am. Goldfinch 121; House Sparrow 326.

Total: 80 species. **Participants:** David Baker, Sharon Baker, Lynn Barber, David Hultgren, William Ianunne, Dennis Murphy, Gerhard Patsch, Bob Slechta, **Herb Stein** (hstein@hvc.rr.com), John Yrizzary.

Southern Rensselaer County [NYSR]

42.62° N 73.63° W; 27 Dec 08; 35°-41° F; AM cloudy, light rain; PM partly clear, light rain; 19 observers. Total party hours 57.25.

Canada Goose 309; Am. Black Duck 1; Mallard 183; No. Pintail 2; Co. Merganser 10; Wild Turkey 172; Bald Eagle 3; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Cooper's Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 57; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Merlin 2; Peregrine Falcon 2; Ring-billed Gull 80; Herring Gull 159; Iceland Gull **2**; **Glaucous Gull 1**; Great Black-backed Gull 17; Rock Pigeon 1068; Mourning Dove 219; Snowy Owl CW; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 16; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 65; Hairy Woodpecker 17; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Blue Jay 202; Am. Crow 3510; Fish Crow 3; Co. Raven 1; Black-capped Chickadee 488; Tufted Titmouse 150; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 54; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; E. Bluebird **84**; Am. Robin 372; No. Mockingbird 16; European Starling 2817; Cedar Waxwing 48; Am. Tree Sparrow 90 LC; **Vesper Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 13; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 37; White-crowned Sparrow **2**; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 377; No. Cardinal 84; Red-winged Blackbird 15; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 80; White-winged Crossbill 1; Pine Siskin **111**; Am. Goldfinch 168; House Sparrow 331.

Total: 61 species. **Participants:** Hope Batcheller, Paul Brannigan, Joan Cipriani, Bernice Fiske, Gary Goodness, Don Gresens, Jory Langner, William Lee, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Jim Ries, Bill Ritz, Peggy Rudis, Debbie Shaw, Jamie Taft, Marjorie Whitney, **Philip Whitney** (philandmarjwhitney@earthlink.net), Steve Yandik, Will Yandik.

St. Bonaventure [NYSB]

42.1° N 78.48° W; 14 Dec 08; 25°-37° F; AM partly cloudy; PM cloudy, light rain; 9 observers. Total party hours 40.5.

Canada Goose 249; Am. Black Duck 10; Mallard 117; Co. Merganser 29; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 30; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 17; Am. Kestrel 1; Rock Pigeon 248; Mourning Dove 146; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 2; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 6; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 139; Am. Crow **588**; Co. Raven 4; Black-capped Chickadee 210; Tufted Titmouse 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 15; Carolina Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; E. Bluebird 4; Am. Robin 3; European Starling 590; Cedar Waxwing 45; Am. Tree Sparrow 22; White-throated Sparrow 8; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 150; No. Cardinal 28; Red-winged Blackbird **48**; Co. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 13; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 53; White-winged Crossbill 5; Co. Redpoll 38; Pine Siskin **136**; Am. Goldfinch **116**; House Sparrow 34.

Total: 45 species. **Sponsor:** Cattaraugus County Bird Club. **Participants:** Tim Baird, Michael DeSha, Joyce Ermer, Michael Ermer, Tom LeBlanc, Jeff McMullen, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, **Regina VanScoy** (vanscoy716@hughes.net).

Staten Island [NYSI]

40.58° N 74.15° W; 20 Dec 08; 23°-35° F; AM partly cloudy; PM partly cloudy; 35 observers. Total party hours 84.5.

Greater White-fronted Goose 1; Snow Goose (white form) 2; 'Atlantic' Brant 2028; Canada Goose **5087**; Mute Swan 7; Gadwall 164; Am. Wigeon 100; Am. Black Duck 478; Mallard 798; No. Shoveler **117**; No. Pintail 1; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 48; Ring-necked Duck 10; Greater Scaup 1857; Lesser Scaup 15; Long-tailed Duck 44; Bufflehead 421; Co. Goldeneye 155; Hooded Merganser 102; Co. Merganser **122**; Red-breasted Merganser 105; Ruddy Duck 101; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Wild Turkey 11; Red-throated Loon 4; Co. Loon 19; Pied-billed Grebe 5; Horned Grebe 48; **Western Grebe 1** nc; Double-crested Cormorant 21; Great Cormorant 11; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 11; Turkey Vulture 3; No. Harrier 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 10; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 30; Am. Kestrel 3; Merlin **4**; Peregrine Falcon 4; Am. Coot 19; Killdeer 3; **Spotted Sandpiper** CW; Ruddy Turnstone 24; Sanderling 71; Purple Sandpiper 3; Wilson's Snipe 2; Am. Woodcock 1; Bonaparte's Gull 80; Ring-billed Gull 2659; Herring Gull 2217; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 597; Rock Pigeon 480; Mourning Dove 287; Barn Owl 1; E. Screech-Owl 7; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 43; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4; Downy Woodpecker 87; Hairy Woodpecker **15**; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 31; E. Phoebe 1; Blue Jay 153; Am. Crow 27; Fish Crow 8; Horned Lark 83; Black-capped Chickadee 75; Tufted Titmouse 42; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 38; Brown Creeper 3; Carolina Wren 46; Winter Wren 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Hermit Thrush 13; Am. Robin 259; No. Mockingbird 99; European Starling 1558; Am. Pipit **80**; Cedar Waxwing 8; Orange-crowned Warbler CW; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; Co. Yellowthroat 2; E. Towhee 4; Am. Tree Sparrow 73; Chipping Sparrow CW; Field Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 13; Fox Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 219; Swamp Sparrow 34; White-throated Sparrow 851; White-crowned Sparrow 2; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 426; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting **333**; No. Cardinal **265**; Red-winged Blackbird 289; E. Meadowlark 2; Co. Grackle 104; Brown-headed Cowbird 66; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 83; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 246; House Sparrow 707.

Total: 109 species. **Participants:** Debora Amos, Catherine Barron, George, Tom Brown, Richard Buegler, Eva Callahan, Lisa DeFrancesco, Rollin Deas, Tom Dulski, Charles Fallon, Jeffrey Fallon, Howard Fischer, John Flynn, Joe Goldie, Cliff Hagen, Harry Jenkins, **Edward Johnson (cicadaman1@aol.com)**, Zachary Johnson, David Jordet, Ray Matarazzo, Wayne Mones, Sean Murphy, Chuck Perry, Anne Purcell, Irving Robbins, Jarrod Santora, Matthew Savoca, Michael Shanley, Jeff Stetson, John Stonick, Joe Trezza, Richard Veit, Dana Weber, Seth Wollney.

Syracuse [NYSY]

43.1° N 76.08° W; 20 Dec 08; 11°-15° F; AM cloudy; PM cloudy; 29 observers. Total party hours 70.5.

Snow Goose 47; (large forms) Canada Goose 3690; Tundra Swan **95**; Wood Duck 1; Gadwall 2; Am. Wigeon 2; Am. Black Duck 83; Mallard 969; Canvasback 1; Redhead **77**; Ring-necked Duck 8; Lesser Scaup **151**; White-winged Scoter 3; Bufflehead 26; Co. Goldeneye 211; Hooded Merganser 13; Co. Merganser 3602; Wild Turkey 59; Co. Loon 2; Pied-billed Grebe **9**; Horned Grebe 3; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 12; Bald Eagle 2; No. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Cooper's Hawk 8; Red-tailed Hawk 71; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Am. Coot 5; Ring-billed Gull 730; Herring Gull 326; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed

Gull 171; Rock Pigeon 1373; Mourning Dove 395; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker 32; Downy Woodpecker 73; Hairy Woodpecker 21; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 12; Pileated Woodpecker 3; No. Shrike 3; Blue Jay 117; Am. Crow 6502; Fish Crow 3; Black-capped Chickadee 358; Tufted Titmouse 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 52; Brown Creeper 2; Carolina Wren 7; Winter Wren 1; E. Bluebird 5; Am. Robin 362; No. Mockingbird 8; European Starling 4559; Cedar Waxwing 119; Am. Tree Sparrow 132; Song Sparrow 7; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 62; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 98; No. Cardinal 176; Red-winged Blackbird 11; House Finch 108; Co. Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 164; House Sparrow 550.

Total: 76 species. **Sponsor:** Onandaga Audubon Society, Honeywell Corp. **Participants:** Larry Linder, Bob Asanoma, Tyrese Birden, Sue Boetcher, Joe Brin, Bernie Carr, Connie Case, Jerry Case, Domenick Clegg, Roger Daigle, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Sadiq Judge, **Kevin McGann** (pmcgann1@twcny.rr.com), Tom McKay, David Nash, David Perrin, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, John Rogers, Margaret Rusk, David Ryan, Jeanne Ryan, Carianna Shepherd, Cinnamon Shepherd, Naquan Shepherd, Tony Shrimpton, Judy Thurber, Kyle Wright.

Thousand Islands [ONTI]

44.35° N 75.98° W; 27 Dec 08; 39°-46° F; AM foggy, light-heavy rain; PM foggy, light-heavy rain; 31 observers. Total party hours 84.25.

Canada Goose 385; Gadwall 1; Am. Black Duck 9; Mallard 140; duck sp. 10; Ring-necked Duck 2; Bufflehead 6; Co. Goldeneye 93; Hooded Merganser 2; Co. Merganser 104; Ruffed Grouse 9; Wild Turkey 181; Co. Loon 2; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1; Bald Eagle 28; Cooper's Hawk 2; No. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 21; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Ring-billed Gull 108; Herring Gull 143; Great Black-backed Gull 12; gull sp. 1; Rock Pigeon 107; Mourning Dove 309; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 31; Hairy Woodpecker 21; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 9; No. Shrike 4; Blue Jay 320; Am. Crow 324; Co. Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 512; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 60; nuthatch sp. 4; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; E. Bluebird 7; Am. Robin 29; European Starling 632; Cedar Waxwing 100; Am. Tree Sparrow 168; Song Sparrow 1; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 151; Snow Bunting 770; No. Cardinal 19; Co. Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 17; White-winged Crossbill 21; Co. Redpoll 2; Am. Goldfinch 186; finch sp. 7; House Sparrow 51.

Total: 55 species. **Sponsor:** St. Lawrence Islands National Park. **Participants:** none listed. **Compiler:** Chris Bellmore.

Troy [NYTR]

42.83° N 73.67° W; 3 Jan 09; 25°-30° F; AM clear; PM clear; 19 observers. Total party hours 64.75.

Canada Goose 218; Am. Black Duck 112; Mallard 366; Ring-necked Duck 10; Greater Scaup 3; Lesser Scaup 1; Long-tailed Duck 1; Bufflehead 1; Co. Goldeneye 135; Hooded Merganser 23; Co. Merganser 194; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid) 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Wild Turkey 90; Pied-billed Grebe CW; Bald Eagle 13; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 10; No. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 126; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Am. Kestrel 1; Peregrine Falcon 3; Ring-billed Gull 150; Herring Gull 350; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 222; Rock Pigeon 947; Mourning Dove 540; **Monk Parakeet** CW, ph; E. Screech-Owl 1; Great Horned Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 25; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11; Downy Woodpecker 99; Hairy Woodpecker 19; 'Yellow-

shafted' No. Flicker **28**; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Blue Jay 179; Am. Crow 4653; Fish Crow 5; Co. Raven 1; Horned Lark 104; Black-capped Chickadee 569; Tufted Titmouse 127; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 84; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren **13**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; E. Bluebird **116**; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 348; No. Mockingbird 4; European Starling 3668; Cedar Waxwing 26; Am. Tree Sparrow 126; Song Sparrow 39; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 193; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 382; Snow Bunting 4; No. Cardinal 116; Brown-headed Cowbird 63; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 76; Co. Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 87; Am. Goldfinch 203; House Sparrow 351.

Total: 72 species. **Sponsor:** Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club **Participants:** Sue Adair, **Lawrence Alden** (overlook@nycap.rr.com), Hannah Bewsher, Traynor Biasioli, Steve Chorvas, Joan Cipriani, Peg Clement, Richard Guthrie, Jeremy Kirclman, Bill Lee, David Martin, Sandy Martin, Norton Miller, Joel Ralston, Peggy Rudis, George Steele, Jaime Taft, Alison Van Keuren, Brad Walker.

Watertown [NYWA]

44.0° N 76.0° W; 20 Dec 08; 0°-12° F; AM partly cloudy, light snow; PM partly cloudy; 11 (12) observers. Total party hours 29.0.

Canada Goose 569; Am. Black Duck 2 LC; Mallard 223; No. Pintail 1 LC; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 4 LC; Co. Goldeneye 4 LC; Hooded Merganser 1; Co. Merganser 12 LC; Ruffed Grouse 6; Wild Turkey 86 LC; **Pied-billed Grebe 1** nc; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 44 LC; Rough-legged Hawk 20 LC; Herring Gull 4 LC; Rock Pigeon 517; Mourning Dove 228; Red-bellied Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 9 LC; Pileated Woodpecker 3; No. Shrike 4; Blue Jay 153; Am. Crow **25585**; Co. Raven 2; Horned Lark 165; Black-capped Chickadee 127; White-breasted Nuthatch 11; Am. Robin 8 LC; European Starling 943; Am. Tree Sparrow 89; White-throated Sparrow 30; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 97; Snow Bunting 612; No. Cardinal 31 LC; Brown-headed Cowbird 1 LC; House Finch 19 LC; Am. Goldfinch 51 LC; House Sparrow 176.

Totals: 41 species. **Participants:** Jeff Bolsinger, Marion Brouse, Richard Brouse, Carol Cady, Julie Covey, Steve Guy, Carol Hutchinson, Betty Prosser, **David Prosser** (dwprosser@aol.com), Eve Sweatman, June Walker, Robert Walker.

Watkins Glen [NYWG]

42.37° N 76.87° W; 27 Dec 08; 35°-53° F; AM cloudy, heavy rain; PM partly clear; 6 observers. Total party hours 44.

Snow Goose (white form) 51; Canada Goose 1572; **Tundra Swan** CW; Gadwall 1; Am. Wigeon 1; Am. Black Duck 16; Mallard 298; Canvasback 10; Redhead 475; Greater Scaup 12; Lesser Scaup **20**; Long-tailed Duck 1; Bufflehead 11; Hooded Merganser 3; Co. Merganser 15; Ruddy Duck 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Wild Turkey **178**; Pied-billed Grebe 5; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron (Blue form) CW; No. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper's Hawk 1; No. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 53; Rough-legged Hawk 8; Am. Kestrel 2; Am. Coot 215; Ring-billed Gull 739; Herring Gull 201; Great Black-backed Gull 3; Rock Pigeon 438; Mourning Dove 234; Great Horned Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 34; Downy Woodpecker 66; Hairy Woodpecker 29; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 4; No. Shrike 2; Blue Jay 140; Am. Crow 490; Co. Raven 6; Horned Lark 3; Black-capped Chickadee 209; Tufted Titmouse 70; White-breasted Nuthatch 48; Carolina Wren 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; E. Bluebird 91; Am. Robin 27; No. Mockingbird 3; European Starling 3281; Cedar Waxwing 111; E. Towhee CW; Am. Tree Sparrow 60; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 24; 'Slate-colored'

Dark-eyed Junco 165; No. Cardinal 97; Brown-headed Cowbird 91; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 194; White-winged Crossbill 36; Pine Siskin 14; Am. Goldfinch 159; House Sparrow 109.

Totals: 67 species & 10174 individuals. **Participants:** Jack Brubaker (jack@fccusa.com), Ed Gates, John Gregoire, Bill Ostrander, Barlow Rhodes, Fred Sibley.

Wilson-Lake Plains [NYWL]

43.23° N 78.67° W; 20 Dec 08; 15°-19° F; AM partly cloudy, light snow; PM partly clear, light snow; 12 (14) observers. Total party hours 46.75.

Cackling Goose 3 nc; Canada Goose 1852; Mute Swan 4; Am. Black Duck 2; Mallard 324; 'Am.' Green-winged Teal 1 nc; Redhead 6; Greater Scaup 5; White-winged Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 16; Bufflehead 6; Co. Goldeneye 39; Hooded Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 58; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Wild Turkey 28; No. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Cooper's Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 21; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 4; Ring-billed Gull 127; Herring Gull 154; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Rock Pigeon 214; Mourning Dove 741; E. Screech-Owl 7; Great Horned Owl 1; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 20; Downy Woodpecker 42; Hairy Woodpecker 16; 'Yellow-shafted' No. Flicker 20; Pileated Woodpecker 2; No. Shrike 1; Blue Jay 195; Am. Crow 247; Horned Lark 109; Black-capped Chickadee 167; Tufted Titmouse 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 23; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; E. Bluebird 26; Am. Robin 9; No. Mockingbird 2; European Starling 936; Cedar Waxwing 138; Am. Tree Sparrow 197; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 11; White-crowned Sparrow 13; 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Junco 200; Snow Bunting 365; No. Cardinal 101; Red-winged Blackbird 20; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 8; House Finch 127; White-winged Crossbill 12 nc; Co. Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 42; Am. Goldfinch 123; House Sparrow 598.

Totals: 68 species & 7443 individuals. **Participants:** Paula Bigelow, Julie Eberhart, Robert Ensminger, **Garner Light (garnerlight@hotmail.com)**, Gary Light, Mitchel Light, Celeste Morien, Sherry Poczciwinski, Thomas Poczciwinski, Edward Ratajczak, Chuck Rosenburg, Gerry Teal, Sally Uzunov, Robert Wagner.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2008-09

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THE WEATHER

Temperatures were average throughout the state for December and January and very slightly above average for February. This reversed the trend of the last three winters which recorded above average temperatures for the first two winter months. Although monthly conditions looked average, the state experienced very cyclic weather in early winter, with snowfall concentrated in periodic heavy downfalls, a warming period in mid January, a severe ice storm in the eastern part of the state, days with windstorms, and some icy conditions. Total precipitation was above average for December and January, then below average in February. Total snowfall in upstate New York was average but concentrated in the earlier parts of the winter except for the Adirondack region. The larger lakes remained open throughout the winter but the warm conditions in mid January left small lakes and ponds open as well for part of the season. It was an old fashioned winter!

WATERFOWL AND WATERBIRDS

In spite of the colder conditions, waterfowl reports were about normal, both as reported by the Regional editors and when compared with duck counts for the past five years (Swift 2008, *Kingbird* 58: 220-229). At Hamlin Beach, there were fewer waterfowl observed in late fall, but numbers picked up in early winter. Waterfowl were about normal for the Niagara Region. For the second year, there were good numbers reported for Long Island.

Trumpeter Swans continue to increase in numbers, with high counts of 17 from Sodus Bay on 28 December and 26 at the Village of Cayuga on 16 January. Two were reported in Region 6 and five in Region 1, with one bird bearing an Ontario tag. Cackling Geese were certainly above average in numbers, with a total of 26 reports from six Regions with a high count of 10 at Hamlin Beach on 1 January. They were reported throughout the winter in Regions 2 and 10. A single Barnacle Goose was seen on numerous occasions in Suffolk County, Region 10, and likely wintered. A second report was received from Montgomery County, Region 9, on 27 February. There were 12 reports of Greater White-fronted Geese from Region 10, an exceptionally high number with a high count of six. They were also reported from Regions 2, 3, and 4, with high counts of eight at Savannah on 1 December and seven from Cortland County. There were a few reports of Ross's Goose from Regions 2 and 10. A high count of 31,739 Brant was logged on Long Island, including one Black

Brant on 6 December. The 45,000 Snow Geese at Union Springs on 27 February were slightly early but expected.

Abundance of ducks throughout the state was about average for recent years, but there were noteworthy accounts of the rarer species. Regions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 all reported Barrow's Goldeneye, with more than 12 in Region 10, five from Region 2, four from Region 6, and one to three in the remaining Regions, with some reports of females or pairs. Only two Harlequin Ducks were seen upstate, an adult male well-seen and photographed off Braddock Bay, Monroe County in early January and one bird recorded at Sunset Bay, Region 5 on 2 January. The species was reported from five locations on Long Island, with a high count of four at Pt. Lookout, Nassau Co. King Eider reports were down from previous years, with four reports for Region 10, two from Regions 2 and 5, and one each from Regions 1 and 9. Two different male Tufted Ducks were seen at Port Kent, Essex Co., one in December and the second in February. There were four reports of Eurasian Wigeon totaling eight birds and one report of a single "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal, all from Region 10.

There were two reports of Western Grebe from Long Island from 20 December to 10 January. Black-crowned Night-Herons reported upstate included four from Region 1 with a latest date of February 16, three from Region 3 with the latest on 21 December, and one from Region 2 seen on 17 January. A Great Cormorant, extremely rare in upstate New York, was seen on the Lake Ontario shoreline on 7-8 February in Region 2. A high count of 92 Red-throated Loons was tallied at Hamlin Beach on 3 December. An unusual inland occurrence was an injured Red-throated Loon brought to a rehabilitation center in Endwell, Region 4. Alcids are rarely seen on Lake Ontario and many sightings are too poorly observed to identify them, but this was not the case on the Rochester CBC when a Razorbill was found off Irondequoit Bay and seen by many on 14 December. Alcids seen from shore on Long Island included four reports for Thick-billed Murre, Razorbills, Black Guillemot, and a very unusual Atlantic Puffin on 8 February from Montauk Point.

HAWKS AND OWLS

The only Gyrfalcon for the winter was seen on 10 January, on Cayuga Lake at Long Point State Park. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in small numbers throughout the state, with the latest on 15 February from Keaneey Swamp WMA in Region 1. Peregrine Falcons and Merlins were also reported in almost all Regions, but only a few Goshawks were seen. Region 5 had 15 Merlin reports from eight locations, thus reflecting the increased abundance of this formerly rare species. Golden Eagles made a good showing, with winter reports from all Regions except 7 and 10; the latest reported date was 28 February from Erieville in Region 5, and a total of 24 was seen in December at the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch. A high count of 50 Bald Eagles was tallied between Croton and Verplank in Region 9. Previous editors and observers have stated that wintering Cooper's Hawks outnumber Sharp-shinned Hawks. Matt Young, Region 4

editor, estimated that the wintering ratio of Cooper's to Sharp-shinned is now three to one.

