

Hudson-Delaware



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The warm, dry weather from last fall continued through the winter. With average temperatures seven to nine degrees Fahrenheit above normal, it was one of the warmest on record. And with precipitation as much as 15 cm below normal in some areas, it was also among the driest. Most of the Region remained without significant snow cover through the period. Lakes remained partially ice-free as much as a month later than normal. Even in the snow-belt areas, where up to 25 m of snow are normal, there were often no more than a few cm on the ground. As a result, with no fewer than 19 species of warbler reported, waterfowl and many half-hardy species remained n. well into the season.

The season's highlights included reports of Slaty-backed Gull and Long-billed Murrelet in New York, Bell's Vireo in New Jersey, "Western" Flycatcher in Pennsylvania, and Mew Gull and Dusky Flycatcher in Delaware. Also notable were Western Grebe, Least Flycatcher, two continuing Calliope Hummingbirds, a winter Tennessee

Warbler, and Townsend's Solitaire in New York; Townsend's Warbler in New Jersey, and a continuing Great White Heron in Delaware.

Abbreviations: Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, *Atlantic*, NJ); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY); Montauk Pt. (Montauk Point S.P., *Suffolk*, NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, *Monmouth*, NJ).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A Pacific Loon in largely alternate plumage at several locations near Eastport and E. Moriches, *Suffolk*, NY 22 Dec—7 Jan (Steve Biasetti) was enjoyed by many observers. There are only about a half-dozen accepted records of this species for New York. With fewer than 20 reported, Red-necked Grebe's numbers were low, reflecting open water conditions farther north. Numbers of Eared Grebes were also low with only 3 reported: Cayuga L., NY 22-24 Dec (KM, JM); Essex, *Essex*, NY 26 Jan (SeO, Gerard Phillips, and Christopher Tessaglia-Hymes) just the 2nd record for New York's Adirondack-Champlain Region; and Dewey Beach, *Sussex*, DE 27 Jan (MG et al.). A Western Grebe at Hamlin Beach 2 Jan (†DT, details to NYSARC and to Genesee Ornithological Society/Rochester Birding Association records committee) was convincingly distinguished from Clark's Grebe. New York has only about six previous accepted records of Western Grebe. A pelagic trip from Brielle, *Monmouth*, NJ 1 Dec to the Hudson Canyon produced 52 Northern Fulmars (PG et al.), a good count, possibly the highest since the establishment of the offshore Exclusive Economic Zone,

which limits the foreign fishing fleet to waters beyond 200 nautical miles from shore.

Single Northern Gannets were at Cayuga L., NY 19-20 Dec (Aaron Greene), an unusual inland location, and at several locations on L. Ontario in Dec to 5 Jan. Brown Pelicans took advantage of the mild weather with possibly the same 2 both at Cape May, NJ 5 Dec (Dave Githens) and at Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ 6 Dec (CS). One was also noted at Cape May Pt., NJ 13 Jan (DHe) and 2 at Broadkill Beach, *Sussex*, DE 15 Jan (Jennifer Multhropp). An American Bittern at Howland I. WMA, *Cayuga*, NY 1 Jan (†Sue Boettger, †Bill Gruenbaum) provided the 4th winter record in the Oneida L. Basin. A very late Least Bittern was found dying at E. Point, *Cumberland*, NJ 2 Jan (CS, JD), and a more successful one was at Cape May Point S.P., NJ 8 Jan (D. Soares). But the heron of the season was the Great White Heron remaining from last fall at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, *Kent*, DE, seen 3 Dec and 1 Jan (MG). Now uncommon at any time, Cattle Egrets remained at Bridgehampton, *Suffolk*, NY on 16 Dec (Shai Mitra, PAB) and at Skaneateles, *Onondaga*, NY until 19 Dec, a record-late date for the Oneida L. Basin. It seemed bound to happen; Black Vultures outnumbered Turkey Vultures on several C.B.C.s. The Southern Orange County C.B.C., NY had a record total of 182 on 22 Dec.

