

With snow already on the ground in most of the Region, the first week of December brought still more. Temperatures moderated enough in mid-month for the first weekend of the Christmas Bird Count interval to suffer moderate to heavy rainfall in southern portions, while the later counts were plagued by yet more snow. Three major storms and several lesser ones kept the ground snow-covered in most of the area, while warmer periods around 15 December and 1 January produced an icy crust. Temperatures were generally cold throughout the season, and frigid from mid-January through February. Surprisingly, despite the harsh winter, numbers of less-hardy species lingered, notably Broad-winged Hawk, American Avocets, no fewer than seven mid- and late-winter Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows in January and February, and a strong showing of Carolina Wrens.

Highlights of the season included Painted Buntings in all three states; Pacific Loons in New York and New Jersey; Ross's Gulls and Northern Hawk Owl in New York; Western Grebe, continuing Long-billed Curlew, and Harris's Sparrow in New Jersey; and American White Pelican, continuing Allen's Hummingbird, and Le Conte's Sparrow in Delaware. Also noteworthy were a strong southward influx of alcids, Varied Thrushes in New York and New Jersey, California Gulls and Gyrfalcons in New York, and Western Tanagers in New Jersey.

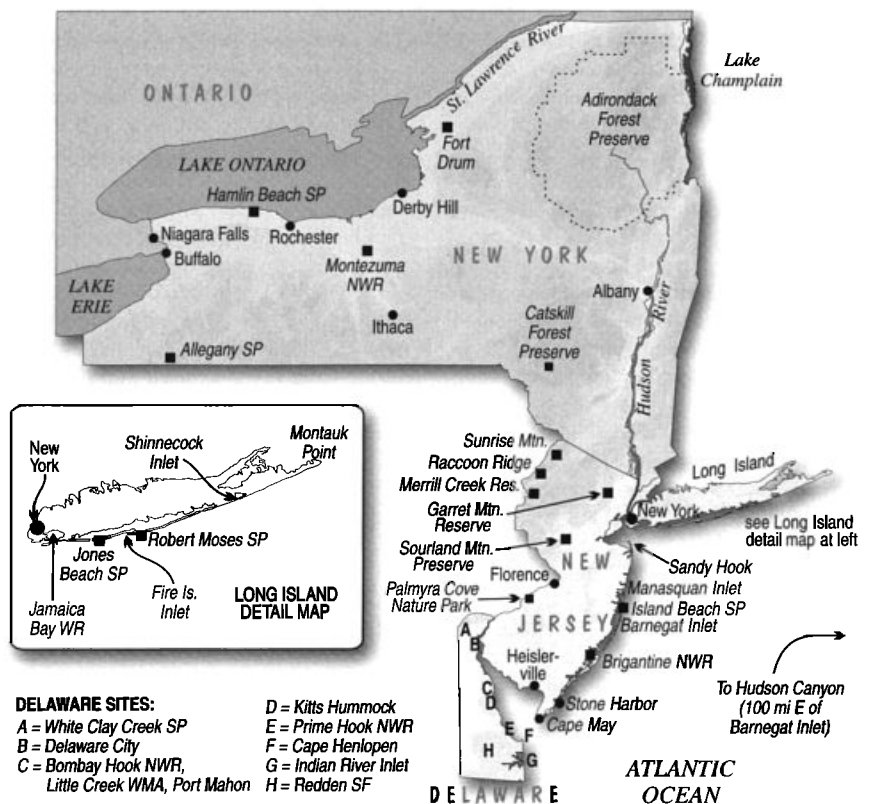
It is with great sorrow that we note here the passing in June 2003 of Sandy Sherman, a veteran observer and contributor to these pages whose accomplishments as a field ornithologist were many and varied. As President of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Sandy brought both wit and grit to the job of bringing the worlds of birding and ornithology together across three states. She birded with passion and determination, and she will be missed by great flocks of birders throughout the Region and beyond. Donations in her memory may be made to the Cape May Bird Observatory, c/o Center for Research and Education, 600 Route 47 N, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210 (Attn: Kathy Iozzo). Make checks out to CMBO, with "Sandy Sherman Memorial Fund" in the check's memo space.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); I.R.I. (Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE); Manasquan Inlet (Monmouth/Ocean, NJ); Montauk Pt. (Montauk Pt. S.P., Suffolk, NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Pacific Loons were welcome visitors to both New York and New Jersey. One was found