This winter witnessed one of the highest influxes of Snowy Owls, with most Regions reporting multiple sightings and a total of at least 50 seen in the state. They were recorded in all Regions except 9. Two Northern Hawk Owls were found in Region 7, Clinton County, at different locations, one on 14 December and the other on 15 February. Both birds lingered for some time. Another Hawk Owl in Region 6 was present for a month near a Wal-mart. Short-eared Owls were seen in the expected numbers and reported throughout the state, with a single high count of 21 on Cape Vincent on 9 December in Region 6.

GULLS AND SHOREBIRDS

The buildup of gulls in their preferred locations was delayed this winter. Thousands of Herring Gulls arrived at the Seneca and Oswego Rivers on 21 December. A total of 15 Iceland Gulls was present. Glaucous and Iceland gulls were reported in their usual locations, with the one reservation discussed below. A high count of 14 Little Gulls at Lewiston, Region 1, on 28 February was an encouraging total, but just one other report was received, in Region 10. Thayer's Gull was reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5. The discovery of three likely different Mew Gulls in Region 1 was the highlight of the unusual winter gulls. The first was found and witnessed by many on the Niagara River on 6 December. Then another was found at Olcott on 15 February, and a second, different bird was discovered there on 22 February. Slaty-backed Gull was again reported from Region 3. The adult that wintered last year reappeared at the compost pile on Stevenson Rd. in Dryden and was seen and photographed by many. A second Slaty-backed Gull was present on the Niagara River on 13 December but never ventured within the NYS boundary. California Gull sightings are also increasing, with multiple reports this past fall and winter. As has been the case for the past few years, one was present on the Niagara River at its usual location. Two were seen in Region 2, a third cycle bird in Greece in December and a first cycle at Hamlin Beach in January. Another third cycle individual was seen by many observers on Cayuga Lake in November, and, finally, an adult was in Suffolk County on 10 February. The only report of a Franklin's Gull was on the Niagara River on 21 December, consistent with the later influx of small gulls.

Perhaps the most noteworthy item relating to gulls occurred in Perinton, Monroe County, at Waste Management's High Acres Landfill. This large landfill is located in an industrial complex and is a magnet for gulls year round, but numbers swell in winter to 10,000 to 20,000 per day. Observations over the years have indicated that the gulls use the location in a cyclic fashion, with adults or immatures predominating at different times and regular seasonal changes in numbers. By occasionally seeing uniquely marked birds, it has been established that the majority of these birds stage on Irondequoit Bay about fifteen miles away on their way to roost on Lake Ontario. Individual birds will continue to appear for a few days to up to a month in fall and winter. Naturally,

with so many birds, this location attracts rarer gulls. It is a favorite bird watching site because many of the gulls sit on nearby Lake Edwards before leaving for the bay in the afternoon. The large concentration of gulls has been a problem for Waste Management because it hinders their operations and because they get so many complaints from the other businesses in the industrial complex. Over the years, they have tried various methods of discouraging the gulls, but nothing has worked until this winter. This winter they employed a company that brought in seven captive-bred large falcons, mostly hybrids of Gyrfalcon. These birds are trained to chase gulls. A single falcon is released several times a day to make a single flight. It picks out a gull and harasses it, then returns to the cage, a process that only takes a few minutes. The gulls apparently learn fast and remember that there are falcons at this location, because the highest number of gulls I counted this winter on any day was 2,000. But on most days I found fewer than a few hundred. This method has essentially eliminated the landfill as a feeding location for gulls. That disappoints local birders, because they miss the opportunity to see gulls at a location where they are quite visible and can be studied for long periods of time. But landfills as feeding sites are not part of the natural environment and have contributed to the proliferation of gulls beyond what nature might otherwise allow.

Purple Sandpipers appeared in their expected locations, with single immatures at selected locations on Lake Ontario and the Niagara River and adults on a few Long Island jetties. Four shorebird species were found in Region 1 including a first for the winter season, an Avocet seen by many from 7 to 16 December. The expected lingering shorebirds were found in the coastal regions.

WINTER FINCHES

The Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings that were so prevalent in the winter of 2007-08 were almost unreported this winter. Only in the northern reaches of the state, in Region 6, were Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings reported in any numbers. But they were replaced by the highest influx of White-winged Crossbills seen in several decades. Many White-winged Crossbills remained throughout the state following the unprecedented numbers that moved through in the fall. Flocks of 20 to 100 were frequently reported, some remaining in specific locations for quite some time allowing many people to get out and enjoy them. The winter food supply could have been a factor in this influx. Matt Young, Region 4 editor, who did a study of the cone crop, said this winter food was fair to locally good in forest plantations but very good in residential areas. A number of CBCs reported counts of over 100. Although Red Crossbills were rather scarce, Pine Siskins were also abundant. Among the hordes of Pine Siskin in Region 7, a total of 17 of the rare green morph were seen and 16 of these were banded. Four green morph were seen in Region 4. Common Redpolls were widespread throughout the state, and Hoary Redpolls were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7. Among the unusual redpolls were two "Greater" Redpolls (*C.f. rostrata*) banded at Inlet in Region 7, one in January and the other in February.

HALF-HARDIES AND RARITIES

Northern Shrikes were found in higher than average numbers at least through mid January, then the number of reports decreased through the rest of the winter. Thanks to Christmas Bird Counts some half-hardies were found, although fewer than last winter, probably due to the more severe weather. An immature Red-headed Woodpecker was present until the end of January at Garrettsville in Otsego County. Baltimore Oriole from 7-9 December and Bullock's Oriole from 12-28 January were among the rarities in Regions 8. Also reported there were Palm Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow. Brown Thrasher was found in Regions 8 and 10. Dickcissel was recorded at three locations in Region 10, another was reported on 27 January in Region 1. A Yellow-headed Blackbird spent nine days at a feeder in Region 2 in January and was seen by many. A Gray Jay was found outside of its normal range on the Bolton Landing CBC in Region 8. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen a number of times in Region 2 between 4-12 January. Three Nashville Warblers were each found with one or more Orange-crowned Warblers in Region 10. A Cape May Warbler was in Rye on December 6. A Townsend's Solitaire in the town of Keene in late January was the second on record for Region 7. Fox Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Pine Warbler, and other less hardy birds were also reported. Varied Thrush in the end of January, Western Tanager on Fisher's Island, and "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler in Nassau County were highlights from Region 10.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

The colder than usual winter brought fewer reports of half hardies than usual, but the Yellow-headed Blackbird upstate and the Townsend's Solitaire in the Adirondack Region were particularly noteworthy. Ducks and geese were as expected, but the winter did see a higher number of Barrow's Goldeneyes than in the past. The Razorbill found on the Rochester CBC on Lake Ontario was certainly the most unusual bird in the upstate region. The three Mew Gulls, all in Region 1, were unprecedented for this winter season. Among the more expected winter birds, we saw significant influx of Snowy Owls, Pine Siskins, and White-winged Crossbills. My choice for the bird-of-the-season is the White-winged Crossbills, simply because we have not seen an eruption of this magnitude in many years and many people in the state, even non-birders, were able to observe and enjoy this remarkably adapted finch. It was a pleasure to just watch them feed in a plantation of short spruces and listen to their chattering. Eaton (1914: *Birds of New York State, Vol. 2*, University of the State of New York. p. 266) showed that irruptive influxes of this species occur about every five years on average, but with considerable temporal variation. The huge number of birds observed in the lower part of the state would indicate that crossbills from distant northern regions are the main source of this influx. Finally, although it was not a bird of the season, the event of the season was Scott Whittle's NYS Big Year in which he found 350 species and photographed all but two of these.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2008 was a wild ride for weather with two major rain events, three record snowfalls, record warmth, major flooding, and a major windstorm. The average temperature was 29.4° F, 0.4° F below normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 6.79", 2.99" more than usual, with 49.2" of snow, 23.7" more than usual. It ended up the fifth wettest and ninth snowiest December on record. Several CBCs were affected by very poor weather, especially the Hamburg-East Aurora count on the 28th with intense winds up to 75 mph throughout the day. January brought prolonged cold and near daily minor snowfalls. The average temperature was 18.5° F, 6.0° F below normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.27", 0.89" below normal, with 30.6" of snow, 4.5" more than normal. Temperatures dropped to the lowest in five years at -3° F on the 21st, which coincided with dramatic increases of several waterfowl species on the heated waters of Dunkirk Harbor. Lake Erie reached 32° F on the 10th, about four days early, and ice increased soon thereafter. It was an uneventful February. The average temperature was 27.2° F, 1.3° F above normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.65", 0.23" above normal, with 11.6" of snowfall, 6.2" below normal.

Similar to last winter, it was a fairly typical season for waterfowl. The harsh December did not keep many lingering birds around, and there were only a few spring arrivals in late February. The bitter cold weather on 21 January brought an impressive winter total of 137 Horned Grebes and increases in several duck species at Dunkirk Harbor. Dave Neveu found far fewer grebes in the days before and after the 21st during his frequent checks of Dunkirk Harbor. There were four December reports of **Cackling Geese** and two reports in late February of returning birds; few have been documented in winter beyond December in the Region. A dead **Trumpeter Swan** was found by Pat Morton in Conewango. He brought the carcass to Jim Berry at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute where the yellow wing tags and leg band were recovered and reported back to the Wye Marsh Ontario introduction program. At least two other trumpeters were off Grand Island on the Niagara River in January. A **King Eider** was identified on Lake Ontario at Shadigee for the only winter report. The **Barrow's Goldeneye** that has been a regular in Region 2 at Point Breeze for the past few winters wandered into Region 1 at least once. **Red-throated Loon** sightings continue to increase on Lake Ontario beyond December with a max count of 12 in mid January.

It was seemingly an average or slightly below average winter for Rough-legged Hawk sightings. Bald Eagle sightings continue to be on the rise in the winter, with a maximum of 12 at Dunkirk Harbor in early February. Once again, Jeff Reed found a **Golden Eagle** at Wolf Run in Allegany State Park in late

December and early January, a location where they have occasionally wintered. A juvenile Golden Eagle in Perrysburg in late February was more likely an early migrant.

Four shorebird species were more than usual for a winter season. The highlight of the bunch was the Region's first **American Avocet** in winter. Debbie Sharon found the bird along the Niagara River at Beaver Island S.P. on 7 December and it remained through 16 December. Based on a review of photographs, it was likely the same bird seen near Toronto, Ontario from 16 November through 5 December and then again remarkably in Erie, Pennsylvania on 20 December.

Three **Mew Gulls** were the most remarkable sightings of the winter gull season. The first was observed on the Niagara River from the Niagara Power Project on 6 December and considered to be either the North American form (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) or possibly the Asian form (*L. c. kamchatsensis*). The second bird was found by Jim Pawlicki roosting among Ring-billed Gulls at Olcott on Lake Ontario on the afternoon of 15 February. Pawlicki noticed a darker mantled bird and patiently waited for the snoozing gull to awaken. He confirmed identity as the North American form (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) and many local birders were able to see the bird. The bird was not relocated; however, while birding the same location a week later on 22 February Pawlicki and Dave Wheeler found a different Mew Gull that was most likely of the European form (*L. c. canus*). These sightings represent the 6th, 7th, and 8th Regional records.

Other notable gulls from the winter season on the Niagara River included a **California Gull** that continued from late November, a **Franklin's Gull** on 21 December, and an adult **Slaty-backed Gull** in definitive basic plumage roosting on the rapids above Niagara Falls on 13 December. The Slaty-backed Gull was never seen on the New York side of the river or verified beyond the initial sighting; however, I included mention here because it is probable that at some point the gull crossed over into New York airspace. It was the same situation as the last occurrence of Slaty-backed Gull on the Niagara River in November 2006, when New York was denied a confirmed record.

Snowy Owls continued their decent showing from the fall, with sightings from seven locations. **Short-eared Owls** were reported in low numbers from mostly traditional wintering locations. There was only one report each for Long-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl.

The record late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in an Orchard Park backyard described in the fall season report continued until 5 December, representing a first Regional winter season record for this species. Red-headed Woodpeckers are getting harder to find in all seasons, including the winter. Meanwhile, winter season sightings of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker have increased this decade. Both species were reported from three locations this winter. It seemed to be an average or slightly below average winter for Northern Shrike sightings. A very rare in winter **Marsh Wren** was found at Tonawanda WMA in early January. An American Pipit photographed at Dunkirk Harbor by David Wheeler on 18 January represents the latest ever in winter for the Region. In late January, Deb

Abgott was very surprised to find a **Dickcissel** frequenting her Clarence Center backyard feeder with numerous House Sparrows and American Tree Sparrows. The bird remained throughout the winter season. It was the first documented Dickcissel in winter in the Region since 1990.

Only a few waterfowl and low numbers of blackbirds arrived in February this year.

Many **White-winged Crossbills** remained throughout the Region from the unprecedented numbers that moved through in late November. Pine Siskins were also widespread. **Common Redpolls** started to appear in late December but were not widespread. One Hoary Redpoll was documented. Only one **Pine Grosbeak** was reported, and there were no reports of Red Crossbill or Evening Grosbeak. There were relatively few Purple Finches around this winter.

CONTRIBUTORS

Deb Abgott, Tim Baird, Jim & Liz Barry (J&LB), H.M. Bateman, Doug Beattie, Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Bruce Chilton, Ken Cohen, Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Kurt Fox, Ron Hausauer, Jim Horn, Jean Iron, Brendan Klick, Kathy Krolbart, Lynne Landon, Jerry Lazarczyk (JeL), Helen Link, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Andy Morrison, Pat Morton, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Gerry Rising, Richard Rosche, Richard Salembier, Debbie Sharon (DSh), David Suggs (DSu), Tom Somerville, John Thill, William Watson, John Welte, David Wheeler, Scott Whittle, Ginnie Yerkovich, Peter Yoerg, Terry Yonker, Mike & Wendy Zebehazi.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on NR, Lewiston, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 19 Darien GENE 10 Dec (M&WZ); last Bethany GENE 22 Dec; only reports.

Cackling Goose: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 8 Dec; 3 BWWTP 16 Dec; 3 WTSP 20 Dec; OOWMA 27 Dec; arr DH 24 Feb (DN); 4 Porter NIAG 28 Feb (JP).

Mute Swan: 3 FNSP 3 Jan; 2 Wilson NIAG 3 Jan; 4 DH 20 Jan - 7 Feb; 6 WTSP 16 Feb; 6 BeSP 17 Feb; max 13 Wilson & Olcott NIAG 18 Feb; 2 ChauL 28 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 BeSP 12 Dec (DS), one with wing-tag; 2 Grand I ERIE 20 Dec (DS); Conewango CATT 10 Feb (PM, JB, NYSARC), found dead, specimen preserved at RTPI.

Tundra Swan: 76 OOWMA 5 Dec (WW); 16 Tifft NP 6 Dec; 3 AISP 26 Dec (TB); max 280 BeSP 20 Jan (DS); 3 DH 21 Jan, 9 Feb (DN); arr 6 Celeron ChauL 23 Feb (DN).

Wood Duck: BWWTP 5 Dec; Jamestown CBC CHAU 14 Dec; Orchard Park ERIE 28 Dec; W Seneca ERIE 1 Jan thru (GY); 2 Amherst ERIE 2, 3 Feb; only reports.

Gadwall: max 26 Buffalo NR 2 Dec; 5 BeSP 10 Feb; Tonawanda ERIE 14 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: arr 2 Wilson Harbor NIAG 28 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 130 OOWMA 16 Dec; 111 DH 29 Dec; 54 Allegheny R CATT 18 Jan.

N. Pintail: max 65 Oak Orchard CBC 27 Dec (JP), good winter count for recent years; 15 Wilson NIAG 6 Jan (DS); arr 6 BeSP, 6 Wilson Harbor NIAG 28 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: reported from 5 locations; arr DH 26 Feb (DN).

Canvasback: max 10,000 Grand I NR 23 Jan (JL); 454 DH 5 Feb; 448 Celeron ChauL 12 Feb.

Redhead: max 770 DH 25 Jan (DN), good count for location, significant increase from previous days likely attributed to recent freezing of L Erie; 294 Celeron ChauL 12 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: max 126 NF 4 Dec; 15 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 3 Jan; 4 Celeron ChauL 12 Feb; PB 17 Feb; 2 BeSP 28 Feb.

Gr. Scaup: max 10,000 Buffalo NR 11 Jan (DSu); 1728 DH 26 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 7, 3 DH 26 Dec, 10 Feb; max 24 Tonawanda NR 14 Feb.

KING EIDER: Shadigee ORLE 3 Jan (JP, BK), only report.

Surf Scoter: Sheridan CHAU 28 Dec; PB 8-24 Feb; FNSP 15 Feb; 2 Buffalo NR 17 Feb; only reports.

Black Scoter: 2 DH 15 Feb; max 6 PB 16 Feb; FNSP 15 Feb; Wilson NIAG 16 Feb; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: Celeron ChauL 16, 23 Feb (DN), returning migrant?; 85 Buffalo NR 26 Feb (WW), good count for location and date.

Buffhead: 1050 Buffalo NR 2 Dec; max 1187 DH 21 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: max 1765 DH 27 Jan.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: PB 8 Feb (RS), same individual as last few winters in Reg 2.

Hooded Merganser: max 93 DH 6 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 6218 DH 27 Jan (DN).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Salamanca CATT 22 Feb; max 3000 Buffalo NR 26 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: 2, 1 Buffalo NR 2 Dec, 30 Dec; 4 BWWTP 6 Dec; max 5 Jamestown CBC CHAU 14 Dec; 3 DH 20 Dec, 1-2 thru 14 Feb; 2 Grand I NR 12, 18 Dec; 3 ChauL 28 Feb; only reports.

Red-throated Loon: 1, 3 Shadigee ORLE 3 Jan, 6 Feb; max 12 Wilson NIAG 19 Jan (WD), good count for date; FMCS 8 Feb; FNSP 8 Feb; DH 14-21 Feb; 5 GHSP 21 Feb (DW); winter reports beyond Dec are increasing.

Com. Loon: 15 FNSP 10 Jan (J&LB), only report past Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 DH 1 Dec, at least 3 thru 7 Feb; Tonawanda NR 2 Feb; ChauL 21 Feb; only reports.

Horned Grebe: max 137 DH 21 Jan, excellent count for location and date, significant increase from previous days likely attributed to extreme cold and freezing of L Erie; FMCS 8 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: FNSP 4 Jan; Olcott NIAG 19 Jan; 1-3 DH 21 Jan - 24 Feb; 2 Wilson Harbor NIAG 16 Feb; GHSP 21 Feb; only reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 164 DH 29 Dec; 6 Tonawanda NR 18 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: 15, 13 DH 30 Dec, 13 Feb; 16 BeSP 11 Feb; max 59 Motor I NR 17 Feb.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4, 1, 1 DH 4 Jan, 26 Jan, 7 Feb; 2, 1 Tonawanda NR 15 Jan, 16 Feb; only reports.

Turkey Vulture: Scio CBC ALLE 20 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 20 Jan (KC); Rushford ALLE 1 Feb (DW); only reports.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 6 Buffalo ERIE 1 Feb (WD); max 12 DH 6 Feb (TM); well reported from other traditional wintering and breeding areas.

N. Goshawk: Wellsville ALLE 26 Feb (HMB, JH), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Jamestown CHAU 6 Dec, 21 Jan; 3 Jamestown CBC CHAU 14 Dec; 2 Darien GENE 15 Jan, 5 Feb; Wellsville ALLE 5 Feb; Harmony CHAU 8 Feb; Keaney Swamp WMA ALLE 15 Feb; only reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 6 S. Dayton CATT 22 Feb; average number of reports.

GOLDEN EAGLE: AISP 29 Dec, 1 Jan, 4 Jan (JR!), has wintered at this location on several occasions; juv Perrysburg CATT 22 Feb (DN!, AM).

Merlin: max 2-3 SUNY Buffalo campus ERIE thru (PY), traditional winter roost; Williamsville ERIE 22 Dec; NF CBC NIAG 27 Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: well reported near nesting areas and elsewhere.

Am. Coot: max 148 DH 27 Dec; BuSP 18 Jan; 3 ChauL 28 Feb.

Killdeer: last BeSP 8 Dec.

AM. AVOCET: BeSP 7-16 Dec (DS, mob), 1st Regional winter report; *see intro*.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 NF 13 Dec; DH 28 Dec - 7 Jan (JP, DN, mob); only reports.

Dunlin: 1, 1 BeSP 7, 26 Dec (DS); only reports.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Buffalo CBC 21 Dec (LL, TY), only report.