WATERFOWL

A **Pink-footed Goose**, perhaps the same individual that visited e. Pennsylvania for three consecutive winters and last seen three years ago, was at Upper Makefield Twp. and Buckingham Twp. 27 Jan—3 Feb (DF et al.). The records committee accepted at least the first of these reports. With 21 Greater White-fronted Geese reported from all four states, numbers, though slightly lower than last year's, were about normal. Seventeen Ross's Geese in all four states made an excellent number, about double what would have been considered outstanding only four or five years ago. Small Canada Geese, most reported as Richardson's, continued their recent trend, with singles at Tom's R., *Ocean*, NJ 15 Dec (Don Sutherland, Donna Desjardins, Lynn Hunt), Prime Hook N.W.R. *Sussex*, DE 12 Jan (MG), Waryas Pk., *Dutchess*, NY 28 Jan (Chet Vincent); and multiples in *Bucks*, PA, including birds at Peace Valley Pk. and Nockamixon S.P. in Jan and Feb (DF, AM, PL et al.) and Calverton and East Hampton, *Suffolk*, NY through the season.

Barnacle Geese of unknown origin echoed the influx occurring elsewhere along the Eastern Seaboard. In *Suffolk*, NY, last fall's remained at East Hampton until at least 20 Jan but reappeared at Wainscott 17 Feb (HM); a different individual was at Mattituck, NY 19 Jan (Paul

Gullen). One was at Bayside, *Queens*, NY 1 Jan—23 Feb (Art Scopec et al.), yet another visited Buckingham Twp., *Bucks*, PA 2-19 Feb (AM, PL), and one was at Merrill Cr. Res. *Warren*, NJ 5-9 Feb (RW, Tom Halliwell et al.).

More than a dozen Trumpeter Swans were reported from nw. New York. In *Monroe*, 2 at Irondequot Bay (RS, m. ob.) and one at Bear Cr. for the month of Jan had wing tags probably indicating an Ontario origin. In *Erie*, one at Buckhorn I. S.P. 10 & 17 Feb (Michael DeSha, Tom LeBlanc) and 4 at Randolph 15 Feb (†Jack Skalicki) had collars from a migration project at Oak Orchard W.M.A., *Genesee*, NY. And in *Oswego*, 5 were at Fair Haven 18 Feb (†BP). Four Common Teal visited the Region, 3 in New York and one in New Jersey. A female Tufted Duck returned to Rehoboth, *Sussex*, DE for the season, and single males were at the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, *Monmouth*, NJ 6-22 Jan (FT, BD) and at Patchogue, *Suffolk*, NY 12-21 Jan (Diana Teta). Tufted Duck x scaup hybrids, all males, were at Rehoboth Beach, DE 26 Jan (MG), the Navesink R., NJ 28 Jan (SB), and Massapequa, *Suffolk*, NY 21-24 Feb (Ken Feustel, RJK). Eighteen Harlequin Ducks at Barnegat Lt. S.P., *Monmouth*, NJ 30 Dec was the highest count, with a dozen others scattered through the Region. Nine Barrow's Goldeneye reported was typical for recent years. A male and 2 females were at Sandy Hook 6 Jan to season end (FT, BD), with 6 singles scattered through the Region.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Reports of 8 early-winter Ospreys were exceptional. The latest were 2 at Selkirk Shores S.P., *Oswego*, NY 28-29 Dec (†Don Coogan) for a first Oneida L. Basin winter record. The earliest arrivals, all on 15 Feb a full month before expected, were 2 at E. Hampton, NY and one in s. *Cape May*, NJ (Judy Lukens). Several reporters remarked that the low numbers of Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, and Short-eared Owls this season could be attributed to a low Meadow Vole population this year. A very late Broad-winged Hawk 2 Dec at W. Cape May, NJ (Shawnee Finnegan) was a surprise. A gray Gyrfalcon was reported at Westport, *Essex*, NY 15 Dec (J&PT, Richard & Susan Stewart), along L. Champlain, one of the better areas in the Region for this very rare falcon. Another was reported at Mispillion Inlet, *Kent/Sussex*, DE 5 Jan (†CB, Karen Bennett), where it is decidedly more rare. There is only one previous record of Gyrfalcon in Delaware. And a white Gyrfalcon, the rarest morph in the area, was reported without details at Prospect Park, *Brooklyn*, NY 27 Jan (Steve Nanz, Inara Schwartz).