Hudson-Delaware



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near the village of Montauk, *Suffolk*, NY on the Montauk C.B.C. 14 Dec (TWB, Gail Benson, Bob Shriber) and seen several times there and at Montauk Pt. until 28 Dec. One was found at Manasquan Inlet 26 Dec (†Derek Lovich) and what and probably the same individual reappeared there 24-25 Feb (Alex Tongas, FL). New York has about 10 accepted records for this species and New Jersey about a dozen. Following relatively small numbers from Dec through early Feb, reports of Red-necked Grebes all the way to s. Delaware began to build rapidly by mid-Feb, with about 60 reported 14-27 Feb and 73 on 28 Feb, prefacing the explosion that really hit in early Mar. Bill Purcell comments regarding New York's Oneida L. Basin that "there was only one Red-necked Grebe until a late incursion after the upper Great Lakes froze in late Feb. The only comparable numbers were from 1994, under similar circumstances." Seven Eared Grebes in the Region was a better count than average, with 2 at Dunkirk, *Erie*, NY 26 Dec (†Brendan Klick), one at Conesus L., *Livingston*, NY 1 Jan (RS, Susan Spahn, m. ob.), one at Russell Station, *Greece*, NY 11-12 Jan (KG), one near Montauk, *Suffolk*, NY 18-25 Jan (JC et al.), and one at Beach Haven, *Ocean*, NJ 3 Feb (SB, LM). On 30 Dec only, a **Western Grebe** visited Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ (George Wenzelburger), providing New Jersey with approximately its 15th record.

A Manx and 2 Greater Shearwaters were found on a 7 Dec pelagic trip from Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, NJ to the Hudson Canyon (FONT), and a single very late Greater was observed at Montauk Pt. 28 Dec (Guy Tudor). Northern Gannets were present in large numbers early in Dec, after which most moved south. Peak counts included 1132 at the Avalon Sea Watch, *Avalon*, *Cape May*, NJ 6 Dec and 2300+ on the Montauk C.B.C. 14 Dec. An American White Pelican discovered 14 Dec (Ed Sigda et al.) and present until 11 Feb (FR) was reported about 10 times, mostly at Prime Hook and Port Mahon, *Kent*, DE. This appears to be the 2nd midwinter record for Delaware, with the first only two years ago. Reports of 7 Brown Pelicans (3 in Delaware and 4 in New Jersey) provided a new winter high for the Region, though only 2 more than last year. Six Tricolored Herons at the Burton's I. causeway near I.R.I. 2 Jan (FR), where one spent the entire season, could be a new winter high for the state. Three more were reported in New Jersey and 2 in New York.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese in strong num-

bers continued the trend of recent years, with 25 reported: 10 in New York, 11 in New Jersey, and 4 in Delaware. Ross's Geese were also present in good numbers: 6 were in Delaware, 5 in New Jersey, and one, less usual in upstate New York, at Fair Haven, *Cayuga* 8-12 Jan (†Kevin McGowan, ph.; Tim Capone). Reports of Richardson's Canada Geese continued, with 8 in New York and one in New Jersey. Four Brant with dark bellies were also recorded, though the taxa involved were not always clear. Up to 2 in S. Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ 31 Dec+ (m. ob.) were reported as *nigricans*, and one at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY 26 Jan was reported as an "intermediate-type" (Angus Wilson, Andy Guthrie). Last winter's influx of Barnacle Geese, all of unknown origin, was repeated this year, though as few as 3 birds could have been involved (in contrast to about 5 last winter). One in New York was observed on 15 Dec at Hempstead L. S.P., *Nassau* (fide SS) and possibly the same individual on 19 Jan at Baiting Hollow, *Suffolk* (fide SS). At least 2 singles visited New Jersey at Oldwick, *Hunterdon* 11-12 Dec (Evan Obercian), Jamesburg, *Middlesex* 24-25 Dec (m. ob.), and Merrill Creek Res., *Warren* early Feb+ (RK et al.). The *Middlesex* bird was undoubtedly the same one reported