Little Gull: 3 DH 28 Dec, 21 Jan; 9-12 Buffalo NR 28 Dec (PY); Silver Creek CHAU 28 Dec; max 14 Lewiston NR 28 Feb (JP).
MEW GULL: NPP 6 Dec (WD! JI! NYSARC), either North American form (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) or Asian form (*L. c. kamchetsensus*); Olcott NIAG 15 Feb (JP! mob NYSARC), North American form (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*); Olcott NIAG 22 Feb (JP! WD, DW, NYSARC), probable European form (*L. c. canus*); 6th, 7th, and 8th regional records.
CALIFORNIA GULL: 2nd-winter NF 6, 7 Dec (WD, JI, JP, NYSARC), continued from fall.
Thayer's Gull: a few reports NPP, NF, Olcott NIAG; all sightings considered "probable" due to identification difficulties.
Iceland Gull: max 10 NPP 7 Dec; 6 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; 2 Sheridan CHAU 28 Dec; Silver Creek CHAU 2, 12, Jan; DH 9, 11 Jan; DH 9 Jan, 13 Feb; 5 Wilson NIAG 21 Feb; 4 FNSP 22 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 DH 29 Dec; max 6 NF 2, 5 Jan; Buffalo ERIE 24 Jan.
SLATY-BACKED GULL: NF 13 Dec (JI, WD, SW, mob) – was never sighted on U.S. side of NR.
Glaucous Gull: max 8 NF 4 Jan; 4 NPP 11 Feb.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Porter NIAG 2 Dec; Medina ORLE 15 Dec (CM); Beaver Meadow CBC WYOM 20 Dec; Wilson NIAG 21 Dec; Concord ERIE 23-23 Dec; Buffalo Airport ERIE 27-29 Dec; Sardinia ERIE 21 Feb; decent showing continued from fall.
Long-eared Owl: East Aurora ERIE 28 Dec (LC), only report.
Short-eared Owl: 3, 5 NF Airport NIAG 5, 8 Dec (JP, WW, RS); Lockport NIAG 16 Dec (RS); 3 Shelby ORLE 16 Dec (JP, WW); 2 Royalton NIAG 5 Jan (RS); Yates ORLE 10 Jan (WD); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 22 Jan (DN); only reports.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Jamestown CBC CHAU 14 Dec, only report.
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Orchard Park ERIE thru 5 Dec (KK), continued from fall season; latest ever for Region.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Wilson CBC NIAG 21 Dec; Newfane NIAG 3, 17 Jan (JP); 2 Burt NIAG 18 Feb; only reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Allegany CATT 14 Dec; Silver Creek CHAU 20 Dec thru (DN); Perrysburg CATT 31 Dec; only reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: seemed to be an average or slightly below average season; reported throughout Reg.
Com. Raven: Darien GENE 6 Dec (KF); Sherman CHAU 1 Jan (AB); Silver Creek CHAU 12 Jan (DN); Alden ERIE 26 Dec (JM); Arkwright CHAU 1 Jan (DN); only reports outside of CATT or ALLE.
Horned Lark: max 75 Bethany GENE 25 Jan.
Carolina Wren: lower than average number of reports.
Winter Wren: FMCSP 27 Dec; DH 4 Jan; AmSP 9 Jan; only reports.
MARSH WREN: TWMA 3 Jan (BK!, JP!), very rare in winter.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: NF CBC NIAG 27 Dec; Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 28 Dec; Kenmore ERIE late Dec – 13 Jan, at suet feeder (JT), only reports.
E. Bluebird: max 15 INWR & TWMA 23 Jan (DSu), 15 Sheridan CHAU 1 Feb (DN).
Hermit Thrush: FMCSP 27 Dec; FNSP 6 Jan; only reports.
Am. Robin: max 100 GHSP 17 Jan.
Gray Catbird: 2 INWR 27 Dec (JP); OOWMA 27 Dec (KF); Williamsville ERIE 17 Feb (RS), only reports.
N. Mockingbird: Lackawanna ERIE 1 Jan; AmSP 9, 12 Jan, 25 Feb; only reports away from NIAG.
Am. Pipit: DH 18 Jan (DW), latest ever for Region.
Bohemian Waxwing: GHSP 17 Jan (RS); Porter NIAG 19 Jan (WD, BP), only reports including fall.
Cedar Waxwing: max 80 Fredonia CHAU 4 Feb.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 6 INWR 27 Dec; 2 OOWMA 3 Jan; INWR 23 Jan; only reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Jamestown CBC CHAU 14 Dec; Clarence ERIE 22 Jan; 2 Holland ERIE 2 Feb (RH); GHSP 21 Feb; only reports.
Field Sparrow: Scio CBC ALLE 20 Dec; Buffalo CBC 21 Dec; AmSP 9 Jan (RS), only reports.
Fox Sparrow: Orchard Park ERIE 28 Dec (JP), only report.
Swamp Sparrow: 4 TWMA 3 Jan; only report beyond Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 5 Pomfret CHAU 20 Dec; 6 Fredonia CBC 20 Dec; max 13 Wilson CBC NIAG 20 Dec; 4 Buffalo CBC 20 Dec; 8 Bethany GENE 24 Dec (DB); Oak

Orchard CBC 27 Dec; 6, 1 Porter NIAG 3, 17 Jan; Grand I ERIE 14 Jan; Newfane NIAG 17 Jan; Rushford ALLE 17 Jan; only reports.
Lapland Longspur: 6 Alexander GENE 2 Dec; 11, 15 Bethany GENE 24 Dec, 25 Jan (DB); max 50 Somerset NIAG 3 Jan (JP, BK); 6 Wilson NIAG 10 Jan; 5 Newfane NIAG 10 Jan; 27 Yates ORLE 11 Jan (WD); 5 Carlton ORLE 31 Jan.
Snow Bunting: 150 BWWTP 6 Dec; 275 Rushford ALLE 18 Dec (JL, RR); 150, 175 Bethany GENE 24 Dec, 5 Feb; 150 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 24 Dec; 160 Alexander GENE 4 Jan; max 800 Yates ORLE 18 Jan; 155 Wilson NIAG 19 Jan; 500 Carlton ORLE 31 Jan.
DICKCISSEL: Clarence Center ERIE 27 Jan thru (DA!), at feeder with House Sparrows and other sparrows, first Regional winter report since 1990.
Red-winged Blackbird: 6-10 Alma ALLE 13-31 Jan (HL); four other January reports; arr 2 Williamsville ERIE 20 Feb.
E. Meadowlark: Tillman WMA ERIE 9 Jan (BC), only report.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Lewiston NIAG 20 Dec (Buffalo RBA), at feeder one day only.
Rusty Blackbird: 3, 3 BuSP 11, 30 Dec; Jamestown CBC 14 Dec; AISP 26 Dec (TB); Alexander GENE 26 Dec; 2 Oak Orchard CBC 27 Dec; 3 TWMA 19 Jan (DSu); more reports than most winter seasons.

Com. Grackle: 57 Oak Orchard CBC 27 Dec; four January reports; arr Alden ERIE 19 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 70 Wilson NIAG 10 Jan; 16 Houghton ALLE 31 Jan.
Oriole species: Orchard Park ERIE 3 Dec (DW), likely Baltimore.
Pine Grosbeak: GHSP 17 Jan (RS), only report.
Purple Finch: few reports; low numbers on CBCs; max 24 Scio CBC 20 Dec.
Red Crossbill: no reports.
White-winged Crossbill: 50 Panama CHAU 1 Dec (AB); 35 Amherst ERIE 5 Dec; 24 OOWMA 16 Dec; 20 Lancaster ERIE 30 Dec thru; 50, 40 Porter NIAG 4, 19 Jan; max 100 Wilson NIAG 4 Jan (JW); 40 GHSP 18 Jan; widespread throughout Region.
Com. Redpoll: 38 St. Bonaventure CBC, 1 Jamestown CBC 14 Dec; OOWMA 27 Dec (GR); 1-4 Wilson NIAG 3-31 Jan; 30 WTSP 4 Jan (JW); 3 Youngstown NIAG 31 Jan; 50 PB 15 Feb (PY); max 275 Carlton ORLE 21 Feb (WD); mostly in small numbers.
HOARY REDPOLL: Wilson NIAG 16 Feb (WD! BP); only documented report received.
Pine Siskin: 88 Allegany CATT 14 Dec (TB); 50 max Wilson NIAG 1 Jan thru; max 150 Varysburg WYOM 27 Jan (TS); 70 Youngstown NIAG 8 Feb; 83 Silver Creek CHAU 11 Feb; 75 E/Aurora ERIE 11 Feb (LC); widespread.
Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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It was definitely an old fashioned winter. If you like snow, December started things off with 46.2". That set a record by a mere 0.1". Total precipitation of 3.61" was 0.88" above normal. The average temperature of 30.6° F was 1.2° above normal. January started out kind of quiet, but it didn't take long for winter to kick in. The month was characterized by cold and snow. Measurable snow fell on 21 days, with 7.5" on the 28th for a new daily record. Total snowfall was 29.3" compared to the average of 25.8". The average temperature of 19.1° was 4.8° below normal. Precipitation was light with a 0.17" below normal reading of 2.17". The only rain that fell was on the 7th. There were no really significant meteorological events other than the persistent snows and some icy conditions due to drizzle or light rain for brief periods. February was a month of contrasts.

We had cold; we had warmth. We only had one sunny day, but 18 with partly cloudy skies. All in all it was a pretty good birding month. Snowfall amounted to 13.9". Total precipitation was 0.41" below normal at 1.63". The average temperature of 29.0° was 3.7° above normal. There were 10 days with temperatures above freezing, and a mild 57° was recorded on the 27th.

The 105th Rochester CBC was carried out on 14 December. It was a pretty decent birding day and yielded the second highest total species ever at 101. The count week total of 107 was a new high. A total of 61 observers amassed 64,235 individuals. **Ross's Goose** and **Razorbill** were new birds for the count. Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, Eastern Screech-Owl, Am. Crow, Common Yellowthroat, and White-winged Scoter tallied new high counts. Cackling Goose and Black-legged Kittiwake had only been found during one other count year. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC was held on 20 December. 18,041 individuals of 68 species were recorded. Tufted Titmouse, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin set new high counts. The Conesus-Hemlock (or Little Lakes) CBC was conducted on 27 December. While it wasn't cold or snowy, persistent morning rain and strong winds made conditions very difficult. Thirty-three observers tallied 36,991 individuals of 75 species. Record high numbers of N. Pintail, Bald Eagle, and White-winged Crossbill were counted. Because of the early morning conditions owl numbers were well below normal.

The season started out with two Ross's Goose sightings. This coupled with the Greater White-fronted Geese at Hamlin made for an interesting goose season. Cackling Geese were reported throughout the season. Puddle duck numbers were fairly low. The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach reported reduced numbers of diving ducks during the beginning of the season. There were concentrations of scaup, White-winged Scoters, and Long-tailed Ducks along the lake as the season progressed. Common and Red-breasted Mergansers could be found in respectable numbers. The waterfowl highlights included King Eider, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye. The latter species was reported at several locations. Red-throated Loons outnumbered Common Grebe reports were scattered, with an unusual concentration of Horned Grebes reported along the east lakeshore by Robert Spahn and John Boettcher and few Red-necked Grebes reported at all. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were lower than in many recent years. However, a bonus was an immature **Great Cormorant** observed at Ontario Beach by Greg Lawrence and Kevin Griffith on 7 February, with the same or another observed just a couple of miles west off Greece by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood on 8 February.

Turkey Vultures again wintered in the Region, with a maximum of 31 reported by Martha Zettel in Rush in February. Bald Eagles continued to do well, with numerous sightings and a record high of three on the Rochester CBC. There were some Rough-legged Hawks, but the total was low. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings were on the plus side following that recent trend. American Kestrel again seemed scarce for most of the season. Virginia Rails were found at the usual Mendon Ponds location. American Coot numbers were down.

The only shorebird reports were of two Purple Sandpipers lingering to mid-December. It was not an exceptional winter for gulls. **California Gulls** found by Dave Tetlow and Chris Wood were the highlights, but Thayer's Gull was also a good find. There were the usual Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings, and fairly typical numbers of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were seen. The winter gull picture here has been significantly impacted by the decision of the High Acres Landfill to hire a company which flies large falcons to harass the gulls from the landfill area. This has essentially eliminated gulls resting on Lake Edwards, a primary local site for observing wintering gulls. A Black-legged Kittiwake observed by Jessie Barry, Marshall Iliff and Chris Wood was unusual for December.

The **Razorbill** found by Mike Tetlow during the Rochester CBC was the bird of the season. A number of other observers were able to see the bird. The Eurasian Collared-Dove, present since 1 September, went unreported in December but was seen in January and February. A red morph Eastern Screech-Owl wintered at the Powell residence in Macedon. Snowy Owls started the season out strong, with at least 12 different individuals seen in December, but numbers dwindled significantly as the season progressed. Long-eared Owls in Webster Park and on the Rochester CBC in Greece were unusual. Short-eared Owls were found in the usual locations, with somewhat smaller numbers. At least one individual was banded and radio tagged to monitor its movements.

There were scattered reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but no Red-headed Woodpecker reports. The only Eastern Phoebe was in Parma in December and at the south end of Conesus Lake in early January. Northern Shrikes remained for the duration of the season. A record 22,909 Am. Crows was tallied on the Rochester CBC. Common Raven continued to be found in its stronghold in Rattlesnake Hill WMA. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was present for much of January and photographed at a feeder in Brighton. Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbird were among the half hardies reported. Cedar Waxwing numbers were low. A winter highlight was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** found in Hamlin by Chris Wood at a brushy swale, which has produced other good birds over the years. Other warblers reported were Yellow-rumped and Common Yellowthroat. Chipping, Field, and Savannah Sparrows were the scarcer sparrows located. They are typically found nearly annually in small numbers in the winter. White-throated Sparrow totals seemed low, but the typical few White-crowned Sparrows were found in the usual locations. Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur were found all season, but with fewer numbers of large flocks noted than usual.

Icterid highlights included Rusty Blackbird, a very cooperative young male; a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that appeared at Brad Carlson's feeders in Honeoye Falls for a bit over a week; a large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds at those same feeders; and three Eastern Meadowlark reports.

One of the major highlights of the season was the continuation of White-winged Crossbill sightings through the season. A single male Red Crossbill was observed in Seneca Park. A large flock of Common Redpolls was found at

Hamlin Beach State Park with a few **Hoary Redpolls** accompanying them. Pine Siskins were well reported. Only a single Evening Grosbeak was observed.

There were 127 species recorded in December, above the 10-year average of 125.5. 2008 ended with a total of 290 species, 3.8 species below the 10-year average. January started 2009 off with 126 species, a mere 0.5 species below the 10-year average. February then added seven species for a 133 total, 0.5 species above the 10-year average. The year is off to a pretty good start so far.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB- Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB –Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K - T Kendall, ORLE; LLCBC – Little Lakes CBC; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; NYSWC – New York State Waterfowl Census; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; P - T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; RCBC – Rochester CBC; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus Point, WAYN; TC- Twin Cedars Environmental Center, W – T Webster, MONR; WP - Webster Park, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 HB 1-13 Dec (sev); 8 S 1 Dec (JC, BPU).

Snow Goose: max 200 S 1-3 Dec; 9 T Brockport 6 Jan.

ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 BB 13-15 Dec (DT, mob); 1 South Lima 5 Dec (D&SB, ED).

Cackling Goose: 1-6 HB 1-16 Dec (sev); 3 TC 1 Dec (MW); 2 PB 13 Dec (JeB, MI, CW); 1-2

BB 14-15 Dec (sev); max 10 HB 1 Jan (CW); 2 BB 28 Feb (CW, GL).

Mute Swan: max 255 BB 17 Feb (FL, GL).

Tundra Swan: max 600 S 30 Dec; 3 CL 2 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: max 17 S 28 Dec (DK); 4

MAC 22 Jan (DS); 1 CL 16, 19 Feb

(DP, DB, JL); 10 (4ad, 6imm) IB 14 Feb (RS); 2

S 21 Feb (R&SS); 4 S 15 Feb (M&JT); 12 S 28

Feb (LL).

Trumpeter x Tundra Swan: 1 G thru 6 Dec.

Wood Duck: 3 G 14 Dec; 1 CA 11 Jan; 1 IB 6 Feb.

Mallard: max 1750 G 4 Jan.

N. Shoveler: 4 G 21 Dec.

N. Pintail: max 36 LLCBC 27 Dec.

Green-winged Teal: max 43 G 7 Dec.

Canvasback: max 245 BB 28 Feb.

Redhead: max 1000 CL 2 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: max 310 LLCBC 27 Dec.

Greater Scaup: max 4265 G 17 Feb.

King Eider: 1f SP 18-21 Dec (DS, sev); 1 fem

PB 2 Feb (DT).

COMMON EIDER: 1f G 14 Dec (R&SS, AGu).

Harlequin Duck: 1 ad m G 6-9 Jan (DD, RS, mob).

White-winged Scoter: max 330 PB 8 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 4000 G 27 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: max 403 RCBC 14 Dec.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 m PB thru; 1f SP 26-31 Dec, 10,13 Jan (MT); 1m G 8 Feb (J&LB); 1f G 25 Feb (GL, KG).

Barrow's x Com. Goldeneye: 1m PB 16 Feb (AGu).

Hooded Merganser: max 50 G 7 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 904 IB 14 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: max **11,875** NYSWC 14 Jan, record high.

Ruddy Duck: max 20 CL 13 Dec; 1 BB 8 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: max 92 HB 3 Dec; 45 RCBC 14 Dec, record high for RCBC.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 CL 6 Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 276 EL 18 Jan (JBo, RS).

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 NYSWC 18 Jan.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 imm OB 7 Feb (KG, GL); 1 imm G 8 Feb (JeB, CW), possibly the same individual.

Great Blue Heron: max 27 RCBC 14 Dec.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 imm IB 17 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: max 32 T of Rush Feb.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 RCBC 14 Dec, record high; total 6 sev Feb.

N. Goshawk: 1 imm HP 6 Jan; 1 imm East Bay Park, WAYN 14 Feb; 1 imm BB 26 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 S 6 Feb (LL, RG); 1 ad K 17 Feb (RS), 1 ad Henrietta 20 Feb (GH).

Golden Eagle: 1mm HB 5 Dec (DT, *et al*).

Merlin: 9 RCBC 14 Dec, record high; total 3 sev all Jan; total 5 all Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: total 4 sev all Dec (sev); total 3 all Jan; total 7 all Feb.

Virginia Rail: max 2 MP 18-31 Jan, 2 Feb (BC, JP).

Sandhill Crane: 4 S 20 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper: 1-2 IB 1-17 Dec.

CALIFORNIA GULL: 1 3rd cycle G 18 Dec (DT, GL, KG); 1 1st cycle HB 1 Jan (CW).

Thayer's Gull: 1 1st cycle G 3 Jan (CW); 1 3rd cycle BB 7 Jan (AGu).

Iceland Gull: total 12 sev all Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total 4 sev 1-14 Dec.; total 4 sev 7-17 Jan; total 4 sev all Feb.

Glaucous Gull: total 5 sev all Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 G 13 Dec (JeB, MI, CW).

RAZORBILL: 1 just west of IB 14 Dec, (MT, mob).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 P 2 Jan (D&KT); 1 P 3 Feb (RS), same bird.

E. Screech-Owl: max 80 RCBC 14 Dec, record high; 34 Nations Road, LIVI 15 Feb (JK).

Snowy Owl: total 12 sev 1-28 Dec; 1 T Perry, WYOM 1-31 Jan, 1-6 Feb; 1 PB 12 Jan; 1 H 10 Feb; 1 T Ontario, WAYN (SA).

Barred Owl: 2 Bergen Swamp 11 Feb (BC, LK).

Long-eared Owl: 1 WP 6-Dec, 5 Feb (MB, LK, SH, BC, RS); 1 G 14 Dec (RS); 1 HP 12 Jan (KT).

Short-eared Owl: total 30 sev 1-31 Dec.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 3 LW/SL CBC 20 Dec; arr 1 M 14 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 1 P 12 Dec (DT); 1 CL 6 Jan (RS, DD).

N. Shrike: total 12 sev 1-31 Dec; total 20 sev all Feb.

Am. Crow: max **22,909** RCBC 14 Dec, record high.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 ? 27 Jan (SP).

E. Bluebird: max 32 T Murray, ORLE 9 Dec.

Gray Catbird: 1-2 DE 8-31 Dec, 1-31 Jan, 1 Feb (BC, sev); 1 MP 22 Jan (CM).

Bohemian Waxwing: 1 WP 8 Jan (BC); 1 BB 14 Jan (DT).

WARBLERS

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 1 H 4,10,12 Jan, *V.c. lutescens*, (CW, *et al*).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1-4 South Conesus all Feb (KC).

Com. Yellowthroat: max 3 RCBC 14 Dec (DB, DT).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 W 19-31 Dec, 1-12 Jan, 17-19 Feb; 1 T Galen, WAYN 10-11 Jan .
Chipping Sparrow: 1 H 3 Jan (KG, GL).
Field Sparrow: 1 H 6 Jan (RS).
Savannah Sparrow: 1 BB 5 Jan.
Fox Sparrow: 1 Tyre Rd, T Galen, WAYN 20 Dec (WG).
Snow Bunting: max 1500+ T Carlton 12 Jan (D&MT).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 imm male Honeoye Falls 20-28 Jan (BC, mob), at feeders.
Rusty Blackbird: 3 G 18 Feb (KG, GL).

E. Meadowlark: 1 S 20 DEC (WG, RS); 1 Nations Rd, T Avon 2 Jan (JK); 1 T Arcadia, WAYN 10 Jan (LL).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 600 Honeoye Falls 24-28 Jan (BC, mob).
Purple Finch: 2 South Conesus 9 Feb (KC).
Red Crossbill: 1 m Seneca Park, C Rochester 10 Feb (KG).
White-winged Crossbill: max 70 MP 11 Dec (DS, MT).
Com. Redpoll: 30-300 HB 10 Feb thru (DT, KG, *et al*).
Hoary Redpoll: 2 HB 10 Feb thru (DT, KG, *et al*).
Evening Grosbeak: 1 Greece 22 Jan.



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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December temperatures in Region 3 were right at their annual averages, but snowfall levels were nearly twice as high as usual at 27.5" in Ithaca compared with 14" on average. Snow cover remained throughout the Region for all of January, as that month was extremely cold, with an average temperature 15.2° F in Ithaca, 7.4° below the historical norm. February was slightly warmer than usual, with only about one-third of the usual levels of precipitation and snowfall, resulting in very little snow cover.

Expansive open water on the Region's larger lakes hosted high numbers of common waterfowl, as noted on various organized counts in January. Several rarer species were noted, including a Barrow's Goldeneye found by David Wheeler on Canandaigua Lake and, for the tenth winter in a row, an Eared Grebe on Cayuga Lake by Aurora. The most notable phenomenon among wading birds was the presence of two Black-crowned Night-Herons near downtown Ithaca in mid-December, with another sighting of this species in Sapsucker Woods a few weeks later.