A Common Moorhen surprised two observers at Mendon Ponds Pk., *Monroe*, NY 27 Jan (DT,

Mike Davids), where there are only about a half-dozen winter records. Eighteen Sandhill Cranes at Seneca Falls, *Seneca*, NY 15 Dec (John Van Niel) was the highest count this season, while 12 at Pomfret, *Chautauqua*, NY 1-21 Jan (JoG, m. ob.) provided a first winter record as well as a new maximum count for the state's Niagara Frontier Region. The crane flock at Bostwick L., *Salem*, NJ returned this year, with 2 Sandhill Cranes and 6 Sandhill x Common Crane hybrids there 10 Feb among other dates (WD, Alfred Driscoll).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A pelagic trip from Brielle, NJ 1 Dec turned up 19 Pomarine Jaegers (PG et al.). More interesting was one over L. Ontario at Derby Hill, *Oswego*, NY 13 Jan (Kevin McGann), the 2nd Jan record for the Oneida L. Basin. Rare in New York's Niagara Frontier Region at any season, an ad. Laughing Gull was a prize at Dunkirk Harbor, *Chautauqua* 3 & 6 Jan (†WD'A, †BK et al.). One at the Cape May ferry slip, NJ Jan—14 Feb was exceptionally late (Sandra Keller). Thirteen Black-headed Gulls for the season was unremarkable, but one at *Oswego*, NY 17 Dec (Richard Crossley) provided the Oneida L. Basin with its 9th record. After seeing a hybrid of Black-headed Gull found at Kiamesha L., *Sullivan*, NY 4 Feb and seen again 22-23 Feb in nearby Woodbourne (VF, ph. KM et al.), Lehman and others suggested the other parent was probably a Ring-billed Gull. The Bonaparte's Gull flock on the Niagara R., NY built to an estimated 50,000 on 13 Jan (WD'A), which was doubly remarkable because by mid-Jan numbers are usually low. However, by 5 Feb the flock had decreased to 3800 (Gordon Bellerby). A well-photographed **Mew Gull** at the Cherry I. Landfill near Wilmington, DE 15 Feb (ph. George L. Armistead, Matthew Sharp) will provide Delaware's 2nd record pending approval; the bird was clearly not a North American Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*) and was more likely a nominate bird (Common Gull, *L. c. canus*) or possibly one of the Asian races, *heinei* or *kamschatchensis*. Two ad. California Gulls were

observed at the Niagara R., NY 2 Dec (WD'A), and one remained there until 18 Feb. While there are still very few records of California Gull in New York, this area has become one of the best places to find them. Record numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued this year, with the usual very large concentrations in *Bucks*, PA and adjacent *Florence*, *Burlington*, NJ. The highest count was 192 on the Southern Bucks County C.B.C. 30 Dec (Rick Mellon), with 166 of them at the Penn Manor tract across the Delaware from Florence. Immature Sabine's Gulls at Dunkirk Harbor, NY 1 Dec (JoG, Dick Miga) and on the Niagara R. at Buffalo, NY 3 Dec (Peter Yoerg) were late but not exceptionally so. Most individuals of this rare species pass through the Niagara Frontier Region in Sep and Oct, but some have been observed well into Dec.