One of three Varied Thrushes in the Hudson—Delaware Region this winter, this individual was present in Knowlton Township, New Jersey 13-15 December 2002 and provided the state with its nineteenth record. Photograph by Brian Hardmann.

twice elsewhere in that county in Nov, and one or both of the *Hunterdon* and *Warren* individuals could have been the same as one observed in Oct in *Sussex*, NJ. Trumpeter Swans, some tagged, very probably all from Ontario's or possibly upstate New York's reintroduction efforts, made their now-regular appearances, with 19 along New York's Ontario, Erie, and Seneca L. shores.

Nine Eurasian Wigeons were reported, 4 each in New York and New Jersey and one in Delaware, about the same number as in the past few years. Tufted Ducks returned to Rehoboth Beach, *Sussex* DE (FR) and the Shrewsbury R. area, *Monmouth*, NJ (LM) for most of the season; and one visited Southampton, *Suffolk*, NY 11 Jan (Jim Ash, Walter Tomlinson). More unusual were individuals much farther n. in Essex, NY at Crown Pt. 30 Dec and 3 Jan (David Hoag) and at Port Kent 11-13 Jan (JP, DR, Robert Wei), the first records for New York's Adirondack-Champlain region. A total of 23,700 Greater Scaup on the Rochester C.B.C. 15 Dec was exceptional. Though large flocks have occurred on L. Ontario, they have rarely exceeded 10,000. Sixteen King Eiders, a

modest number, were scattered more widely than usual, with 6 spread through New York, 9 in New Jersey, and one in Delaware. The Montauk C.B.C yielded 846 Common Eiders on 14 Dec, a good count but far from the 1996 record of 12,000. Also good were nearly 40 more scattered over the remainder of the Region. Unusual was a female 5 Jan at Pt. Vivian, *Jefferson*, NY on the St. Lawrence R. (†Nick Leone), where it is extremely rare. Forty-four Harlequin Ducks were recorded, with a maximum of 25 at Barnegat Light S.P., *Ocean*, NJ 5 Jan (TB). Unusual in Delaware was an imm. male at Pea Patch I. 14 Dec (Joel Citron) on the Delaware R. Also 18 Barrow's Goldeneyes were observed, a good though not record total.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Exceptional were single Ospreys at Ghent, *Columbia*, NY 25 Jan (Carl & Stephanie Specht, fide Bill Cook) and at Prime Hook 30 Jan (Liz Dumont). Bull has speculated that our Ospreys at this season are wandering individuals that winter not far south. This speculation may apply here, though the bird found at Jakes Landing, *Cumberland*, NJ 25 Feb (Jim Dowdell) was most probably an early returner. Increasing Bald Eagle numbers were remarked upon by many contributors. The highest one-day total by an individual was 120 along the Hudson R. between Croton Pt., *Westchester* and Cold Spring, *Putnam*, NY 20 Jan (TF). The most unusual raptor record of the season was a meticulously described imm. Broad-winged Hawk at Cape May Pt., NJ 15 Dec (†Tony Leukering). Broad-winged Hawks have only very rarely lingered into Dec, even at Cape May, where they can be trapped by miles of water. Golden Eagles were well represented, with 49 reported, of which 30 were from Dec at the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch, *Delaware*, NY. Clinton, NY, near the Canadian border, where they are less rare than in most of the Region, produced a gray Gyrfalcon at Monty Bay 12 Jan (Gary Worthington) and what was probably the same individual at Plattsburgh 30 Jan (Daniel Merkel). An imm. gray morph was first found flying past Farley's Pt. on Cayuga L., *Cayuga*, NY on 11 Jan (Wes Hochachka, SK, Ann Redelfs) and well described. This individual—and an ad. found nearby at Ledyard 25 Jan (Mike Anderson et al.)—together generated ten or more reports on the e. side of Cayuga L. into Mar.