An adult Golden Eagle was photographed several times at a deer carcass in Avoca, Steuben County, in late December and early January. A party of four Ithaca birders found the only Gyrfalcon of the season, a gray morph, crossing Cayuga Lake near Aurora on 10 January.

For the second winter in a row, a Slaty-backed Gull was observed and documented by many at Cornell University's compost facility on Stevenson Road in Dryden and at Stewart Park. Paul Hurtado found one first-cycle Thayer's Gull in Seneca Falls on 17 January. Tom Johnson and Shawn

Billerman found another at Stevenson Road on 17 February. Both Thayer's Gulls were well documented with multiple photos showing various distinguishing marks, putting even this difficult identification beyond any doubt.

It was a good winter for owl-watching, especially between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, where at least fourteen Short-eared Owls were observed on one field trip and at least three Snowy Owls were present for most of the season.

A few unexpected passerines appeared during the season, most notably a Rose-breasted Grosbeak found by Leona Lauster in Yates County in early February. Other notable songbirds in the Region included Gray Catbird, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Common Grackle.

Longtime observers seemed unanimous in their sense that this winter's influx of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins was the greatest in two decades. Christmas Bird Counts in Elmira/Corning and Ithaca both recorded all-time high counts of these species. Throughout the season and over the whole Region, both species were easy to find, with Pine Siskins especially numerous around feeders, and White-winged Crossbills observed feeding primarily on the cones of various native and ornamental spruces plus hemlock, larch, pine, and fir cones and some deciduous tree buds. Several observers reported the rare green morph of Pine Siskin. Common Redpolls were widely present in January and February, but not in especially high numbers. Mickey Scilingo made the only detailed report of Hoary Redpoll, from Mecklenburg on 9 February.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ATSMP – Allan Treman State Marine Park, Ithaca; CU – Cornell University; dtIth – downtown Ithaca; ECCBC – Elmira/Corning Christmas Bird Count; ESP – East Shore Park, Ithaca; GCBC – Geneva Christmas Bird Count; ICBC – Ithaca Christmas Bird Count; LPTSP – Long Point State Park; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing; SchCBC – Schuyler County CBC; StvR – Stevenson Road, Dryden; SW – Sapsucker Woods; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1

Aurora Bay 6 Dec (TL, MM, PH); 1 Sheldrake 26 Jan - 5 Feb (DN, BM, SD, AM, BC).

Snow Goose: max 45000 Union Springs 27 Feb (JesB, CLW).

Cackling Goose: max 2 MNWR 6 Dec (PH, TL); 1 MNWR 17 Jan (CR); 1 Aurora Bay 18 Jan (KR, SS, MB); 1 Myers 1 Feb (RD).

Mute Swan: max 10 Farley's Point (CAYU) 7 Feb (TL, AM).

Tundra Swan: 1500 MNWR 30 Dec (RS).

Trumpeter Swan: 26 Cayuga Lake (village of Cayuga) 16 Jan (DS, AG, ph!), ++.

Gadwall: max 52 Union Springs 18 Jan (KR, SS, MB).

Am. Black Duck: max 226 Farley's Point (CAYU) 18 Jan (KR, SS, MB).

N. Shoveler: max 2 ATSM 28 Feb (WK); 1 ATSM 4 Jan (EM); 1 Sheldrake 22-26 Jan (DN, *et al.*)

Green-winged Teal: 1 dtlth 2 Jan thru (DN, *et al.*).

Canvasback: max 818 LPtSP 18 Jan (KR, SS, MB).

Redhead: max 10000 LPtSP 10 Jan (MB).

Surf Scoter: 2 ESP 23 Jan (JaGr).

White-winged Scoter: max 18 Aurora 7 Feb (JesB, CLW).

Black Scoter: 1 StP 1-3 Dec (SK, DN, *et al.*); 1 StP 14 Feb (TJ).

Long-tailed Duck: 14 ICBC 1 Jan, +.

Com. Goldeneye: max 1500 Myers 7 Feb (RD), +.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1 Canandaigua Lake 14-22 Feb (DWh, GK, *et al.*).

Com. Merganser: max 750 Canoga, SENE 10 Jan (TL, MM, SB), +.

Ruddy Duck: max 9 ICBC 1 Jan, +.

EARED GREBE: 1 Aurora 10 Jan (SB, TL, MM, CWi).

Red-necked Grebe: max 10 Aurora 7 Feb (SF).

Double-crested Cormorant: 1 StP 11 Dec (DN); 1 SchCBC 27 Dec.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: 1 ad dtlth 3 Dec (DN); 1 imm dtlth 6 Dec (SK); 1 imm SW 21 Dec (CLW).

Turkey Vulture: multiple scattered reports thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 SW 23 Dec thru.

GOLDEN EAGLE: 1 Avoca, STEU 28 Dec, 5 Jan, 9 Jan (JH ph!).

Bald Eagle: max 12 Union Springs 10 Jan (TL, MM, SB).

Merlin: multiple scattered reports thru.

The Kingbird 2009 June; 59 (2)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 dtlth 15 Jan thru (DN *et al.*); 1 CU 16 Jan thru (MWit, RD, *et al.*).

Reports from two locations possibly represent one bird.

GYRFALCON: 1 LPtSP 10 Jan (SB, TL, MM, CWi).

Killdeer: 1 StP 2 Jan (PH) only report.

Am. Woodcock: 1 Ithaca 9 Jan (NaS), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 2 StP 7 Dec (KR).

Herring Gull: 1200 StP 1 Jan (KR, Ithaca CBC).

THAYER'S GULL: 1 Seneca Falls 17 Jan (PH, ph!); 1 StvR and StP 17-19 Feb (TJ, SB, *et al.*, ph!).

Iceland Gull: 10 Seneca Falls 17 Jan (PH); 6 StP 1 Jan (KR, PH, Ithaca CBC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 5 ESP 14 Feb (TJ), +.

Glaucous Gull: 2 StP 15 Jan (PH).

SLATY-BACKED GULL: 1 StvR and StP 21-23 Dec (TL, KM, *et al.*, ph!).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: max 2 Seneca Falls 17 Jan (TJ, *et al.*).

Long-eared Owl: 1 Seneca Falls 14 Feb (JvN).

Short-eared Owl: max 14 Ovid 13 Dec (AM, *et al.*)

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 Prospect Hill (CHEM) 10 Dec (MP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Preemption Road (ONT) 7 Dec (FB); 1 SW 3 Jan (MWin), 1 Covert thru (J&JH, DN).

Hairy Woodpecker: 147 ICBC 1 Jan, +.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Am. Crow: max 9278 GCBC 14 Dec, +.

Horned Lark: max 525 GCBC 14 Dec.

E. Bluebird: max 141 ICBC 1 Jan.

Hermit Thrush: 1 Ithaca 2, 4 Jan (SO, DN, *et al.*), likely same bird, only reports.

Gray Catbird: 1 CU 20 Jan thru (RD); 1 dtlth 31 Jan (DN).

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 dtlth 31 Jan (DN); 2+ Severne Road (YATE) 2 Feb (LL).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 Trumansburg 11-18, 26 Dec (B&SMcA).

FIELD SPARROW: 1 Ithaca 15 Jan (SO, DN); 1 Lansing 18, 21 Jan (RD).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: 1 Lansing 1-2 Jan (RB).

Fox Sparrow: 1 Dryden 1-2 Dec (JF), only report.

White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Preemption Road, ONTA 25 Jan (LL), +.

Snow Bunting: max 1694 GCBC 14 Dec, +.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 1 Severne Road, YATE 2 Feb (LL), only report.

E. Meadowlark: 2 Scofield Rd (TOMP) 4 Jan (PA, ES, *et al.*); 1 Skyline Dr, YATE 6 Jan (LD).

Com. Grackle: 1 Dryden thru (CvL, LaVL).

RED CROSSBILL: 1 Dryden 8 Feb (MS), only report.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: 156 ICBC 1 Jan, +; widely reported thru.

Com. Redpoll: max 80 Mecklenburg 9 Feb (MiS).

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 Mecklenburg 9 Feb (MiS), only report.

Pine Siskin: max 472 ECCBC 14 Dec, ++; widely reported thru.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Winter got off to an early start with a snowier than normal December. Temperatures for December were slightly below normal, particularly through the first three weeks. When things started to warm and thaw, a high of 57° F occurred on the 28th. In January, northwestern sections of the Region, i.e. northern Cortland and Chenango counties, received regular small amounts of lake effect snow in addition to the widespread snow events, but generally speaking snowfall totals were slightly above average for the Region. Temperatures were near normal or slightly below normal for January. February was noted for a dearth of snow, and was therefore one of the driest on record. Temperatures were near normal or slightly above normal for February. Despite temperatures being near normal for the winter period, only three days for the entire winter were officially below zero at the Binghamton National Weather Service Station. Overall, it was closer to a “more traditional” kind of winter than the record breaking warmer and rainier winters we’ve become so used to over the last 10 years.

The cone crop was fair to good with considerable variation occurring within a small area. This was the most variation in the cone crop I’ve witnessed since I started tracking cone crops in 2000. Sometimes one conifer species on one ridge would produce a good cone crop, but a rather poor cone crop on the adjacent ridge. This was particularly true of the spruces. The white and red pine crop was more consistently good than other conifers in the Region, with only hemlock producing a consistently poor cone crop. Furthermore, almost all conifers in nearly all residential areas seemed to produce a consistently very good cone crop. This likely had something to do with the concept of resource allocation. Typical of residential areas where only a few conifer trees are usually planted per lawn, trees appeared to have enough resources to produce a consistently good cone crop, likely due to less competition. However, in forests and plantations where competition for resources would be greater, trees appeared to

not have the resources to consistently produce a good cone crop. In conclusion, the crop was fair to locally good in forest and plantation settings, but very good in residential areas. Other winter food crops like fruiting trees and shrubs, maples, ashes and birches, were average, with oaks producing a rather poor crop.

There were no big surprises during the annual mid winter waterfowl count, which was conducted a little later in January so that it wouldn't overlap with the hunting season. The only surprise for the count was the two Gadwalls on Cold Brook in Scott, Cortland County. Since most ponds and lakes were frozen, numbers were lower than in recent years. The seven **Greater White Fronted Geese** seen at Little York Lakes, Cortland County, were the best waterfowl find for the area. These birds, along with a **Cackling Goose**, were present the day before the 14th December Cortland Christmas Bird Count. Other good waterbird finds were the **Red-throated Loon** seen mid December in Endwell and then brought into a wildlife rehabilitator on 16 December, and the rare-in-winter **Double-crested Cormorant** seen at Chenango Valley State Park on 15 January.

Turkey Vultures are staying later and returning earlier. A presumed wintering Turkey Vulture was seen in Owego on 5 January. Cooper's Hawks continue to be reported more commonly in winter than historically. They now appear to be three times more common than Sharp-shinned Hawks. **Merlins** continue to overwinter in Binghamton and Cortland. Two **Golden Eagles** were seen on the Binghamton Christmas Bird Count and another bird was reported the day before the Cortland Christmas Bird Count. Both counts were on 14 December. It appears that almost every year now at least 2-3 are reported on area CBCs. Some birds are clearly migrants, but other birds appear to stop over for a time or try to overwinter.

An **American Woodcock** seen by Judy Read in Cuyler, Cortland County, on 8 December was certainly a nice find. Six species of owls were reported, highlighted by single Short-eared, Long-eared, and Snowy Owls. It's interesting to note that this was the only Snowy Owl reported in the area despite it being the largest invasion in approximately 10 years. Watch for the possibility of an "echo flight" of Snowy Owls developing next year. Read below for more information on the concept of echo flights.

Good songbird finds were an immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** in Garrettsville, Otsego County; a Gray Catbird on the Sherburne Christmas Bird Count; and an overwintering Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the Chagnum River, Broome County. But the best find has to be the **Pine Warbler** that overwintered at Tom Salo's feeder in S. Burlington, Otsego County, from 7 December to 5 February.

There was a massive and statewide invasion of both **Pine Siskins** and **White-winged Crossbills**. The White-winged Crossbill invasion was the best in the state since at least 1997-98, and the Pine Siskin invasion the best dating back to 1989-90. Several flocks of White-winged Crossbills numbered 20-100+. Breeding was thought to be rare because of less than optimal conifer species being available, poor condition of arriving birds, and the sometimes an effect of very large numbers inhibiting courtship behaviors. Pine Siskins moved through

the northeast, and NY, in huge numbers, through October and November with a bit of a lull occurring in December. However, by January almost all feeders statewide were inundated by flocks of 20-200. By March, this large invasion was so massive that it caused an Eastern North America shortage of Nyjer® (trademarked name for niger seed) seed (aka thistle seed, totally erroneous name). Additionally, this writer collected reports of “**Green Morph**” **Pine Siskins**. By early February I had received over 20 reports of mostly unconfirmed birds, but several were well documented. Lastly, Pine Siskin breeding behavior started to pick up by the last days of February.

Red Crossbills were scarce, but **Common Redpolls** waged a late, small, and widespread “echo flight” invasion. Echo flights are typically smaller and occur in a year after a larger invasion. It is thought that these “echo flights” have to do with a buildup of numbers for a species in a given year, due to very high nest success, followed by two successive years of food crops that cannot support this buildup in numbers. In this case we are dealing with cones crops, but the concept applies more generally to other irruptive species such as several species of northern hawks and owls, Northern Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing, and possibly other species. There also appeared to be echo flights of Bohemian Waxwings and Evening and Pine Grosbeaks in the northern part of the state this season. A few Evening and Pine Grosbeaks did reach central NY, however. Rounding out the finches, a lone **Hoary Redpoll** was reported from Morgan Hill State Forest, Cortland County, in February.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCBC – Binghamton Christmas Bird Count; CCBC – Cortland Christmas Bird Count; FMHW – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch; OnCBC – Oneonta Christmas Bird Count; OwCBC – Owego Christmas Bird Count; SHCBC – Sherburne Christmas Bird Count; SkanL – Skanateles Lake; TBC – Tioga Bird Club; NCBCWW – Naturalists' Club of Broome County Weed Walkers.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 7

Little York Lakes CORT 13 Dec; high count and rare, *intro*.

Snow Goose: max 550 CCBC 14 Dec; regular early-mid Dec; first returning flock of 400+ 18 Feb TIOG.

CACKLING GOOSE: Little York Lakes CORT 13 Dec.

Mute Swan: 2 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan.

Wood Duck: 1 BCBC 14 Dec.

GADWALL: 2 Cold Brook Rd Scott CORT mid Dec-early Jan.

Am. Black Duck: max 48 BCBC 14 Dec.

N. Pintail: 2 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan.

Redhead: max 18 Hillcrest Pits 27 Dec; 16 SkanL CCBC 14 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: max 43 Preble 17 Feb; 8 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan; few reports from BROO, TIOG, CORT.

Greater Scaup: 1 BCBC 14 Dec, only report.

Lesser Scaup: 4 SkanL CCBC 14 Dec.

Bufflehead: 5 SkanL CCBC 14 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: max 57 SkanL CCBC 14 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: max 55 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan.

Com. Merganser: max 302 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: 1 BCBC 14 DEC.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 3 BCBC 14 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: max 12 CCBC 14 Dec; higher than avg. numbers reported.

Wild Turkey: max 327 OnCBC 20 Dec; higher than avg. numbers reported.

RED-THROATED LOON: Murphy's Island Endwell mid Dec; 1 dropped off at rehabber TIOG 16 Dec, *intro*.

Com. Loon: a few SkanL CORT early Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 SkanL CCBC 14 Dec.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Chenango Valley State Park 15 Jan, *intro*.

Great Blue Heron: max 19 BCBC 14 Dec; several reports throughout area with typical decline in numbers during early Jan-late Feb.

Turkey Vulture: a few early Dec; one mid winter report Owego TIOG 5 Jan; first returning migrant Chenango Valley State Park 14 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDIS

Bald Eagle: 9 BCBC 14 Dec; 1 CCBC 14 Dec; larger numbers concentrated in Delaware River basin; reported from all counties; now regular in smaller numbers near medium sized rivers including along Tio R from E. Homer to Whitney Pt.

N. Harrier: max 3 CCBC 14 Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 12 BCBC 14 Dec; few reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 16 BCBC 14 Dec; regular.

N. Goshawk: OTSE 21 Jan; Virgil CORT 8 Feb; only two report, scarce.

Red-shouldered Hawk: BCBC 14 Dec; one Merrill Creek Rd Marathon BROO 15 Feb, only reports, rare.

Red-tailed Hawk: 48 FMHW Dec totals; 12 FMHW Jan totals; max 69 CCBC 14 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: 13 OwCBC 28 Dec; higher numbers early, fewer reported after Dec.

GOLDEN EAGLE: 24 FMHW Dec totals; 2 BCBC 14 Dec & cw bird CCBC Dec 14; 8

other reports; a few seem to stopover or try to overwinter every year now esp. in OTSE and DELA, *intro*.

Am. Kestrel: max 4 OwCBC 28 Dec; scarce after Dec; overwintering birds declining for years despite generally warmer winters.

Merlin: Little York CCBC 14 Dec & BCBC 14 Dec; Binghamton and Cortland thru ; probably occurring in winter in other areas as increase in both winter and breeding numbers continues throughout southern half of state.

Peregrine Falcon: Binghamton thru, expected.

Am. Coot: max 93 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan; Otsego Lake every winter.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Cuyler CORT 8 Dec, good details, *intro*.

Ring-billed Gull: max 231 CCBC 14 Dec, low.

Herring Gull: max 110 CCBC 14 Dec, low.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: River Rd BROO 30 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 4 CCBC 18 Dec, low.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 592 BCBC 14 Dec.

E. Screech-Owl: several reports, good numbers.

Great Horned Owl: several reports and generally well distributed.

SNOWY OWL: Barden Rd TIOG 6 Jan, only report despite it being a large invasion year elsewhere.

Barred Owl: 2 SHCBC 20 Dec & 2 CCBC 14 Dec; few reports and obviously underreported.

LONG-EARED OWL: Scott CORT 14 Dec; only report; one other report right along CAYU and CORT line.

SHORT-EARED OWL: OnCBC 20 Dec.

Belted Kingfisher: max 6 BCBC 14 Dec; several reports with dip in numbers early Jan-late Feb.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: immature Garrettsville NY OTSE 1 Dec-29 Jan, *intro*.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous reports along river valleys and towns at <1500'; increasing reports from 1500'-2000'; absent from OnCBC and still scarce in that area.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: max 3 BCBC 14 Dec; 3 other reports.

N. Flicker: singles reported on all CBC's except higher elevation counts in Sherburne and Oneonta; lower numbers this year than last and still generally scarce.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: few reports in Dec and generally scarce afterwards.

Blue Jay: max 394 BCBC 14 Dec.

Fish Crow: max 3 BCBC 14 Dec; at typical locations near waterways between Binghamton and Owego but still not found north to Cortland despite it being found in Ithaca and Syracuse.

Com. Raven: 2-7 reported on all area CBC's; 7 CCBC 14 Dec; max 15-20 CHEN dump thru; several widely scattered reports thru winter; winter numbers appear to be increasing given it appeared that many breeding birds formerly left area in winter.

Horned Lark: a few widely scattered reports in CORT, BROO, and TIOG; max 34 CCBC 14 Dec; missed on 3 of 5 area CBC's.

Tufted Titmouse: max 199 BCBC 14 Dec; high count of 37 set for higher elevation SHCBC 20 Dec; continues to increase along many river valleys and villages of Region <1500' and starting to increase even during winter up to 1800'.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 73 CCBC 14 Dec; good numbers in state forests with good conifer crops, but overall an average year and not an invasion year.

Brown Creeper: max 16 BCBC 14 Dec, high count; average numbers reported otherwise.

Carolina Wren: max 20 BCBC 14 Dec; continues to increase areawide.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 23 CCBC 14 Dec; average numbers reported, but missed from OnCBC.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: BCBC 14 Dec; Chagnum River BROO thru much of period; probably the same bird as reported on BCBC, *intro*.

E. Bluebird: max 73 OwCBC 20 Dec; many reported thru period but generally more common along "southern tier" counties.

HERMIT THRUSH: 1 Aquaterra Park BROO 6 Dec.

Am. Robin: max 9 CCBC 14 Dec; very low numbers compared with recent years; numbers in general were much lower.

GRAY CATBIRD: SHCBC 20 Dec.

N. Mockingbird: max 5 OwCBC 18 Dec; also reported on CCBC and BCBC.

Cedar Waxwing: max 349 BCBC 14 Dec; missed on OnCBC 20 Dec.

WARBLERS

PINE WARBLER: S. Burlington OTSE 7 Dec-5 Feb (TS), rare, *intro*.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 173 CCBC; numbers appeared to be unevenly distributed across area?

FOX SPARROW: 2 Hillcrest Pits 6 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 34 BCBC 14 Dec; reported from all area CBC's.

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 SHCBC 20 Dec; Sherburne would be an unusual location for "max" to occur; at least a few overwinter in various marshes somewhere in Reg every year.

White-throated Sparrow: max 29 BCBC 14 Dec; reported from all CBC's.

Snow Bunting: max 350 CCBC 14 Dec; missed on OnCBC & OwCBC.

Red-winged Blackbird: 3 reported from CCBC & cw bird SHCBC; first returning migrants 12 Feb.

Com. Grackle: 3 BCBC, only CBC report; first returning migrants 18 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 15 BCBC; reported from all area CBC's; most common winter blackbird; first returning migrants mid to late Feb.

PINE GROSBEAK: 12 On CBC 20 Dec; one

along Madison/Chenango line near Lincklaen; small "echo flight" occurred in NY after last year's large widespread invasion. *intro*.