The warmer weather held large numbers of Forster's Terns into Jan. Late high counts included 140 on the Rehoboth C.B.C., DE 29 Dec (*vide* Joseph Swertinski) and 20 at Cape May Pt. NJ 21 Jan (Tom & Patti Reed). Very unusual were 11 Black Skimmers on the Oceanville C.B.C., *Atlantic*, NJ 15 Dec, a new winter high count for New Jersey far from common, a Common Murre was reported at Montauk Pt. 25 Feb (John Fritz). Also not common, 2 Thick-billed Murres were reported, one on a pelagic trip from Brielle, NJ 1 Dec (†PG, †SB et al.) and one 26 Dec (PL) & 1 Jan (Jim Clinton) at Montauk Pt. But the alcid of the season was certainly a **Long-billed Murrelet** at Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 17-20 Dec (†SK, Taylor Kelling), providing New York's and the Region's 2nd record, with the first also from upstate. An Atlantic Puffin was seen on the Brielle pelagic trip 1 Dec (†PG et al.).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove visited a feeder at Montauk, *Suffolk*, NY 6-7 Dec (Peter & Kay Liss, no details received). Another was at Cape May Pt. 25 Feb through the end of the season (Karl Lukens, Andre Robinson, m. ob.). This individual, New Jersey's 15th record pending approval, was found where one appeared in Nov 1996

SA An unidentified adult, winter, dark-mantled gull was discovered 4 Feb (VF) at Kiamesha L. in *Sullivan*, NY and relocated there 8 Feb (John Haas). In response to Haas's email posting, P. A. Buckley arranged to meet them. And on 20 Feb after extensive searching, it was relocated about 16 km away at the Neversink Res. Seen in the water, on the ice, and several times in flight, it clearly matched **Slaty-backed Gull**. Features noted included the "string of pearls" formed by the white sub-terminal spots on the primaries (observed on both dorsal and ventral surfaces); the broad white trailing edge to the upperwing; restricted black on outer primaries; smallish bill with slight gonydeal angle; light eye; dark eye patch; almost coral-red legs; and gray, not blackish, trailing edge to the underwing. Extensive searching on the following two days was unsuccessful. However on 23 Feb, an ad. Slaty-backed Gull, possibly the same individual, was observed at Seneca Falls, about a hundred miles NW (ph. SK, KM, JM) and superbly photographed. If confirmed, this will be New York's and the Region's 2nd record (or 2nd and 3rd records). (Many thanks to P.A. Buckley for help getting this straight.)



One of at least five Barnacle Geese in the Region this season, this one in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, south of New Hope 13 February 2002 associated with Canada Geese and departed with them, as did all other Barnacle Geese observed in the East. A flight on this scale (if indeed a flight was involved) had not been recorded previously. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

With reports of 50, Snowy Owls were quite common, and in some areas such as *Atlantic* and *Cape May*, NJ, where up to 13 were observed (possibly some duplication here), they were unusually so. Northern Saw-whet Owls had their best year in at least five, with 52 reported. Unusual was the total of 12 at Honeoye L., *Ontario*, NY 22 Dec (D. Van Horn et al.). In what may be the Region's best hummingbird winter, an *Archilochus* hummingbird in *Yonkers*, *Westchester*, NY 7-23 Dec (Hugh Martin, MB, TWB, ph. Mike Stubblefield) remains unidentified to species. But the photographs are said to be excellent, so this may change. If Ruby-throated, this individual would be record-late for New York, while if Black-chinned it would provide a new state record. Last season's 2 **Calliope Hummingbirds** remained at Ft Tryon Pk. in New York City, one each to 26 and 27 Dec. Two new Rufous Hummingbirds, now annual, visited the Region, with one near *Lewes*, *Sussex*, DE Dec—mid-Jan (Frank Rohrbacher) trapped, measured, and banded (MG), and one at *Cape May*, NJ 8 Dec—13 Jan (Anita Van Heeswyk, m. ob.) also trapped, measured, and banded (MG). And one each continued from last season at *Yonkers*, NY until 6 Jan, and at *Barnegat Light*, *Ocean*, NJ until 15 Jan. The Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird remained at *Knowlton Twp.*, *Warren*, NJ until 12 Jan. Finally, three unidentified hummingbirds were reported, including 2 probable *Selasphorus*. Not to be outdone, Red-headed Woodpeckers staged their strongest winter invasion in recent memory. About 80 were reported. The highest totals were from *Morris*, NJ, where 14 were observed at *Great Swamp N.W.R.* 15 Dec (Bill Boyle et al.) and 18 at *Troy Meadows* 23 Dec (Roger Johnson et al.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Westport, *Essex* in far n. New York produced a

Say's Phoebe 24 Feb (†Carole & James Wilkinson), the first recorded in the Adirondack-Champlain Region and only the state's 2nd winter record later than Dec. Four Ash-throated Flycatchers, a rare species but recently appearing annually, visited the Region. Three were on *Long I.*, NY: one at *Ft. Tilden*, *Queens* 1 Dec; one at *Northville*, *Suffolk* 4 Dec (Mary-Laura Lamont); and one on the *Central Suffolk C.B.C.* 22 Dec (Steve Walter et al.). The 4th remained from last season at *Bedminster*, *Somerset*, NJ until 9 Dec (Susan Endres). Five Western Kingbirds were present, 2 on *Long I.*, one in New Jersey, and one in Delaware, that latter remaining well into Jan. The farthest afield was at *Hamlin Beach* 8 Dec (DT) for the 5th *Monroe*, NY record, with all previous ones in Aug and Sep (*vide* RS). Northern Shrikes, with about 55 reported (well below the highs of the past two years) were present in more normal numbers, some well south. The *Cape May*

SA This was a winter of *Empidonax* flycatchers, with three reports almost surely unprecedented. All three are pending approval by the respective records committees. One reported as "99% sure it is a Least" Flycatcher was found on the *Central Park C.B.C.* in *New York City* 16 Dec (Kenn Kaufman, Scott Haber). The remaining uncertainty is because Dusky Flycatcher could not be ruled out. Call-notes eliminated most other western species. Details included a small bill, rather distinctive eye-ring, and other more subtle features. If confirmed, this would provide a new record-late date for New York and perhaps the entire Region as well. At *Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area*, *New Castle*, DE a **Dusky Flycatcher** was discovered 31 Dec (†Bill Murphy, Bert Filmeyr) and first identified to species by Gustafson. Present to at least 22 Jan, this individual was well photographed (Ray Wilson) and captured, measured, and banded (MG). Except for a hypothetical record in Pennsylvania, this is potentially the Region's first. Finally, on the *Southern Lancaster C.B.C.* at *Fishing Creek*, *Lancaster*, PA, a bird widely called a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, but more safely considered a **Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher**, was found 16 Dec (†Barry Blust et al.). Present until 26 Dec this individual was also photographed and we understand recordings of its calls made. If, in addition to the thorough description and the photographs, the recordings of the calls reach the records committee, the identity may be narrowed to species. Interestingly enough, Pennsylvania's only confirmed previous record, one of Pacific-slope Flycatcher, comes from this same C.B.C. in 1990. There is one other record for the Region, a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran in New Jersey.

C.B.C. 16 Dec produced a **Bell's Vireo** (Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis). Remaining until at least 12 Jan and seen by many, this individual provides New Jersey with its 5th record. Late Blue-headed Vireos included one at *Media*, *Delaware*, PA 15 Dec (Sandra Sherman et al.) and one in *Cape May* 20 Dec (JD). Two Fish Crows were a surprise in *Plattsburgh*, *Clinton*, NY 24 Feb (Dana Rohleder), far n. of their normal wintering range.