Purple Finch: max 41 OnCBC 20 Dec; largely scarce but becoming slightly more common and widespread mid-late Jan thru.

House Finch: small number in towns, hamlets, and farms; numbers haven't rebounded to early 90's highs.

Red Crossbill: Virgil CORT 21 Feb; 2 Pharsalia CHEN Jan, very scarce, which seems to be typical during Oct-Jan with birds then moving into area in Feb when breeding starts.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: max 333 CCBC 14 Dec; widespread massive invasion not seen in central NY since at least the 97-98 flight; too numerous to report with several flocks of 25-100+ thru Reg. particularly in Dec; numbers declined in Jan and Feb, but several flocks still noted thru winter; numbers were too

high for much nesting to take place, *intro*.

COM. REDPOLL: max 17 Scott CORT 17 Feb; small, late, and widespread "echo flight" occurred throughout much of area from mid Jan thru; many area feeders reported a "handful" mid Jan thru, *intro*.

HOARY REDPOLL: Truxton CORT 6 Feb.

PINE SISKIN: max 432 BCBC 14 Dec; reported in moderate numbers from all CBC's; massive and widespread invasion not seen in NY since the 1989-90; breeding behaviors began mid-late Feb, *intro*.

"GREEN MORPH" PINE SISKIN: at least 4 inds reported at Scott CORT; handful of others reported in region and by early Feb 20+ mostly unconfirmed statewide sightings, *intro*.

Evening Grosbeak: max 10 Lincklaen 5 Jan; Scott CORT 31 Jan; OnCBC 20 Dec.

Am. Goldfinch: max 476 BCBC 14 Dec; above average numbers thru, winter.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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There was much talk about an "old-fashioned winter" and the statistics bear that out to some degree. The December snowfall was the third highest on record, and January had nearly as much snow and was extremely cold. Much of the Region had some snow cover for the entire season. Oneida Lake froze on 31 December. In the Adirondacks, Old Forge had a low of -27° F on 16 January, with 37 days when the low was below zero. In December the average temperature was 28.9° F, 0.3° above normal, with 3.89" of precipitation, 0.77" above normal, and 57.3" of snow. In January the average temperature was 18.2° F, 4.5° below normal, with 1.86" of precipitation, 0.74" below normal, and 49.8" of snow. The averages for February were 26.3° F, 1.8° above normal, and 1.3" of precipitation, 0.82" below normal, with 24.2" of snow.

The fall migration of Snow Goose peaked in December, and they returned in February. Tundra Swan stayed until the 31 December freeze-up and only one wintered in Brewerton after larger numbers had wintered the past two years. The cold weather concentrated large numbers of scaup in Oswego Harbor, but extensive shoreline ice formed early along Lake Ontario, limiting diving duck numbers. Two King Eiders and a Harlequin Duck were found along Lake Ontario, with the eiders remaining for a few

days. Ruddy Duck, an uncommon winter species, was reported from six locations, although that may have been only two or three individuals in all. Small numbers of American Wigeon and Northern Pintail had returned by the middle of February.

Loons were quite scarce after December, with only a few sightings each of Common and Red-throated. Grebe numbers were fairly typical with one Red-necked Grebe visible in the Oswego area periodically through the season. Not many Double-crested Cormorants attempted to winter this year, possible evidence that control programs are having an effect on the population. In December there was a large group of Great Blue Herons in a Rome wetland, but by February they were scarce away from the Onondaga Lake and Seneca River area.

It was a good winter for Rough-legged Hawk in traditional areas such as Fairfield, Verona, Schroepel, and Richland, as sightings had an early peak in December and another peak in February. It now seems that a small falcon encountered in open country in winter is nearly as likely to be a Merlin as an American Kestrel, as sightings of the former species increase. Local birders have known that Bald Eagles frequent Onondaga Lake in the winter, and this year a small concentration there became a newsworthy item for the Syracuse media. Bald Eagles can be seen along many open waterways in winter and at deer carcasses in rural areas. Two Golden Eagles towards the end of February were early migrants. Turkey Vultures have been wintering for a while now but 14 soaring together on a mid-February thermal was notable.

Winter shorebirds are always a good find in the Region. This year there was Purple Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe. A big gull influx started on 21 December, as thousands of Herring Gulls could be found in the areas around the locks and dams of the Seneca and Oswego Rivers. There were up to 13 Iceland Gulls, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and three Glaucous Gull in the large numbers. A first-cycle Thayer's Gull was photographed in Phoenix. Many of the gulls had moved on by 15 January.

Snowy Owls irrupted in large numbers and were widespread at traditional locations. Long-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl were seen at Beaver Lake Nature Center, and the Saw-whet delighted many birders on a somewhat irregular basis. At least one Short-eared Owl was found in the degrading habitat in Verona, but most of the Region's potential habitat for Short-eared Owl is rarely visited by birders.

There was a lingering Red-headed Woodpecker in early January, plus fair numbers of Northern Flickers and several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers through the season. A Black-backed Woodpecker was seen for several days around Big Moose. This was a very good season for Regional half-hardies, with sightings of Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Baltimore Oriole. In such a good year it was a little surprising that Hermit Thrush and Rusty Blackbird

were not seen. It was a fair year for Northern Shrike but they were present and even persistent in areas that were checked frequently. Despite some recent milder winters the Carolina Wren population does not seem to be expanding.

Warm weather from 7-13 February was followed by four days that were only one degree below normal, and that was enough to bring American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles filtering into area by the middle of the month. Subsequent cold weather stopped migration until a brief upswing on 26-27 February. Bohemian Waxwing is much more common in the northern tier of counties in New York, but some are usually sighted here in irruption years. This year there was only one report from the Adirondack foothills.

After the big winter invasion of 2007-8 Pine Grosbeak was not really expected, so the few that did make it here in January were a treat. A trickle of Pine Siskins increased in late December and turned into a flood by the middle of January, when many feeders were reporting flocks of 50 and more. Siskins even showed up in the suburbs. Some Common Redpolls were in the area in December, and small numbers showed up at feeders towards the end of January. The White-winged Crossbill invasion that began in the summer of 2008 lessened somewhat by the beginning of February as birds seemed to be departing the area.

For the season 131 species were reported, five above the average for the past 10 years. Highlights included King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Ruddy Duck, Golden Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Thayer's Gull, Snowy Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Field Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; GLSP – Green Lakes SP; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; HERK; OnonL – Onondaga

Lake; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; VB – Van Buren.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1000 Cazenovia 19 Dec; arr 400 Skan L 18 Feb.

Mute Swan: max 16 FH 14 Feb.

Tundra Swan: max 95 OnonL 20 Dec; single Brewerton after 28 Jan.

Wood Duck: last Bvllle 1-10 Feb.

Gadwall: max 15 OnonL 17 Jan.

Am. Wigeon: last 2 OnonL 20 Dec; arr 3 FH & 6 OnonL 14 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 85 Sherrill 18 Jan.

N. Pintail: max 2 GLSP 8 Feb; 4 other singles.

Green-winged Teal: Dewitt to 13 Jan; 2 W Eaton thru.

Canvasback: max 31 OnonL 15 Feb.

Redhead: max 451 Shore Oaks 18 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: max 57 Otisco L 18 Dec.

Greater Scaup: max 1300 Oswego 29 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 148 OnonL 20 Dec.

King Eider: 2 Sunset Bay 2-3 Jan (KM, BP).

Harlequin Duck: Sunset Bay 2 Jan (KM, BP).

Surf Scoter: 3 reports LOL; Brewerton 2 Feb (MR).

White-winged Scoter: max 157 Oswego 6 Jan.

Black Scoter: last Sunset Bay 2 Jan.

Long-tailed Duck: max 316 Oswego 18 Jan.

Bufflehead: max 97 Oswego 29 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: max 550 FH 18 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: max 281 Otisco L 5 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 2945 OnonL 20 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 270 e. LOL 10 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: max 2 Fulton 14 Dec; 3 Jan singles; Bvllle 11-19 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: 2 Oswego 6 Jan; last Oswego 24 Jan.

Com. Loon: 2 Jan reports & 1 in Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 OnonL 20 Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 5 Sunset Bay 2 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 4 LOL 2 Jan; 5 other reports.

Double-cr. Cormorant: max 15 Oswego 6 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: max 30 Rome 28 Dec, high number (BrC); to 5 Seneca R thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 14 GLSP 15 Feb (MD).

Bald Eagle: max 15 OnonL after 15 Jan.

N. Harrier: last SVB 30 Dec; arr Syr Airport 15 Feb.

N. Goshawk: 3 reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Clinton 31 Jan; Elbridge 22 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 13 Mexico-Richland 18 Dec; 10 Fairfield 6 Feb.

Golden Eagle: Pulaski 15 Feb (KM); Erieville 28 Feb (KP).

Merlin: 15+ reports from 8 locations.

Peregrine Falcon: Oswego 6 Dec; Syr & Utica thru.

Am. Coot: max 5 OnonL thru.

Purple Sandpiper: Oswego 9 Dec (DN).

Wilson's Snipe: Erieville 4 Jan (KP, ph).

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Oneida L 8 Dec, last.

Thayer's Gull: Phoenix 24 Dec, first-cycle (JC, ph).

Iceland Gull: up to 13 Oswego R after 22 Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 per day Oswego R 21 Dec to 18 Jan.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 Bvllle-Phoenix 13 Jan.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: numerous reports of at least 17 individuals; max 4 Fairfield in Feb.

Long-eared Owl: BLNC 16 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: SVB to 1 Jan, Oriskany 20 Dec.

N. Saw-whet Owl: BLNC after 24 Jan.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Fabius 4 Jan (BeC, CSp).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Old Forge 11 Feb, unusual.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 Kirkland 20 Dec; 4 Jan reports; Marcellus 21 Feb.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Big Moose L 4-20 Feb (GL).

N. Flicker: max 7 CM 16 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: reports from over 20 locations, persistent in well monitored areas.

Fish Crow: 2-6 per day OnonL thru.

Com. Raven: SFNS 9 Dec & 2 Green Lakes SP 31 Jan, edging into populated areas.

Horned Lark: max 38 DeRuyter 10 Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12 Green Lakes SP 31 Jan, good count.

Winter Wren: 4 Jan reports; last CM 2 Feb.

E. Bluebird: max 18 Marcellus 3 Jan.

Am. Robin: widespread in southern areas and along Lake Ontario.

Gray Catbird: SFNS 1 Dec (MP); Dewitt 19-24 Jan (GH).

Bohemian Waxwing: 100 Fairfield 6 Feb (TS).

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 3 HI 11 Jan (BP).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Spafford 21 Jan (NG).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 77 Clay 20 Dec.
Chipping Sparrow: Syr 3-5 Jan (MK).
Field Sparrow: 2 Volney 14 Dec (BP, DB, MD).
Fox Sparrow: Geo to 4 Jan, Utica 28 Feb.
Song Sparrow: max 6 Marcellus 3 Jan.
Swamp Sparrow: OnonL 20 Dec; last HI 11 Jan.
White-throated Sparrow: max 26 Dewitt 13 Jan.
White-crowned Sparrow: Elbridge 1 Feb (KB).
Dark-eyed Junco: max 22 StMc 29 Dec.
Lapland Longspur: max 4 Stockbridge 19 Jan; 6 other individuals. all Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 2000 Stockbridge 19 Jan.
N. Cardinal: Old Forge after 11 Jan.
Red-winged Blackbird: last 2 Pompey 6 Jan; arr Elbridge 17 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: Ira 12 Jan (TW).
Com. Grackle: arr 8 VB 16 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100 9 Dec, 20 Feb.
Baltimore Oriole: VB 6 Dec (JB).
Pine Grosbeak: max 17 Orwell 19 Jan; 6 other reports.
Purple Finch: max 30 Salisbury 4 Dec.
Red Crossbill: max 9 Geo 4 Jan; small numbers higher elevations.
White-winged Crossbill: max 150 Kirkland 18 Dec; flocks widespread, decreasing in Feb.
Com. Redpoll: arr 3 Oswego 12 Dec; max 180 Parish 6 Feb.
Hoary Redpoll: Erieville 24 Jan; DeRuyter 9 Feb.
Pine Siskin: max 200 Canastota 22 Jan & 200 Salisbury 14 Feb; widespread by early Jan.
Evening Grosbeak: max 5 Deruyter 4 Jan, scarce.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Most North Country residents that I talked to thought that the winter of 2008-09 was particularly cold and unpleasant, and the Watertown weather data at least partially supports that claim. December wasn't particularly cold, as the mean temperature of 26.2° F was actually 0.9° above normal, but the January mean of 12.6° was 6.0° below normal. Temperatures moderated somewhat in February, with a mean of 22.6°, which is 2.2° above normal. February was also relatively snow free, as only 12.5" fell in Watertown, providing something of a respite from December's 52.5" and January's 87" of snow. The season as a whole therefore ended up being somewhat colder and snowier than average.

Waterfowl were abundant during December and early January, but most open water froze over a few days before the 18 January statewide waterfowl count, and many ducks moved out into Lake Ontario or out of the Region entirely during the week leading up to the count. Early season waterfowl highlights included the year's final large movement of Snow Geese on 10-11 December, continuing the recent trend toward later and larger December passage; two untagged adult Trumpeter Swans at Jacques Cartier State Park in December; an apparent hybrid Common x Barrow's Goldeneye Nick Leone

found at Point Peninsula; and up to 4000 Redhead, 1200 Long-tailed Ducks, and 80 Red-breasted Mergansers on the St. Lawrence River in Cape Vincent in late December and early January. These latter numbers dropped precipitously between 10 and 16 January as the St. Lawrence River and near shore Lake Ontario iced over, and fewer than 20 individuals of each species were tallied on the waterfowl count. Waterfowl numbers and diversity were low for the remainder of the winter, but the scarcity of open water made it relatively easy to find Barrow's Goldeneye, with a total of four individuals reported between 23 January and the end of February.

Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks were present in moderately low numbers for the second consecutive year, and raptors generally were reported in modest numbers. Northern Harriers were particularly scarce, and several observers noted that they saw none after early December. Accipiters also seemed scarcer than usual, although they were reported in typical proportions: Cooper's Hawks were not quite twice as common as Sharp-shinned Hawks, and only one Northern Goshawk was reported. Among the exceptions to the general trend were continuing good numbers of wintering Bald Eagles along the St. Lawrence River, including a concentration of 11 feeding at deer remains in Alexandria accompanied by an astonishing 37 Common Ravens. Other highlights included individual Golden Eagles in Alexandria in January and Canton in February, and at least nine Merlins, the latter representing a continuation of the trend for increasing numbers during all seasons.

It was a fairly good winter for owls, especially Snowy Owls, which made their best showing in the Region since 2001. The highlight of the winter was a **Northern Hawk Owl** that MaryBeth Warburton spotted along the side of Rt. 11 in Potsdam as she drove home from her Christmas break. The Hawk Owl remained on a territory in an unlikely location near a Wal-Mart for about a month, allowing numerous observers great looks. On 21 January Mark Manske captured and banded the Hawk Owl, which he identified as a first winter female and reported to be in good condition. Short-eared Owls were present in moderate numbers in Cape Vincent early in the season, but most individuals dispersed by mid-winter and few could be found after late January. As a final note on owls, I received a very belated report of a **Boreal Owl** from March of 2008 that included excellent photographs, and a second-hand report from somebody who saw photographs of a Northern Hawk Owl from the same period in 2008, although I never received documentation for the latter. Assuming that this report is valid, Great Gray, Northern Hawk, and Boreal owls were all present in St. Lawrence County at the same time in 2008, but few people heard about any of them.

Many of the usual half-hardies were present in typical or higher than average numbers. For instance, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Song and White-throated Sparrows were well reported during at least the first half of the winter period. In contrast, Northern Flicker, often among the most reliable of half-hardies, was virtually absent. Some of the more unusual half-hardies included Winter Wren, Eastern Towhee, and White-crowned Sparrow. Most half-hardy

reports came from December and early January, and most species were largely absent in February.

It was another good winter for irruptive waxwings and finches. Bohemian Waxwings were scarce early, with just a couple of December reports, but invaded St. Lawrence County in large numbers during February. Pine Grosbeaks were also present in St. Lawrence County in good numbers, and, as with Bohemian Waxwings, were barely reported in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. White-winged Crossbills were everywhere, with reports in the hundreds from the Adirondacks and Tug Hill and even a few large tallies from the lowlands. More typical were reports of individuals flying overhead from virtually every portion of the Region. Redpolls were generally scarce in December and early January, with just a few scattered small flocks, but a substantial wave moved into the Region during the middle half of January, with a maximum count of 440 on Fort Drum 12 January. At least two **Hoary Redpolls** were observed each on Fort Drum and in Canton during late January and early February. Redpoll numbers gradually diminished during the last 4-5 weeks of the reporting period.

I received reports of an even 100 species for the winter, a total that is slightly lower than for the preceding two years but roughly average overall. The highlight was certainly the Northern Hawk Owl, runners up being relatively good numbers of Snowy Owls and large numbers of Bohemian Waxwings and irruptive finches. The biggest disappointment was the poor showing by many diurnal raptors.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, Massena, STLA; CCSP – Coles Creek SP, STLA; CPSP – Cedar Point SP, JEFF; CV – Cape Vincent, JEFF; FL – Fisher’s Landing, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; HP – Hawkin’s Pt., Massena, STLA; LB – Lisbon Beach, STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown, JEFF; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, Lyme, JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence River; TP – Tibbet’s Pt., Cape Vincent, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, Canton, STLA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1100 FD 11 Dec, last of fall migrants.
Mute Swan: 2 FL thru.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 unmarked adults Jacques Cartier SP 3-4 Dec (GS, JB).
Wood Duck: arr FD 26 Feb.
Gadwall: max 3 LB 1 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 140 CPSP 9 Jan.
N. Pintail: Waddington 10 Jan.
Green-winged Teal: CV 12 Dec, only report.
Canvasback: FL 2 Jan, only report.
Redhead: max 4000 CV 30 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 11 CPSP 9 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: 6 CV 27 Dec; FL 18 Feb.

White-winged Scoter: CCSP 1 Dec; CV 4 & 9 Jan; 17 PtPen 6 Jan.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1200 SLR CV 9 Jan.
Com. Goldeneye: max 834 SLR between TP and Thousand Islands Bridge 18 Jan.

Barrow's Goldeneye: pr ad LB 23 Jan (JB); ad f FL 18 Feb (NL); ad m HP 25 Feb thru (MC, mob).

Com. x Barrow's Goldeneye: ad m PtPen 6 Jan (NL).

Hooded Merganser: max 12 SLR Louisville 14 Dec; scattered reports 1-6 thru.

Com. Merganser: max 500 SLR Hammond 9 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 81 SLR CV 2 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: ULLWMA 5-13 Dec; FL 2 Jan (NL).

Horned Grebe: TP 2 Jan, only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: last SLR Hammond 14 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: last PtPen 5 Jan.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 11 at deer remains Alexandria 30 Dec; 52 counted along SLR by NYSDEC staff during mid-winter flight.

N. Harrier: virtually absent after early Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 12 reports.

N. Goshawk: ad FD 20 Jan.

Red-tailed Hawk: 7-15 per day N JEFF; 3-6 per day elsewhere.

Rough-legged Hawk: 7-15 per day N JEFF; 1-4 per day elsewhere; a relatively poor year.

Golden Eagle: Alexandria 9 Jan (JB);

ULLWMA 7 Feb (JB).

Am. Kestrel: 1-2 per day N JEFF; scarce elsewhere after Dec.

Merlin: 2 CV thru; CCSP 1 Dec; Brownville 3 December; Gouverneur 5 Dec; Sackett's Harbor 6 Dec; CV 12 Dec; Sackett's Harbor 12 Dec;

LB 6 Feb; good showing.

Peregrine Falcon: BI thru (MC).

Ring-billed Gull: arr FD 26 Feb.

Iceland Gull: max 4 HP 2 Jan; CPSP 27 Feb (DG, rarely reported JEFF).

Glaucous Gull: 1-4 per day HP Jan; several dates Ogdensburg.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: CV 24 Feb.

Snowy Owl: FD thru; Leray 2 Dec thru; 2 Fuller Bay CV early Dec; Morristown 1 Jan;

Barnes Corners 11 Jan; Lisbon mid-Jan; Hammond 28 Jan; at least 6 more reports lacked information on location.

N. HAWK OWL: first winter female Potsdam 29 Dec to 2 Feb (MW, banded by MM, mob, photos!, report to NYSARC).

Long-eared Owl: FD 9 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: max 21 CV 9 Dec where numbers declined through season; Ogdensburg airport 13 Dec; Massena 31 Jan; Galop Is SLR 6 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 FD 9 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: last ULLWMA 11 Jan.

N. Flicker: FD 18 Dec; scarce.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 1-4 per day thru except for S JEFF and LEWI where scarce after mid Jan.

Com. Raven: max 37 at deer remains Alexandria 18 Jan.

Horned Lark: max 102 CV 30 Jan.

Carolina Wren: CV thru; KC 17 Jan thru 23 Feb.

Winter Wren: FD 12 Jan; rare in winter.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 6 TP 19 Feb.

E. Bluebird: 2 FD 18 Dec; 5 ULLWMA 5 Jan; 4 PRWMA 22 Jan; 3 PRWMA 18 Feb.

Am. Robin: max 28 BI 18 Jan; many reports Dec & Jan; scarce Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: 112 Morristown 3 Dec; 2 HP 10 Dec; 19 FD 30 Jan; many reports 100-300 per day STLA 2 Feb thru.

Cedar Waxwing: scarce until mid Feb; max 40 Canton 22 Feb.

WARBLERS

No reports.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Alexandria 7-8 Jan, only report (ML).

Song Sparrow: FD 4 Feb, only report.

White-throated Sparrow: 6 per day KC thru 22 Feb; CV 14 Jan; PtPen 14 Jan.

White-crowned Sparrow: KC 14-26 Jan (DB & MB).