The warm winter produced a number of very late swallow reports. Eleven Tree Swallows wintering at the *Wilmington*, DE sewage treatment plant (JW, SaO, JeG) dwindled to 6 by season's end. Exceptionally late Northern Rough-winged Swallows include one at *Sandy Hook* 2 Dec (PL), one at *Niagara Falls*, NY 8 Dec (WD'A), and one at the *Wilmington sewage plant* 22 Dec (JW, SaO, JeG, vt.). Rare after Oct, these reports probably provide record-late dates for Delaware and New York. A Barn Swallow remained at the *Wilmington sewage plant* until mid-Jan (JW, SaO, JeG). Similarly, there was a rash of 9 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports in Dec, the latest at *Cape May*, NJ until 8 Jan. A **Townsend's Solitaire** at *Bond L.*, *Niagara*, NY 23 Dec through the season (WD'A, m. ob.) provided a first for New York's *Niagara Frontier Region*, about the 7th NY record, and perhaps the first away from the se corner of the state. Astonishing anywhere in North America in winter, a Wood Thrush was found on a C.B.C. in e. *Orange*, NY 15 Dec (John Tramontano et al.). Two Varied Thrushes were reported in New Jersey: one, a very elusive female, at *Garret Mt. Pk.*, *Passaic* 30 Dec—24 Feb, the state's 17th (m. ob.); and one near *Pemberton*, *Burlington* 22 Jan (Fred Lesser, Alex Tongas). American Pipits in unusual locations included singles at *Elba*, *Orleans*, NY 4 Jan (†BK), a first Jan record for the state's *Niagara Frontier Region*; at *Elizabethtown*, NY, *Essex* 22 Jan (J&PT) and at *Westport*, NY 9 Feb (Robert Hagar, SeO), both first county winter records, and at *Greece*, *Monroe*, NY (DT), the first winter record for the state's *Genesee Region*. The season brought a major influx of Bohemian Waxwings. Reports totaled about 800, mostly from the ne corner of New York. The highest counts, all in New York, included 235 on the *Ferrisburg C.B.C.*, *Essex* 15 Dec, 160 at *New Hartford*, *Oneida* 26 Feb, 100 at *Massena*, *St. Lawrence* 9 Feb, and 100 at *Kirkland*, *Oneida*, 18 & 26 Feb.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single **Tennessee Warblers** at *Park Station Pk.*, *Chemung*, NY 2 Dec (Dave Russell) and *Patchogue*, *Suffolk*, NY 10 Feb (TWB, vt. Andy Guthrie) provided the state's 2nd and 3rd winter records and the first in Feb. Exceptionally late Northern Parulas included one at *Central Park*,



Long-billed Murrelet, distinguished at the species level from Marbled Murrelet only in the last decade, has shown an astonishing propensity for vagrancy into the continent's eastern half in recent years, a pattern of dispersal not seen in its close congener. It is not yet annual in the continent's interior, however, and its appearance anywhere here is a major event. This bird was a marvelous find just north of Stewart Park, at the southern end of Cayuga Lake, 17 (here) through 20 December 2001. Photograph by Kevin J. McGowan.

New York City until 1 Jan (Tom Fiore) and one 26 Jan to season end at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA, both dates probably record late. Sandy Hook produced a **Townsend's Warbler** 1-6 Dec (Ken Klapper, m. ob., ph.) at the same location as one in Dec 1980, for New Jersey's 8th record. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Wissler Run Pk., Lancaster, PA 16 Dec—30 Jan (m. ob.) was observed eating insects out of spider webs and remained living under and inside a picnic pavilion. Late Prairie Warblers included one at Allaire S.P., Monmouth, NJ 9 Dec (SB, Linda Mack), one at Alpine, Bergen, NJ 15 & 17 Dec (Linn Pierson, Brian Moscatello), and one at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE 23 Dec (DAC, ph. Lewis Dumont). Exceptionally late Ovenbirds included one at Ft. Tryon Pk., New York City 5 Dec—26 Jan and one at New Lisbon, Burlington, NJ 12-19 Jan (Len Little). More surprising were Wilson's Warblers, one each at Pleasant Valley, Staten I., NY 29 Dec (Howie Fischer, *vide* Henry Flam), at Prospect Pk., Brooklyn, NY until 6 Jan, and at Cape May Pt. S.P., NJ until early Jan (m. ob.).