Lapland Longspur: 7-10 per day CV.

Snow Bunting: max 750 CV several dates.

Red-winged Blackbird: Canton feeder 19 Jan; migrants arr Deferiet 28 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Deferiet 4 Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: max 55 Canton 25 Jan; numerous reports smaller groups STLA thru; few reports JEFF & LEWI.

White-winged Crossbill: lowland max 400 CV 12 Dec; widespread throughout.

Com. Redpoll: max 440 FD 12 Jan.

HOARY REDPOLL (R6): different locations FD 22, 27 Jan (JB); 2 Canton 5-8 Feb (TW, EW, RC, photos!).

Pine Siskin: max 400 per day at Potsdam feeder thru; abundant and widespread throughout.
Evening Grosbeak: scarce outside Adirondacks.

ADDENDUM

BOREAL OWL: roosting in Brasher shed early & mid March 2008 (Karla Young, photos!, report to NYSARC).

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Early December was uneventful, with temperatures ranging from -13° at Saranac Lake on the 8th to the 40s at Plattsburgh on the 10th. A major storm left a foot of snow at Inlet on the 19th and at Westport by the following day. By 21 January, there was 22" of new snow on Whiteface Mt. and a foot of snow at Peru by the next day, the greatest December snowfall on record. The end of the month saw winds of 44 mph at Saranac Lake on the 28th and 45 mph at Plattsburgh on the 31st. January was cold: Inlet -22° on the 14th, Saranac Lake -21° on the 15th, Newcomb -31° on the 16th, and Saranac Lake -23° on 26 January, with Lake Champlain closing from north and south. Unseasonable cold continued into February, with Inlet dropping to -20° on the 4th. Skiers were pleased to see 12" of fresh snow at Whiteface Mt. on 23 February, but most areas received only a few inches, and monthly snowfall in the Champlain Valley was only about a foot. Thanks largely to the December storm, this was the sixth snowiest winter season on record. Inlet saw snow on 56 days, rain on ten, and freezing rain on two days. Lake Champlain dropped to 95.97' on 4 January before rising to a high of 97.22' on New Year's Day, a foot and a half above the 73-year median. It then fell back to 96.34' at season's end. The wide lake never froze entirely, allowing a number of waterfowl species to overwinter in open water between Wickham Marsh and Whallon's Bay.

The concentration of waterfowl at just a few shoreline locations may have helped observers locate rarities, including two drake **Tufted Ducks** off Port Kent, a subadult in late December and an adult during mid-February. Now expected, but still welcome, were a drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Willsboro Point in December and a pair of Barrow's at Port Kent during late February, but only the drake usually found there. Both Pied-billed Grebe and Great Blue Heron lingered into December and Common Loon into January. Bald Eagles were numerous along the lakeshore, with several inland reports. Gull-watchers were rewarded with 1-2 first-winter Iceland Gulls at Westport, a carefully-observed Lesser Black-backed Gull flying south past Cumberland Head, a Glaucous Gull at Ausable Point, and another Glaucous found inland on the ice of the Saranac River near Morrisonville.

Following November reports of Snowy Owl from the Towns of Champlain

and Peru, there were late December reports from Essex and Peru. The most sought-after bird of the winter, however, was **Northern Hawk Owl**, with two present in the Region. The first was found near Clark Road in the Town of Peru during the Plattsburgh CBC on 14 December. The second was spotted just south of the Québec border along Rte 276 in the Town of Champlain on 15 February. Both remained through the end of the season. Although a total of four hawk owls were found in New York State this winter, this was but a fraction of the 70 N. Hawk Owls found just to the north in inhabited regions of Québec outside the boreal forest through February '09. This was the most important irruption since the winter of 2000-01, when there were also two hawk owls in the Region, at Bloomingdale Bog and near Plattsburgh, but an astounding 200 reported in Québec. [The province also experienced a major hawk owl invasion in 2004-05, but mainly concentrated along the Lower North Shore and none reaching New York.] This was also a good winter for Short-eared Owl, with reports from the Towns of Dickinson, Essex, Peru, and Willsboro representing three of the four Regional counties.

Half-hardies, recent arrivals, and winter visitants also enlivened the season, with four Belted Kingfisher, four Red-bellied Woodpecker, five Northern Flicker, at least 50 Tufted Titmouse, and seven Carolina Wren reports. A **Townsend's Solitaire** in the Town of Keene in late January provided a second Regional record, the first having been at Crater Club, Essex, in December 1988. Northern Mockingbird was found in Port Kent and Plattsburgh. Bohemian Waxwing was abundant, especially in the vicinity of Peru orchards, with some flocks numbering up to 500. Cedar Waxwing was also found in good numbers, but smaller flocks, and both waxwings were largely confined to the Champlain lowlands. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was a one-day wonder at a Hogansburg feeder in mid-February, but the same feeder hosted a White-crowned Sparrow almost daily from 29 January.

The maxima numbers provided in the species list that follows offer a good representation of relative abundance of winter finches: 44 Pine Grosbeak, 12 Purple Finch, 50 House Finch, 14 Red Crossbill, 119 White-winged Crossbill, 150 Common Redpoll, singles of Hoary Redpoll, 2021 Pine Siskin, 434 American Goldfinch, and 128 Evening Grosbeak. Among the redpolls, there were two "Greater" Redpoll (*C.f. rostrata*) banded at Inlet in January-February. Among the hordes of siskins, there were at least 17 encounters with the attractive green morph Pine Siskin: eight banded at Elizabethtown and another eight banded at Inlet during January-February, plus a January sight record at a Long Lake feeder. With 16 green morphs among the 646 Pine Siskins banded in Essex and Hamilton counties during Winter 2008-09, it appears that 2% of siskins exhibited this distinctive olive shade. Ian A. McLaren, *et al.* (*American Birds* 43:5, pp. 1268-74) examined 1525 specimens from six museum collections and found 15 green morphs (0.98%); Robert P. Yunicke (*North American Bird Bander* 21:3, pp. 85-87) banded 4045 Pine Siskins near Schenectady in 1990, of which 51 were green morphs (1.26%). These data suggest that a flock of a hundred siskins might be expected to include one or two green morphs, for those interested in seeking them out at feeders. The winter

total of 98 species was short of the record 109 of 2001-02, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

Although there is some disagreement among experts, many welcomed the news that the NYS DEC has done DNA studies of Spruce Grouse, toward a plan to stock birds in order to supplement the dwindling Adirondack population, as Vermont began to do in the Northeast Kingdom during 2008, with imports there coming from Maine and Québec. If implemented in New York, the plan should include habitat management of release sites, as well as the introduction of genetically appropriate stock.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APt – Ausable Pt; CH – Cumberland Head; ECBC – Elizabethtown CBC, 27 Dec; FCBC – Ferrisburgh CBC, 20 Dec; IL – Indian L; LL – Long L; LP – L. Placid; NP – Noblewood Pk; PS – Paul Smiths; PtK – Pt Kent; SL – Saranac L; SLCBC – Saranac L CBC, 3 Jan; SB – Sabattis Bög; SPB – Spring Pd Bog; TL – Tupper L; WC – NYS Waterfowl Count, 17-18 Jan; WPt – Willsboro Pt.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max ~350 Westville 6 Dec (WS); ~50 Inlet 24 Dec (GL), late HAMI; CH 15 Feb (BM).

Cackling Goose: T Beekmantown 7 Dec (BK,CM), a good find.

Canada Goose: max 1586 PCBC; 8 Peru 13 Feb (JL), flying NW.

Mallard: 3 hybrids WC, including apparent Mallard x Am. Wigeon Essex harbor 17 Jan (GL,JP,RW).

N. Pintail: 2 WC, late; arr m Peru 9 Feb (HP); CH ferry 21-23 Feb (BK,CM).

Ring-necked Duck: max 80 WPt 10 Dec (DR).

TUFTED DUCK: 1st winter m PtK 29 Dec (J&WP); ad m PtK 12 Feb (DR)-15 Feb

The Kingbird 2009 June; 59 (2)

(J&PT), superb finds.

Greater Scaup: max 4 NP 2 Feb (EKT), identified to species.

Lesser Scaup: max 300 PtK 12 Feb (DR), identified to species.

scaup (sp.): max ~600 PtK 12 Feb (DR), in raft of ~4000 with Ring-necked Ducks & goldeneyes.

White-winged Scoter: imm AP 28 Dec (PO), only scoter.

Long-tailed Duck: max 3 WC; m NP 2 Feb (EKT); 2 PtK 12 Feb (DR), a scarce duck here.

Bufflehead: max 120 NP 2 Feb (EKT), late for so many.

Com. Goldeneye: max 3000 AP 7 Jan & 3000 PtK 12 Feb (DR), late for so many.

Barrow's Goldeneye: m WPt 10 Dec (DR); ad m PtK 17 Feb (NR); pr PtK 19 Feb (DR); PtK 21 Feb (MH), welcome finds.

Red-breasted Merganser: pr CH 24 Jan; m there to 28 Feb (BK,CM), late CLIN.

Ring-necked Pheasant: FCBC; ECBC; T Beekmantown 4 Jan (BK), hanging on.

Wild Turkey: max flock of 150 Elizabethtown 2 Dec (JDP), new high ESSE & Reg 7; 8 River St, Elizabethtown 16 Dec (JP), in village; Boynton Avenue, Plattsburgh 4 Jan (BK), in city.

Com. Loon: CH 8 Jan (SJ,BK), last.

Pied-billed Grebe: Westport 31 Dec (J&SP,DR), rare in winter.

Red-necked Grebe: Whallon's Bay 29 Dec (EKT), only report.

Great Blue Heron: WD 5 Dec (BK); Ticonderoga 13 Dec (NC); 2 PCBC, late.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: numerous reports Ausable Forks, Apt, Essex, IL, NP, Peru, Pt Douglass, PtK, Seventh L, SL, SLCBC, Ticonderoga, TL, Westport, Willsboro Bay, WC, WM.

Merlin: Peru 14 Dec (JB,JH); ECBC, new to count; ad Chain Lks Rd, IL 1 Feb (MM), good finds.

Peregrine Falcon: PCBC; ad Jay 6 Jan (PO); CH 1 Feb (BK), good finds.

Iceland Gull: 1st winter Westport 6 Dec (BM,PO)-20 Dec (SO,JP,J&PT,YT,RW); two 1st winter there 28 Dec (PO), one much paler.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CH 5 Dec (BK), 3rd CLIN & 6th Reg record.

Glaucous Gull: Apt 7 Jan (DR); 3rd winter Saranac R, Morrisonville 30 Jan (CH), on ice.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 PCBC, rather low.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Middle Rd, T Essex 20 Dec (EDT); Rte 22B, T Peru 25 Dec (ND), lovely finds.

N. HAWK OWL: Clark Rd, T Peru 14 Dec (JB,JH), early CLIN. thru; Rte 276, T Champlain 15 Feb (D&TG), thru; 2nd & 3rd CLIN records; there are now ~16 records in Reg 7.

Short-eared Owl: Middle Rd, T Essex 10 Dec (DR); T Dickinson 18 Jan (MAMa); Reber Rd, T Willsboro 25 Jan (DR); T Peru 1 Feb (JR), attacked by hawk owl & crows.

Belted Kingfisher: Arnold Bk, T Peru 2 Dec (EF); FCBC; ECBC; count wk SLCBC, all late.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: T Essex 20 Dec (JP,SO,CS,J&PT,YT,RW) thru; WPt feeder Jan (RL) thru; WPt 17 Jan (GL,JP,RW); T

Beekmantown 22 Jan (BK), increasingly expected.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Beaver Bk trail & PS expected locales; Cook Mt Preserve, Ticonderoga 16 Feb (NC), unexpected.

N. Flicker: FCBC; 2 ECBC; count wk SLCBC; WPt feeder 30 Jan-1Feb (GL,RL), good finds.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 12 individuals, about average.

Gray Jay: max 4 SLCBC; 2 Beaver Bk trail 16 Feb (GL); 2 Bigelow Rd 26 Feb (DG,RG), rather low.

Blue Jay: banded Crown Pt 21 May '05 found dead Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire, QC, 8 Feb '09 (BL).

Am. Crow: max 1548 PCBC, with large roost just n. of city.

Com. Raven: max 67 SLCBC; 61 Inlet 23 Jan (GL), high HAMI.

Horned Lark: max 154 PCBC; 7 FCBC; 6 Chazy 8 Feb (NO), scarcer with closing of dairy farms.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 984 SLCBC; 503 ECBC; 466 PCBC; 61 FCBC; 102 banded Inlet feeder (GL); 51 new chickadees banded Elizabethtown feeder (JP), clearly an invasion winter.

Boreal Chickadee: Bigelow Rd, Hurricane Mt; 3000' Little Whiteface; Oregon Plains Rd, expected sites.

Tufted Titmouse: max 17 PCBC; also CH; Elizabethtown; Essex; Inlet; Keeseville; Peru; PtK; SL; Ticonderoga; Westport; Witherbee, with a total of 50+ titmice.

Carolina Wren: count wk ECBC; WPt Jan thru (RL); New Russia Jan-Feb (EKT); CH 15 Jan (NO); CH 24 Jan (BK); NP 2 Feb (EKT); Plattsburgh 15 Feb (BM), outstanding.

E. Bluebird: max 14 ECBC; seven other reports of 1-12, rather low.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Keene 16 & 22 Jan (JT), with 80+ siskins; 2nd ESSE & Reg 7 record.

Am. Robin: max 187 ECBC, widespread at lower elevations.

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 14 Dec (JC, NO); Plattsburgh 1 Jan (BK); PtK 14 Feb (J&PT), always a good find here, although regular in the city.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 500 T Peru 5 Feb (JL), where abundant thru; other flocks of 4 to 335 Champlain, Chazy, Jay, NP, Plattsburgh, Reber, Westport; 21 T IL 13 Feb (M&WM), new max & 3rd record HAMI and only report from the central Adirondacks.

Cedar Waxwing: max 141 PCBC; others CH, T Essex, ECBC, FCBC, IL, Jay, Keene, NP,

Peru, Plattsburgh, Ticonderoga, Wadhams, but usually not with Bohemians.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Hogansburg feeder 16 Feb (HW), only warbler of the winter.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Song Sparrow: max 2 Hoisington Bk, Westport on FCBC; PCBC; SLCBC; Ticonderoga 12 Feb (NC).

White-throated Sparrow: CH 1-24 Dec (NO); PCBC, scarce.

White-crowned Sparrow: imm Hogansburg feeder 29 Jan thru (HW), only report, but also overwintered there 1996-97 and 1998-99.

Dark-eyed Junco: 273 PCBC; 217 ECBC; 141 FCBC; 66 SLCBC, most numerous at lower elevations.

Lapland Longspur: 2 CR 21 Jan (BK); 4 Magic Triangle, ESSE 25 Feb (DG, RG), always fun to find.

Snow Bunting: max 927 PCBC; flocks of 6 to 350 Burke, Essex, Malone, Peru, Reber, Westport; 35 Raquette L 11 Dec (GL), uncommon winter visitant HAMI.

N. Cardinal: max 78 PCBC; 26 SLCBC; 14 FCBC; 11 ECBC, several other reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: 2 Inlet 5 Dec (GL); 2 FCBC; ECBC; PCBC, low winter numbers; arr Ti 12-13 Feb (NC); 2 Wilmington 27 Feb (WS).

Com. Grackle: arr Big Brook Rd, T IL 12 Feb (M&WM), early HAMI.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 67 PCBC; 10 SLCBC; 2 FCBC; singles CH, IL, Peru, fairly scarce.

Pine Grosbeak: max 44 Mt Van Hoevenberg 4 Jan (MAMu, EKT), high single flock ESSE; 24 ECBC; 7 SLCBC; reports of 1-15 from IL, Inlet, Jay, LP, New Russia, Peru, Rainbow L, SL, Willsboro, a strong showing.

Purple Finch: max 12 IL 3 Jan (M&WM); 8 SLCBC; 5 ECBC; scattered reports of a few Essex, Peru, Plattsburgh, PtK, Ticonderoga, Witherbee,

House Finch: max 50 PCBC; a few others CH, Keeseville, Peru, Ticonderoga, all Champlain Valley.

Red Crossbill: max 14 ECBC; 4 SLCBC; Peru 28 Dec (LL); 2 Peru 16 Jan (CH); Newcomb 21 Feb (J&PT), scarce.

White-winged Crossbill: max 119 SLCBC; 106 ECBC; 30 FCBC; reports of 1-30 Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale, Champlain, Elizabethtown, Inlet, Hurricane Mt, Jay, LL, Newcomb, NP, Peru, PS, SB, SPB, Ticonderoga, TL, Westport, Willsboro, Wilmington, Witherbee, including several feeder reports, abundant.

Com. Redpoll: max 150 T Peru 10 Feb (EF); 30 banded Inlet 21 Jan-28 Feb (GL); 25 PCBC; 14 SLCB; 12 ECBC; other scattered reports; "Greater" Redpoll (*C.f. rostrata*) banded Inlet 27 Jan, 24-28 Feb (GL).

Hoary Redpoll: arr Inlet 27 Jan; banded Inlet 30 Jan & 26 Feb (GL); LL 20 Feb (WL), only reports.

Pine Siskin: max 2021 SLCBC; 470 ECBC, new highs; 337 banded Elizabethtown (JP); 309 banded Inlet (GL), for a regional record 646 banded; the most abundant winter finch; 8 green morphs banded Elizabethtown 19 Jan-25 Feb; 8 green morphs banded Inlet 30 Jan-28 Feb (GL); green morph LL feeder 25 Jan (WL).

Am. Goldfinch: max 434 PCBC; 253 SLCBC; 232 ECBC; 40 FCBC, second only to siskins in abundance.

Evening Grosbeak: max 128 SLCBC; 7 ECBC; flocks up to 30 at some feeders, encouraging.

EXOTICS

SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus uropygialis*): ad Rte 3 between Indian Carry Rd & SL, T Harrietstown, 22 Feb (MEB,CH); a black icterid with striking triangular red rump patch was believed to be this Neotropical species, following an internet search by observers; NYSARC report requested.

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Winter 2008-09 brought a devastating ice storm to eastern New York, above average snow conditions, seesawing temperatures, and wind. December began warmer than average with daytime highs below freezing not beginning until the middle of the month. On 11 December an ice storm raged through eastern New York to central New England leaving an inch or more of accumulated ice in many areas. The Taconic State Parkway closed for several days, some residents lost power for a week or more, and the local forests incurred damage that will be visible for many years to come. Early successional trees such as gray birch, poplar, and willow suffered greatly. Most maples, ash, white pine, and red oak experienced extensive crown damage, sufficient to invite future insect outbreaks in stressed trees. For the first time in decades, our area may experience localized forest fires due to an abundance of accumulated broken branches and slash on the forest floor. Many Region 8 residents nodded among neighbors at grocery stores and gas stations, remarking that January was “a real winter,” with temperatures at month’s end tallying 4° F below normal. February continued cold, 2.4° below normal, with mostly windy and partly cloudy days. Many non-flowing bodies of water remained solidly frozen well into mid March.

Despite the rough weather conditions some summer breeding birds lingered in the Region through the winter. Double-crested Cormorants tarried into December to be tallied by counters on both the Albany and Schenectady CBCs. The last Snow Geese were spotted on 20 December. Some waterfowl arrived early including Wood Duck and White-winged Scoter. Turkey Vultures arrived early this year as well, appearing first in Slingerlands, Albany County, on 12 February.

Paul Novak coordinated a winter raptor survey in two of our Region’s most productive grasslands, southern Montgomery County and the fragmented Coxsackie flats of Greene County, as part of a statewide effort to document winter populations of Short-eared Owl. Due to thinner snow with less crust, the more southern Coxsackie grasslands hosted a higher abundance of raptors including maxima of 9 Short-eared Owl and 18 Northern Harrier. Conducted by 8-10 Department of Environmental Conservation staff and other volunteers, the study attempted to minimize double counting of birds by mapping individuals at strategically placed locations before sunset. Recorded numbers may represent conservative estimates since radio-tagged individuals known to be present at sampling sites were not always observed by census takers. Agricultural areas throughout the Region experienced a modest irruption of Rough-legged Hawks, which appeared commonly on CBCs and remained through January. Volunteers on the Salem CBC found a Golden Eagle and a second appeared in Schoharie County in January.

The statewide irruption of Snowy Owls produced a number of interesting sightings throughout the Region. A clean white adult perched among the stone-carved gargoyles and parapets of the State Capitol in Albany. The bird lingered long-enough for several newspapers to publish photo essays about it and for office workers to gather outside and look up with open mouths and warm breath.

Killdeer tarried late and arrived early, including one spotted by Bill Cook on the Hudson River during the Chatham CBC on 20 December and early arrivals at Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County on 11 February and a second bird at Green Acres Airport in Livingston, Columbia County, a day later.

The Bolton Landing CBC reported **Gray Jay**, which is a bird that breeds near Region 8 but very rarely ventures over into our territory at any time of year. Another surprise sent from the Adirondacks is the bizarre report forwarded to me by Region 7 editor Mike Peterson of a heavy equipment operator who works for the City of Glens Falls who had been hired to move around piles of snow at the city dump. The worker witnessed “a hundred or more” Eastern Bluebirds land on his engine compartment and near his loader presumably to stay warm. Any report of “a hundred” is suspiciously imprecise, but the report clearly identifies bluebirds correctly and makes a convincing case of a very large single location maximum for the species whatever the true number may be.

Ice and stormy weather didn’t dampen reports of half hardies. Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, **Brown Thrasher**, Hermit Thrush, and White-crowned Sparrow all appeared and in many cases continued to be reported into early February. The only warbler of the season, however, was a **Palm Warbler** observed on the Albany CBC.