Sandy Hook harbored a Western Tanager 27 Jan (ph. TB). About a third of New Jersey's records of this rare species are in winter. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were at Cape May, NJ, one for the season, as well as another one for most of Dec (PL et al.). Another was rare at Pt. Phillips, Northampton, PA 26 Dec—20 Jan (RW). Solo Lark Sparrows were at Cape May Court House, NJ for the season (Sandy Sherman, m. ob.) and at Benjamin Rush S.P., Philadelphia 2-18 Feb. Unusual in New Jersey in Dec and exceedingly rare in Jan, 2 Grasshopper Sparrows were reported there, one at Cape May 16 Dec (Tony Leukering), and one at Holmdel, Monmouth 20 Jan (Mike Fahay). Even more surprising, a

Henslow's Sparrow was found at Big Brook Preserve, Marlboro, Monmouth, NJ 2 Jan—1 Feb (ph. TB, m. ob.). An ad. and an imm. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow were at Martins Creek, Northampton, PA (RW). Single Oregon Juncos were at Eden, Erie, NY for the season (†Robert Andriele) and Ulster, NY 3 Dec (Seldon Spencer). An Indigo Bunting was a rare find at Cape May, NJ 15 Jan (DHe). New Jersey has only three or four previous winter records of this species.

More than 30 Brewer's Blackbirds were present at their customary location in Leipsic, Kent, DE 23 Dec until at least 23 Feb (John Miller, Matt Hafner). About 30 Baltimore Orioles was a very strong showing, with a high count of 14 individuals in Cape May, NJ in Dec, 5 of which persisted into Jan. Following the pattern set last fall, Pine Grosbeaks were present in the largest numbers in years, with well over 300 reported, all in upstate New York. Peak counts were 80+ at Cherry Plain, Rensselaer, NY 17 Jan (Matt Young), 70 at Tioughnioga W.M.A., Madison, NY, 60 at New Hartford, Oneida, NY, and 41 on the Plattsburgh C.B.C., NY 16 Dec, with many reports of smaller numbers mostly in the n. half of New York. Except in se. Pennsylvania, Purple Finches were scarce. But there, some holdovers from last fall's large movement remained, with about 150 in Nockamixon Twp., Bucks, PA and good numbers elsewhere in the area. With about 15 reports of small numbers, Red Crossbills were widely scattered. Only four reports reached double digits, all from the Coastal Plain. Following last year's major influx in the Adirondacks, White-winged Crossbills showed a big decline yet still outnumbered Red Crossbills. Peak counts were 50 at High Point S.P., Sussex, NJ (m. ob.), dwindling to smaller numbers by season end, and 50 at Paul Smith's, Franklin, NY 27 Jan (Rob Jett). With reports totaling more than 5000 individuals, Common Redpolls staged a major invasion, though most remained in n. New York. The highest counts were 1000+ at Gansevoort, Saratoga, NY 22 Jan (Robert Budliger); 500 in Highland Forest, Onondaga, NY 5 Jan; and several between 300 and 500. As would be expected there were about 15 Hoary Redpolls reported, some well documented, and all from n. New York. Last fall's big movement of Pine Siskins fizzled out in mid-Dec. There were about 30 reports, most of small numbers, most in Dec, and most from s. parts of the Region. With about 30 reports, most of small numbers, Evening Grosbeaks were largely confined to upstate New York. High counts were 308 on the Johnstown-Gloversville C.B.C., Fulton, NY 22 Dec; 150-200 at De Ruyter, Madison, NY; and 140 on the Saranac L. C.B.C., Franklin/Essex, NY 29 Dec.

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