Two species of orioles in winter is a very rare event in Region 8. Rich Guthrie and Bill Lee reviewed photos of a **Baltimore Oriole** that had been visiting a feeder in the Crescent area of Waterford, Saratoga County. A male **Bullock’s Oriole** generated even more excitement when it appeared in January near the home of Barbara Carr in Copake, Columbia County. A first for both Columbia County and Region 8, the oriole visited the Carrs’ home for more than two weeks feeding on suet and peanut butter and jelly.

Pine Siskins dominated feeder reports this year. They showed up in every county in the Region and remained well into spring. The White-winged Crossbills which crowded coastal barrier pines in New York and Southern New England this winter also made appearances in our Region, favoring red pine plantations, cemetery spruces, and exurban feeders. Finally, Bob Yunick reported banding a “Greater” Common Redpoll (*rostrata* race from Greenland) at his long-term banding station in Saratoga County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CBC – Christmas Bird Count; COX – T Cocksackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 40 Ft. Miller WASH 4 Dec; 5 Hudson Falls CBC 14 Dec; ALBA CBC 15 Dec; 6 Saratoga CBC 20 Dec; Schenectady CBC 20 Dec.

Wood Duck: Northumberland SARA 4 Jan; arr Troy RENS 23 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

N. Pintail: Schenectady CBC 20 Dec; 2 S RENS CBC 27 Dec.

Canvasback: Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan; Austerlitz COLU 27 Feb.

Redhead: max 3 Troy RENS 12 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: max 33 ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

Greater Scaup: max 3 Troy CBC 3 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 3 ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: COX boat launch 22 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: Lock 7 SCHE Nov-18 Dec; Ft. Plain MONT 3 Dec; Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec; Saratoga CBC 20 Dec; Troy CBC 3 Jan.

Bufflehead: max 36 Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: max 202 Hudson Falls CBC 14 Dec.

Hooded Merganser: max 32 ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 195 Saratoga CBC 20 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: Troy CBC 3 Jan.

Rudy Duck: max 6 ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec; Hudson Falls CBC 14 Dec; 3 ALBA CBC 15 Dec; 4 Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; max 6 Berlin ALBA 27 Dec; Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan.

Com. Loon: max 4 Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec; 2 Cohoes ALBA 2 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: Tomhannock Res RENS 2 Dec.

Horned Grebe: L George WARR 27-28 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: ALBA CBC 15 Dec; Schenectady CBC 20 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 7 Schenectady CBC 20 Dec.

Turkey Vulture: arr Slingerlands ALBA 12 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 13 Troy CBC 3 Jan.

N. Harrier: max 19 ALBA CBC 15 Dec; 18 COX flats 17 Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: max 10 Troy CBC 3 Jan.

N. Goshawk: Partridge Run WMA ALBA 14 Dec; Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; Five Rivers ALBA 1 Jan; 2 Troy CBC 3 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Schenectady CBC 20 Dec; Rensselaerville RENS 25 Dec; Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 16 Hudson Falls CBC 14 Dec; 2 ALBA CBC 15 DEC; 6 Chatham CBC 20 Dec; 15 Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan; 9 southwest MONT 23 Feb.

Golden Eagle: Salem CBC 3 Jan; Sharon SCHO 5 Jan.

Am. Kestrel: Schenectady CBC 20 Dec; Troy CBC 3 Jan, 4 other reports.

Merlin: 2 S RENS CBC 27 Dec; Ft Plain CBC 2 Jan, numerous other reports.

Peregrine Falcon: Ft Plain CBC 2 Jan, several reports from expected locations.

Killdeer: Chatham CBC 20 DEC (BC); arr Tomhannock Res RENS 11 Feb (RY); Livingston COLU 12 Feb.

Iceland Gull: 4 Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 27 Dec; 2 S RENS CBC 27 Dec; max 7 COX boat launch 4 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: COX boat launch 22 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: Schenectady CBC 20 Dec; S RENS CBC 27 Dec; 2 Cohoes ALBA 27 Dec; 3 Troy CBC 3 Jan.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: 2 Ft. Edward WASH 6 Dec-31 Jan; Hudson Falls CBC 14 Dec; ALBA state Capitol 29-30 Dec; COX grasslands 5 Jan-22 Feb; Halfmoon SARA 24 Jan-15 Feb; Delmar ALBA 2 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: 10 Hudson Falls CBC 14 Dec; 4 FtE Jan thru; 3 Troy CBC 3 Jan; 9 COX grasslands 6 Jan; 2 Half Moon SARA 24 Jan; Kinderhook COLU 26 Jan; Delmar ALBA 2 Feb; 3 Minden MONT 12 Feb.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan; 2 Berne ALBA 2 Feb; 2 Partridge Run WMA ALBA 2 Feb-thru; Greenfield Center 17 Feb.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Claverack COLU Dec-2 Jan; Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan; Ghent COLU 26 Feb.
N. Shrike: Rensselaerville RENS 14 Dec-thru; Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan; Gansevoort SARA 8-30 Jan.
GRAY JAY: 2 Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec.
Horned Lark: max 577 Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan.
Carolina Wren: max 13 Troy CBC 3 Jan.
E. Bluebird: max 100+ Bolton Landing WARR 25 Feb, see intro.
Hermit Thrush: ALBA CBC 15 Dec; Chatham CBC 20 Dec; Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; 2 Ft Plain CBC 2 Jan.
Gray Catbird: 2 Chatham CBC 20 Dec; Saratoga CBC 20 Dec; Papsancee RENS 1 Jan; Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan.
BROWN THRASHER: Knox ALBA 26 Dec; FtE 4 Feb, late.

WARBLERS

PALM WARBLER: ALBA CBC 15 Dec.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: last Five Rivers ALBA 5 Dec.
Savannah Sparrow: max 4 Chatham CBC 20 Dec; S RENS CBC 27 Dec.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Saratoga CBC 20 Dec.

Swamp Sparrow: Schenectady CBC 20 Dec; 2 S RENS CBC 27 Dec; Livingston COLU 31 Jan-15 Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Papsancee RENS 27 Dec-thru; 3 Ft Plain CBC 2 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: Glen MONT 7 Dec; 2 Saratoga CBC 20 Dec; 4 Florida MONT 12 Feb; 3 Palatine MONT 22 Feb.

Snow Bunting: max 1027 ALBA CBC 15 Dec, high count.

Red-winged Blackbird: 3 CHA CBC 20 Dec; Schenectady CBC 20 Dec; 15 S RENS CBC 27 Dec; max 80 Livingston COLU 30 Dec.

E. Meadowlark: 2 ALBA CBC 15 Dec; max 6 COX grasslands 5 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird: Partridge Run WMA ALBA 14 Dec; Ft. Plain CBC 2 Jan; Claverack COLU 3 Feb.

Com. Grackle: max 70 Livingston COLU 3 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 63 Troy CBC 3 Jan.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Waterford SARA 7-9 Dec (*vide* BL, RG).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: Copake COLU 12-28 Jan (BCr). 1st for COLU and Region 8.

Pine Grosbeak: 4 Saratoga SARA 4 Jan.

Purple Finch: max 18 Berne ALBA 15 Feb.

Red Crossbill: 9 Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; 4 Jenny L SARA 28 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: 12 Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec; S RENS CBC 27 Dec; 114 Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; max 126 Ft Plain CBC 2 Jan, numerous reports thru.

Com. Redpoll: 3 Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; 10 Burnt Hills ALBA 28 Jan; *rostrata* race banded Jenny L SARA 23 Feb.

Pine Siskin: 304 Bolton Landing CBC 14 Dec, max 360 Poestenkill RENS 4 Feb; abundant and widespread irruption thru.

Evening Grosbeak: Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec..



REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

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The season started out with a deep freeze the first week of December which was followed by a two-day thaw. Poughkeepsie cooled down to 11°F on the 8th but hit a high of 60° on the 10th. A major late fall snow storm hit on Friday 19

December. Six to fourteen inches of snow hampered the following day's Christmas Bird Counts. The storm was followed by a major freeze reaching to below zero on the 23rd. It then quickly warmed to a high of 65° on the 28th. The up and down temperatures averaged out to normal for the month, but it was wetter with nearly 6" of precipitation. January was very cold and dry. There was no January thaw. Poughkeepsie was below zero on the 14th, 15th, 21st, and 25th of the month. The average temperature was 4° below normal, and only 2" of precipitation was recorded. February, like December, varied, with a first week freeze and a second week thaw. It was very dry, with less than an inch of precipitation.

As usual the Christmas Bird Counts had many of the exciting finds for December. The first full weekend of counts was hampered by fresh snow and bitterly cold temperatures. Rockland County [NYRC] was the only count to take advantage of the extra Sunday in the count period. The early date of 14 December yielded 92 species. Highlights were both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, two Merlin, American Pipit, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Long-tailed Duck (count week), and Common Redpoll.

The Mohonk Lake/Ashokan Reservoir [NYML] count held 20 December had to deal with 9"-14" of snow. The count recorded 69 species. Highlights include an Eastern Phoebe, Lincoln's Sparrow, Merlin, and Orange-crowned Warbler; also 14 Northern Harriers, two Red-shouldered Hawks, five Rough-legged Hawks, eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, nine Northern Flickers, 21 Red-breasted Nuthatches, nine Brown Creepers, 108 Eastern Bluebirds, four Hermit Thrushes, 414 Cedar Waxwings, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, four Field Sparrows, a Fox Sparrow, two White-crowned Sparrows, and 76 Pine Siskins. One Lapland Longspur was reported during the count week.

The Dutchess County [NYDC] count found 77 species on 20 December. Chipping Sparrow and a count week Merlin were the unusual species, with high counts recorded for Canada Goose, Hooded and Common Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Cardinal, Fish Crow, and a whopping 13,500 American Crows.

The Eastern Orange County [NYEO] count had 74 species on 20 December and was characterized by a large number of both high and low counts, most likely due to the snow storm. High counts were for Canada Goose, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture, and Fish Crow. Lows were tallied for Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, and Common Grackle.

The Monticello [NYMT] count held 27 December had a record 61 species. Highlights include Savannah Sparrow and Palm Warbler, two Iceland Gull, 140 White-winged Crossbill, and 158 Pine Siskin. A Red-throated Loon was the highlight of the 27 December Southern Orange County [NYSU] count. The count's 80 species included 64 Black Vultures.

The Bronx-Westchester [NYBW] count recorded 111 species, with 100 seen in Westchester County on a balmy, foggy 65° day on 28 December. The highlight was the first record for Osprey, seen at the Edith G Read Preserve in

Rye. Other highlights include Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Northern Goshawk, Lesser Black-backed Gull, House Wren, and Snow Bunting. A female Barrow's Goldeneye was found off Rye the day before and after the count, but could not be located on count day due to the fog.

The Pawling (Hidden Valley) [NYHV] count found 83 species on the first of the year. Eight Red Crossbills were found on the Dutchess County side and a Chipping Sparrow was in Putnam. The 3 January Putnam Bird [NYPC] count total was 82 species with two first time species: House Wren and Savannah Sparrow.

Betsy Carswell discovered a Barnacle Goose in a cornfield off Neelytown Rd., Montgomery, on 27 February. Also present was one juvenile Snow Goose. A female King Eider continued at Piermont Pier till 6 December. Long-tailed Ducks were on the Hudson; one in Croton Bay for most of the season and another at Grassy Point Marina 25 December and one off Nyack State Park at the end of February.

Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks were more common, and December Merlin reports continue to increase. Northern Shrikes made a moderate showing, but sightings were confined to the three northern counties.

A Cape May Warbler was at Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye on 6 December.

It was a good winter finch season. White winged Crossbills were widely seen, but at times elusive for many birders outside Sullivan County. Pine Siskins were common to abundant everywhere and there were a few reports of Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 50 LaGrange 9 Dec; 70 Rye 28 Dec; 2 Green Haven 17 Jan; Neelytown Rd, Montgomery 27 Feb.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Neelytown Rd, Montgomery 27 Feb (BC).

Wood Duck: Verplank 7 Feb.

Gadwall: 80 Mamaroneck 27 Dec.

N. Pintail: 18 Pine Plains 18 Dec; 11 Pine Plains 7 Feb.

Redhead: 4 EGR 13 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: 80 Sylvan L 9 Dec; 102 Green Haven 17 Jan.
Greater Scaup: 2400 EGR 13 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: 250 EGR 13 Dec.
King Eider: Piermont Pier 1-6 Dec (JF).
Surf Scoter: EGR 9 Dec; Rye 28 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 26 Dec, 5 Jan; EGR 26 Feb.
Black Scoter: 1070 NYBW 28 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Croton Bay 3 Dec-7 Feb (CRo); Grassy Point Marina 25 Dec (AW); 170 EGR 27 Dec; 310 EGR 20 Jan, 26 Feb; Nyack SP 28 Feb (PDU).
Com. Goldeneye: 60 EGR 29 Dec.
Barrow's Goldeneye: Rye 27,29 Dec (TB,GB).
Ring-necked Pheasant: MC 23 Feb.
Ruffed Grouse: Upper Mongaup 24 Dec (JH ABo); 2 Buttercup East 10 Jan (AJ); Buttercup East 14 Feb (AJ).
N. Bobwhite: 3 Hunter Rd/Woodard Rd, Parksville 13 Dec (JH ABo).
Red-throated Loon: 14 EGR 18 Dec; NYSU 27 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: 1 frozen in ice Bashakill, rescued 17 Jan (JH).
Horned Grebe: 24 EGR 26 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: EGR 1 Jan.
N. Gannet: EGR 9 Dec.
Great Egret: EGR 6,18 Dec (TB); Larchmont 28 Dec (NYBW).
Snowy Egret: MC 28 Dec (NYBW).
Black Vulture: 64 NYSU 27 Dec.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: EGR 28 Dec (NYBW).
Bald Eagle: 50 Croton to Verplank 7 Feb.
N. Harrier: 14 NYML 20 Dec.
N. Goshawk: Horseshoe L 1 Dec; Grahamsville 5 Jan; Yonkers 28 Dec (NYBW, PSt); 1 NYHV 1 Jan; Millerton 1 Feb; Milan 26 Feb.
Red-shouldered Hawk: more reports than normal, widespread.
Rough-legged Hawk: Neversink Res 15,17,19 Dec; CPP 20, 25 Dec; 5 NYML 20 Dec; 2 Bethel 28 Dec; Millerton 30 Dec; 13 Pine Island 19 Jan; many other scattered reports in Jan and Feb.
Golden Eagle: Ancram 27 Dec (MGU); Harriman SP 3 Jan (SS); 1-2 Stissing Mt 23,26,30 Jan, 14 Feb; Milan 1 Feb; Norrie Pt 21 Feb.
Merlin: MC 6 Dec; Norrie Pt 13 Dec; Bowline Pond 14 Dec (NYRC). NYML 20 Dec; NYDC 20 Dec; CPP 25 Dec (AW); 2 Clarkstown 28 Dec (DC); Yonkers 28 Dec (NYBW); EGR 28 Dec (NYBW); Vassar

Farm 28 Dec; EGR 17 Jan, 24 Feb; Oil City Rd 31 Jan (JP).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 CPP 25 Dec; 2 EGR 25 Dec.
Virginia Rail: MC 28 Dec.
Greater Yellowlegs: Piermont Pier 14 Dec.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Piermont Pier 14 Dec.
Ruddy Turnstone: 20 EGR 28 Jan.
Purple Sandpiper: 16 EGR 13 Dec; 22 EGR 17 Jan.
Laughing Gull: EGR 9 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 EGR 26 Dec.
Iceland Gull: 2 NYMT 28 Dec; 3 Monticello 11 Dec; Monticello Landfill 13 Dec; 2 Woodbourne 17 Dec (JH ABo).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello 6,11 Dec, 10 Jan; Woodbourne 17 Dec (JH ABo); EGR 28 Dec (NYBW); Chelsea 8 Jan (RJ).
Glaucous Gull: Monticello 6 Dec, 10 Jan.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 3 EGR 18 Dec.
Short-eared Owl: Vassar Farms 14 Dec; 4 SGNWR 18 Dec (CG).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Horseshoe L 5 Dec, early Jan (KC); Woodstock 29 Jan (PSc).
Red-headed Woodpecker: Dover Plains 7-28 Dec, 8-27 Jan (JG); Stony Kill 7,21 Feb (KH).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: NYML 20 Dec.
N. Shrike: Ellenville 1-3 Dec (PM); Horseshoe L 3 Dec (KC); Rhinebeck 13 Jan (RJ); Town of Rockland 7 Feb (LV).
Am. Crow: 13,500 NYDC 20 Dec.
Horned Lark: 100 Red Hook 11 Jan
House Wren: MC 28 Dec; NYPC 3 Jan.
E. Bluebird: 108 NYML 20 Dec.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: NYML 20 Dec.
Cape May Warbler: EGR 6 Dec (TB).
Palm Warbler: NYMT 27 Dec (VF,MC,PDE).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: NYDC 20 Dec; NYHV 1 Jan.
Field Sparrow: Rhinebeck 5 Feb.
Lincoln's Sparrow: NYML 20 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 LaGrange 9 Dec; 4 LaGrange 15 Dec; 2 NYML 20 Dec; Hillsied L 10-11 Jan; Sontykill YBC 17 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: cw NYML 20 Dec; Delaware Town 31 Dec (JH ABo), 4th Sullivan County record.

Snow Bunting: 58 EGR 13 Dec; 75 Neversink Res 19 Dec; EGR 28 Dec; 30 Baird Park 3 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: 1200 Mashomack 30 Jan.

White-winged Crossbill: 40-50 Neversink Res 14, 15 Dec (JH, IR, DS, MM); 200 Neversink Res 14 Dec (AG); 80-100 Neversink Res 19 Dec (ABo, JH); 6 Verbank 19 Dec (BB); 21 Rhinecliff 21 Dec (RJ); 140 NYMT 28 Dec; 40 Forestburgh 27 Dec; 60 Villa Roma 28 Dec; 45 Rhinecliff 8 Jan; 3 Norrie Pt 17 Jan; 14 Rye 20 Jan (TB); 6 Staatsburg 25 Jan; 12 Pearl River 26 Jan (PDU); 3 Tarrytown L 25 Feb (EM); 60 Bard College 25 Feb (FB).

Red Crossbill: few Staatsburg 21 Dec (CG); 28 Rhinecliff 21 Dec (RJ); 8 NYHV 1 Jan; Suffern 1-2 Feb (J&JL).

Com. Redpoll: 3 Kennedy Dells County Park 7 Dec (VK); NYRC 14 Dec (JT, FK); Horseshoe L 19 Dec- early Jan (KC); 6 Smithfield 20 Dec (LL); Bashakill 14 Jan (P & SB); 35 Thompson Pond 30 Jan (CV); MC 2 Feb; 4 Rhinebeck 8 Feb (RJ); Wassaic 8 Feb (MP).

Pine Siskin: 70 Bashakill 24 Dec; 44 Rye 28 Dec (NYBW); 158 NYMT 28 Dec; 300 Horseshoe L 31 Dec; 100 Bashakill 5, 14 Jan; 100 Rondout Res 10 Jan (JH AB); 200 Mt Ivy 18 Jan (VP); 300 Mt Ivy 25 Jan (VP); 100 Hook Mt 7 Feb (VP); 40 Bronxville 26 Feb (AB). Wide spread and plentiful throughout the season.

ADDENDUM

CAKCLING GOOSE: Rockland L 18, 22 Mar (Carol Weiss), first county record.

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REGION 10—MARINE

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December's mean temperature was 36.7° F, 1.0° above normal, and the precipitation total for the month was 6.68", 2.55" above normal, including 10.4" of snowfall, which set or tied the record. January was 4.4° colder than average at 26.5° and 1.07" drier than normal with 3.20" precipitation. February was 1.7° warmer than normal, with the mean temperature 34.1°, and the precipitation total was 1.79", 1.54" below normal. All data were recorded at Islip and reported by NOAA.

Geese were again abundant and diverse, highlighted by Eric Miller's **Pink-footed Goose** in Queens; a dozen or more reports of Greater White-fronted Goose including Brendan Fogarty's flock of **six** at St. Johns Pond; five **Ross's Geese**; Bob Kurtz's well-described "**Black**" **Brant** at Jones Beach; a **Barnacle Goose** continuing from fall; and a dozen or so "Richardson's" Cackling Geese. Among the scarcer ducks were eight Eurasian Wigeon; Pat Lindsay's "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** on the Southern Nassau County CBC; seven King Eider; 11 Harlequin Ducks, including unusual occurrences at Great Kills, Staten Island, and on the north shore of Great South Bay at East Islip; and six Barrow's Goldeneyes, including a very rare record from southwestern LI. For the second winter in a row, very large numbers of scoters and Long-tailed Ducks

were present off Fire Island and Jones Inlets during December. Five of our regular alcids were seen from shore, including a **Thick-billed Murre** on a small freshwater pond at Hempstead Lake State Park and an **Atlantic Puffin** from Montauk Point.

Cooper's Hawks continue to increase. Counts were deemed high on six Regional CBCs, led by 18 at Brooklyn and 17 at Southern Nassau County, and a total of ten at Staten Island was no longer considered exceptional. Times change fast: none of these CBCs ever achieved double digit tallies for this species prior to the mid 1990s.

Three Nashville Warblers are at least two more than one expects during a Region 10 winter, but this season's trio of reports is especially astonishing because each bird was found in the company of one or more Orange-crowned Warblers! This sort of association has been noted here before—perhaps most spectacularly when these two *Vermivora* co-occurred with NYS' first MacGillivray's Warbler on Staten Island during December 1999—but this year's experience is going to make some of us linger a little longer over late season Orange-crowneds in the future.

Other rarities not mentioned above included: the continuing **Western Grebe** at Staten Island plus another found by Jorn Ake and seen by many at Amagansett 9-10 January, a **Black Vulture** over northern Manhattan, Tony Lauro's adult **California Gull** at Northville, Doug Kurz's **Varied Thrush** at Sands Point, **Bohemian Waxwings** at Napeague and Fort Tilden, a stunning "**Audubon's**" **Warbler** found by Tom Burke and Gail Benson on the Southern Nassau County CBC, and a **Western Tanager** at a Fishers Island feeder.

A **European Robin** at Alley Pond Park, Queens, on 23 December was dismissed by most as an escapee, but given the regularity with which this species occurs as a vagrant to Iceland, perhaps we ought to keep this record in our back pocket.

Scott Whittle concluded his record-breaking New York State Big Year with 350 species recorded, of which all but one or two were identifiably photographed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

1Y – first year plumage; AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BLSP – Belmont L SP, SUFF; BP – Breezy Pt, QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central P, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP Pres, SUFF; Ditch Plains – Montauk, SUFF; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; EH – East Hampton, SUFF; FINS LT – Lighthouse Tract, Fire Island National Seashore, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennet Field, QUEE; FMP – Flushing Meadow P, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – ormer Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF, slated for development; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay NWR, QUEE/KING; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – Jones Beach West End, NASS; LCP – Lemon Creek P, RICH; Mass – Massapequa Pres, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; Northville – T Riverhead, north fork LI, SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; PL – Point Lookout, NASS; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RSF – Riverhead Sod Fields, SUFF; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; SY – second year plumage.

CBCs are referred to below by their official four-letter codes; see this issue for more detail.

WHISTLING-DUCKS-VULTURES

Pink-footed Goose: Kissena P, QUEE 27 Dec (EM, SA ph)-12 Jan (mob); FMP 31 Dec-3 Jan (mob ph); all one bird.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Clove L P, RICH thru; Glen Cove, NASS 9 Dec; GKP 16 Dec (J Stonick); Maratooka L, SUFF 14-18 Dec (mob); Miller Field, RICH 20 Dec (C Hagen, J Stetson); Southold, SUFF 31 Dec (MLL); ad Frecport, NASS 3-4 Jan (B & M McBrien ph, mob ph); BLSP 12 Jan (P Post, DS) thru 8 Feb (mob); RSF 27 Jan; Calverton, SUFF 30 Jan (RM); Further Ln, EH 8 Feb (PJJ); 6 St John's Pd, SUFF 13 Feb (BF), exceptional count.

Snow Goose: 100+ Shorts Pd, SUFF 13 Jan (K&SF), many for E LI in winter; 300+ wintered Jam Bay; 1000 Jam Bay 15 Feb (DG *et al.*).

Ross's Goose: SY Camman's Pd, NASS 4-25 Jan (SW ph, mob ph); 3 ads FBF 20 Jan (SBI ph, DG ph); SY Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 10 Feb thru (SBI, mob! ph).

Brant: max 31,739 NYSN 3 Jan.

“BLACK” BRANT: JBSP 6 Dec (RJK).

BARNACLE GOOSE: St. Charles Cemetery, SUFF 6 Dec (PJJ, SSM ph), 14 Dec (MC), 2 Feb (GS, D Kurz), & 17 Feb (RJK), from fall; BLSP 6-8 Feb (SSM ph, mob), presumably same bird.

“Richardson's” Cackling Goose: Bay Shore, SUFF 13-14 Dec (SSM ph, *et al.*); Further Ln,

EH 13 Dec (AnW) & 8 Feb (PJJ *et al.*); BLSP 14 Dec (DG, RGo ph) thru; HSP 14 Dec (JGI, DF); Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 14 Dec (SW ph *et al.*); FMP 1-2 Jan (SSM ph *et al.*); 2 Shorts Pd, SUFF 4 Jan (AnW); Wainscott, SUFF 4 Jan (AnW); Sagg 24 Jan (AnW); 2 Northville 10 Feb (MLL).

Brant x Cackling Goose: FMP 20 Dec (PS ph); this combo reported from same site Jan 2003 & winter 2003-04 (fide AnW).

Canada Goose: max 8,000 Water Mill, SUFF 23 Feb (HH).

Mute Swan: max 152 Setauket Harbor, SUFF 2 Dec (BY).

Tundra Swan: Reynold's Channel, NASS 3 Jan (JD *et al.*), unus location; 3 EH many dates, incr to 7 on 28 Feb (JGI).

Wood Duck: 5 Quogue Wildlife Ref, SUFF 8 Feb, prob wintered; widespread arr late Feb.

Gadwall: max 308 Swan L, Patchogue, SUFF 23 Jan (BY).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 RICH, 2 KING, 1 NASS, & 4 SUFF.

Am. Wigeon: max 380 Setauket Harbor, SUFF 2 Dec (BY).

Am. Black Duck: max 800 JBWE 3 Jan (BF).

Mallard: max 407 Maratooka L, SUFF 14 Dec (J Sep).

Blue-winged Teal: none reported.

N. Shoveler: max 250 PP.

N. Pintail: max 62 Jam Bay 11 Feb (DG, RGo).

Green-winged Teal: max 384 NYSN 3 Jan.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Milburn Pd, NASS 3-11 Jan (PJL ph, mob ph).
Canvasback: max 135 St Johns Pd, NASS 29 Jan.

Redhead: max 63 NYCA 14 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: max 132 CRSPP 14 Dec (BBo).

Greater Scaup: max 11,000 Dead Horse Bay, KING 28 Feb (DG); 8,000 GKP 16 Feb (DJ).

Lesser Scaup: max 287 Forge R, SUFF 14 Feb (BY).

King Eider: f JBWE 6 Dec-7 Feb (BF, mob); Northville 10 Jan (J Sep); f Ditch Plains: 3 f & 1 m MP var dates.

Com. Eider: westernmost singles Jones & Fire I inlets; max 5,000 MP 2 Jan (S Billerman).

Harlequin Duck: GKP 16-24 Feb, unus loc; 2-4 wintered PL; m E Islip, SUFF mainland bay shore, unus loc; Horton’s Pt, SUFF 17 Jan; 4 Ditch Plains var dates.

Surf Scoter: max 12,000 JBWE 6 Dec (DG), many for loc.

White-winged Scoter: max 4,500 MP 2 Feb (S Billerman).

Black Scoter: max 27,100 NYCA 14 Dec, v many for loc.

Long-tailed Duck: max 4,528 NYCA 14 Dec.

Bufflehead: max 400 FBF 30 Jan (DG).

Com. Goldeneye: arr f HSP 5 Dec; 15 Tiana Bay, SUFF 6 Dec; 2 Ditch Plains 6 Dec; max 200 GKP 10 Jan (BF).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m Bayville, NASS 9 Dec & later, trad site; pr EH, e.g., m Sag Harbor SUFF 21 Dec & pr there 6 Feb; f Cedar Pt, EH 21 Dec & m there 8 Feb; m Orient Harbor, SUFF 3 Jan, joined by f 20 Jan, trad site; m Jam Bay 10-23 Feb (SBl, mob), v rare sw LI.

Hooded Merganser: max 331 Milburn Pd, NASS 31 Jan (S Schellenger).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1,800 BP 2 Feb (DG, SBl).

Com. Merganser: max 323 CRSPP 17 Jan (PJL, SSM), many for LI.

Ruddy Duck: max 1,000 Jam Bay 22 Feb (K Michael).

RUFFED GROUSE (R10): dead on road Calverton, SUFF (AB).

Wild Turkey: 1 CP thru at least mid Feb, cont from fall.

Red-throated Loon: 145 PL26 Dec; leucistic ind PL 10 Jan (SA).

Red-necked Grebe: FBF 30 Jan; Plumb Beach KING 1 Feb; CHP 15-23 Feb; Amagansett, SUFF 10 Jan; 2-3 Culloden Pt. SUFF thru.
Eared Grebe: PL 25 Jan (K&SF)-early Feb (mob); Ditch Plains 31 Jan (HM)-25 Feb (K&SF).

WESTERN GREBE: Prince’s Bay, RICH 20 Dec (SWo, MS, J Sutton); also 1-9 Jan (SWo, mob! ph); Amagansett, SUFF 9-10 Jan (J Ake, mob!).

Great Cormorant: 12+ Staten I var dates, many for loc; max 55 BP 23 Dec; 34 NYSN 3 Jan.

Great Egret: SMSP 18 Dec (J&PH); 9 NYSM 27 Dec; Jam Bay 14 Feb.

Snowy Egret: 2 NYSM 27 Dec.

Little Blue Heron: imm NYBR 20 Dec.

Tricolored Heron: Tobay, NASS 3 Jan.

Cattle Egret: 2 Water Mill, SUFF thru mid Dec, from fall.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 26 Camman’s Pd NASS 8 Jan.

BLACK VULTURE (R10): n Manhattan 27 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: Rocky Pt Pres, SUFF 23 Feb (J&PH).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: numerous and widespread reports involving 26 inds inc juv DP 14 Dec, prob same bird from fall, found shot, captured, and rehabbed.

Cooper’s Hawk: high counts for 6 Regional CBCs inc 18 NYBR 20 Dec and 17 NYSN 3 Jan.

N. Goshawk: Staten I 5 Jan (HF).

Red-shouldered Hawk: CP 26 & 28 Dec; HLSP 3 Jan (MB ph); imm Forest P, QUEE thru; Northville 19 Jan (MLL); Calvert Vaux P, KING 25 Jan-7 Feb (AxW); imm Orient 2 Feb (J&PH); ad FT 2 Feb; Paerdegat Basin KING 9 Feb (DG, RGo).

Rough-legged Hawk: many widespread reports inc 2-3 wintering at Grumman.

Am. Kestrel: 1 wintered CP.

Merlin: reported thru winter from var sites.
Senipalmated Plover: 11 JBWE 29 Dec (S Schiff), v late for so many.

Killdeer: 6 GKP 15 Feb; widespread arr late Feb.

Am. Oystercatcher: 15 JBWE 6 Dec; GKP 14-15 Feb.

Lesser Yellowlegs: NYCA 14 Dec (RGr, NL); SMSP 18 Dec (J&PH); NYQU 20 Dec; Mass 4 Jan (KF), late.

Spotted Sandpiper: NYOR 3 Jan.

Purple Sandpiper: reports inc 17 Owl’s Head P, KING, 4 Dec.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 7 wintered Mass until Feb construction.

Wilson’s Snipe: 5 wintered Mass until Feb construction.

Am. Woodcock: arr CP 12 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 3 DP 14 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 550 Jones In 6 Dec.
Black-headed Gull: 7 reports involving 10 inds 6 Dec-31 Jan.
Little Gull: PL 6 Dec (R Aracil), only report.
Laughing Gull: 3 JBWE 6 Dec; 5 NYQW 14 Dec; NYQU 20 Dec; NYSM 27 Dec, count week.
CALIFORNIA GULL: ad Northville 10 Feb (AJL).
Iceland Gull: 5 Staten I; 2 wintered Northville; many reports of singles.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Staten I; singles wintered Northville & Napeague; several scattered reports of singles.
Glaucous Gull: numerous reports thru inc 4 1st cycle Riis P, QUEE 22 Feb (SBI, DK *et al.*), 1Y wintering at Iron Pier, Northville.
Great Black-backed Gull: ind w/yellow legs and feet Northville 4-7 Feb (R Adamo).
"Nelson's Gull" (Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull hybrid): 1st cycle Nickerson Beach NASS 26 Dec, poss same ind Riis P QUEE 22 Feb (mob).
Dovekie: FINS LT 27 Dec (JQ); Merrick, NASS parking lot Dec, to rehab; Jones In 2 Jan (SJ, *et al.*); MP 17-19 Jan (A Collerton *et al.*).
THICK-BILLED MURRE: HLSP 8-9 Jan, unus loc, found dead 10 Jan, to AMNH; Shinn 13 Jan (KF); MP 18 Jan (HM *et al.*); Culloden Pt, SUFF 18 Jan DF, SSM); Ditch Plains (AnW) 28 Feb.
Razorbill: westernmost 1 NYSN 3 Jan & 2 DP 14 Dec.
Black Guillemot: MP 25 Jan.
ATLANTIC PUFFIN: MP 8 Feb (VB), v rare from shore.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 3 W Islip, SUFF 14 Dec (RGr), 1st NYCA record.
Barn Owl: in nest box Jam Bay 20 Feb.
Snowy Owl: max 3 JBWE; impressive flight, about a dozen on LI.
Long-eared Owl: 3 wintered CP; Calverton, SUFF 10 Jan; JBWE 26 Jan; 4 Pelham Bay P, BRON 28 Jan.
Short-eared Owl: up to 5 wintered at Grumman.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 wintered JBWE; singing Montauk 19 Feb (TBa, DP).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 wintered CP; Merrick, NASS 3 Jan (PM, JB).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: recorded all 12 CBCs, 43 total, max 14 NYNN 20 Dec; late dates inc Oyster Bay. NASS 23 Jan, Valley

Stream, NASS, 11 Feb; 2 Middle Island, SUFF 25 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: NYQW 14 Dec; NYMK 20 Dec; NYSI 20 Dec; NYCS 27 Dec; Camp Hero, Montauk SUFF 19 Jan.
N. Shrike: JBWE 25 Dec, only report.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: NYBR 20 Dec, details desired.
Blue-headed Vireo: PP 3 Dec (PD); Owl's Head P, KING 3-6 Dec (AxW); NYQU 20 Dec, no details.
Fish Crow: max 306 NYCA 14 Dec.
Tree Swallow: 9 JBWE 26 Dec; many reports thru early Jan; 2 GKP 14-15 Feb.
Tufted Titmouse: JBWE 2 Dec; 2 Kismet, Fire I, SUFF 14 Dec (SA, D Klauber); CB 14 Dec; v rare on barrier beach.
Brown Creeper: max 8 BLSP & vicinity 13 Dec (BBc).
House Wren: NYNN 20 Dec; NYOR 3 Jan.
Winter Wren: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 101; max 22 NYSM 27 Dec; 2 Shu Swamp, NASS 17 Feb (RJK).
Marsh Wren: recorded 5 CBCs, total 18; max 7 NYCS 27 Dec.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: recorded 11 CBCs, total 48; max 12 NYSN 3 Jan; CP 13 Dec, 15 Feb.
Hermit Thrush: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 141; max 30 NYBR 20 Dec.
SWAINSON'S THRUSH: NYQW 14 Dec, reported w "adequate details".
VARIED THRUSH: Sands Pt, NASS 30 Jan & later (D Kurz).
Gray Catbird: recorded 11 CBCs, total 109; max 18 NYSN 3 Jan.
Brown Thrasher: recorded 9 CBCs, total 23; max 5 NYMK 20 Dec.
European Starling: 3,000 Baiting Hollow, SUFF 2 Feb.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R10): Napeague SUFF 17-19 Jan (HM, mob ph); FT 23 Jan (DG, RGo).
WARBLERS
Orange-crowned Warbler: RMSP 2 Dec (SBI, DG); APP 3 Dec (EM *et al.*); JBWE 6 Dec (DG *et al.* ph); recorded 7 CBCs, total 12; max 3 NYBR 20 Dec and NYQU 20 Dec; 2 LCP 4 Jan (J Stetson *et al.*); *intro*.
Nashville Warbler: RMSP 2 Dec (SBI, DG); APP 3 Dec (EM *et al.*); Riverside P NEWY 15 Dec; LCP 4 Jan (J Stetson *et al.*); *intro*.
Yellow Warbler: NYBR 20 Dec.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: PP 2-6 Dec, from fall (RB, mob).

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBER: m Tobay, NASS 3 Jan and later (TWB, GB ph, mob ph).

Pine Warbler: singles on 3 CBCs: NYQW 14 Dec, NYNN 20 Dec, NYSI 20 Dec.

Prairie Warbler: APP 13 Dec (JR, EM); NYQU 20 Dec, new to count, no details.

Palm Warbler: recorded 5 CBCs, total 7.

Blackpoll Warbler: NYBR 20 Dec.

Ovenbird: Midtown Manhattan 5 Dec (ROP).

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 NYSI 20 Dec, only ones recorded on CBCs.

Yellow-breasted Chat: singles recorded 3 CBCs: NYBR 20 Dec, NYMK 20 Dec, NYSN 3 Jan (at OMNSA 18 Dec-6 Jan).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

WESTERN TANAGER: Fisher’s I, SUFF late Dec-7 Feb (Jacqueline Williamson ph).

E. Towhee: recorded 11 CBCs, total 84; max 19 NYOR 3 Jan.

Am. Tree Sparrow: low numbers at barrier beaches and other usual locs; CP intermittent 1 Jan-8 Feb, unus loc.

Chipping Sparrow: recorded 6 CBCs, total 10; max 4 NYCA 14 Dec; 1 wintered at SI feeders.

Clay-colored Sparrow: HHSP 6 Dec (AnW *et al.*)

Grasshopper Sparrow: NYCA 14 Dec at RMSP (SA!, D Klauber!).

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow: NYSN 3 Jan (P JL, SSM!), nominate.

Fox Sparrow: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 151; max 30 NYSN 3 Jan.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: CP 8 Dec (KC) & 13 Dec (P Pollack); NYCA 14 Dec at HSP (DF!).

Swamp Sparrow: recorded all 12 CBCs, total 469; max 123 NYSG 21 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 24 NYSG 21 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: widespread reports of inds thru; 6 GKP 19 Jan (SWo); 12+ wintered JBWE, w max 29 here 26 Dec (DG *et al.*).

Snow Bunting: 420 CB 6 Dec; 400 JBWE 6 Dec.

Dickcissel: OMNSA 18 Dec; NYSG 21 Dec; LCP 4-6 Jan (J Stetson *et al.*).

Red-winged Blackbird: 800+ Northville 6 Feb (RJK).

E. Meadowlark: 40+ Grumman 23 Dec, wintering area.

Rusty Blackbird: “a few” CP 3-26 Dec; 2 CRSPP 3 Dec; recorded 7 CBCs, total 68; max 27 NYQU 20 Dec; 2 Mass 23 Jan (RJK); ca. 25 wintered HLSP.

Com. Grackle: 800+ Northville 6 Feb.

Boat-tailed Grackle: max 70 SMCP 6 Jan, 50 here 25 Feb (CS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 200+ HSP 3 Dec.

Baltimore Oriole: 2 singles CBCS: NYBR 20 Dec, NYSN 3 Jan; Franklin Sq, NEWY var dates.

Purple Finch: reported more widely and in somewhat greater numbers than usual; max 20+ CP.

White-winged Crossbill: conspicuous on barrier beaches mid Jan thru mid Feb; small flocks SI; 8-10 CP 17 Jan-15 Feb; 20 Northville 7 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: CP 8 Dec, 25-26 Jan.

Pine Siskin: 60 Grynes Hill, RJCH (HF); max 200 CP; 30 Ridge, SUFF feeder 2 Feb (J&PH); 53 Northville feeder (MLL).

Am. Goldfinch: continued migr early Dec.

EXOTICS

Trumpeter Swan: pr Upper L, Yaphank, SUFF 11 Feb thru (A. Graves, mob ph).

Cape Shelduck: m BLSP, pinioned, longtime resident here.

EUROPEAN ROBIN: Alley Pond Park, Queens 23 Dec, *intro*.

Yellow-footed Canary: Inwood P, NEWY 14 Dec (PS ph).

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

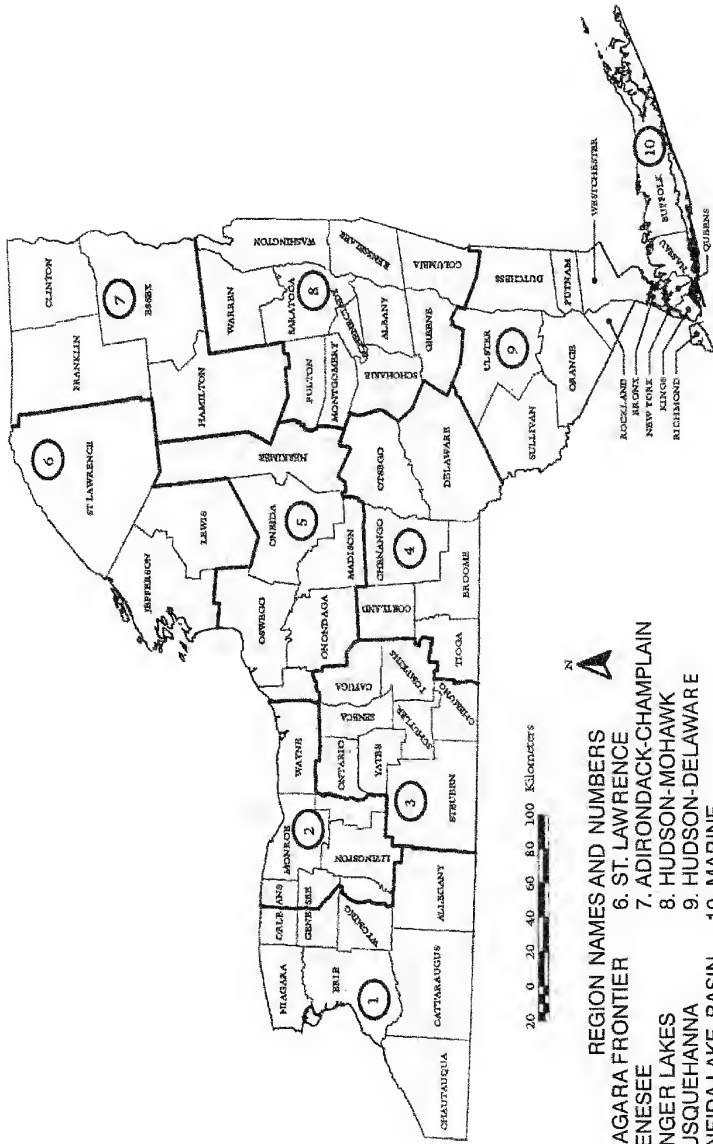
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS

1. NIAGARA FRONTIER
2. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN
3. FINGER LAKES
4. SUSQUEHANNA
5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN
6. ST. LAWRENCE
7. LAWRENCE
8. HUDSON-MOHAWK
9. HUDSON-DELAWARE
10. MARINE

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