Gerry Smith comments regarding Gray Partridge in New York's St. Lawrence Region: "Despite ideal conditions to concentrate these birds, there were virtually none seen, which suggests reduced populations." One at Massena, *Jefferson*, NY 1 Dec was unusual (Marilyn Badger). A Sora at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ 8 Feb (Pete Dunne) was a surprise, as the species is scarce even in the

mildest winters. A flock of 9 cranes over Husted Landing, *Cumberland*, NJ 29 Dec (Sandy Sherman) probably contained a mix of Sandhill and Sandhill x Common Crane hybrids—the legacy of a single, escaped Common Crane that has mated locally with a Sandhill Crane. Two unidentified cranes were at Deerfield, *Salem* 29 Jan (Ed Bruder, Jean Gutsmuth), and 2, reported as a Common and a Sandhill, were at Harmony, *Cumberland* 13 Feb (Fred Tetlow). Most of the birds wintering in this area appear to be of hybrid origin.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Sixty-four American Oystercatchers were at Jones Beach S.P., *Nassau*, NY 8 Dec, with one remaining as late as 23 Feb (m. ob.), and a high of 80 was counted on the mudflats at Absecon Inlet, *Atlantic*, NJ 26 Jan (SB, LM, PB). Numbers of oystercatchers have recently been regular in winter on the s. New Jersey coast. Four American Avocets were found at Bombay Hook 12 Jan (AE). There are at most a very few midwinter records in Delaware. Though apparently not observed earlier in the season, these were probably very late individuals. Six others at Slaughter Beach, *Sussex*, DE 25 Feb (Robert Egbert) were returning on a normal date. Three Willets found on the Cape May C.B.C. at Wildwood, *Cape May*, NJ 15 Dec and 30+ found on the Oceanville C.B.C. at Absecon Inlet 14 Dec, 23 of which were still present on 2 Feb, were identified as of the expected w. race. Two Willets were at Jones Inlet, *Nassau*, NY 10 Dec—5 Jan (TWB, m. ob.). Last fall's Long-billed Curlew remained at N. Wildwood, *Cape May*, NJ through the entire season. Three Marbled Godwits were at Absecon Inlet, *Atlantic*, NJ 1-14 Dec, with one remaining until at least 2 Feb. Recently this species has wintered several times along the s. New Jersey coast. The 7 Dec pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon recorded 200 Red Phalaropes (FONT). More interesting, however, were 2 at Oswego, NY 10-26 Dec, the first Dec report there since 1977; also noted were one at Villas, *Cape May*, NJ (George Myers, PEL et al.) and 2-4 at Cape May Pt., NJ 18-23 Feb (m. ob.).

A Great Skua off Montauk Pt. 13 Dec (HM et al.) was unusual in inshore waters here; what was probably the same individual was found resting on the beach for about an hour at nearby Hither Hills S.P. the next day (Betsy McCully, Joe Giunta et al.). The bird, which appeared exhausted, was last seen flying w. along the beach. Also a surprise was a Parasitic Jaeger off Sandy Hook 31 Dec (PB), possibly record-late for New Jersey. A Laughing Gull in Central Park, New York City 15 Jan+ was unusual here at this date (TF). Two ad. California Gulls rewarded a diligent observer along the Niagara R. at Lewiston, NY 23 Dec

SA The season featured a strong movement of alcids farther s. along the shore than normal. Following 10 Dovekies on the Hudson Canyon pelagic trip 7 Dec (FONT), several were reported from land. Two at Montauk Pt. 14 Dec was a nice sight, but 4 reported on the New Jersey shore—singles on the Long Branch C.B.C., *Monmouth* 28 Dec (RR, TV), at Sandy Hook 30 Dec (RK), in Deal, *Monmouth* 31 Dec (RR, TV), and farther s. at Cape May Pt. 5 Jan (Richard Crossley et al.)—were more unusual. Later in the season, a moribund individual was found in Bridgehampton, *Suffolk*, NY 4 Feb (*vide* GF), and the southernmost one appeared at I.R.I. 13 Feb (†Dan Eberly).

An oiled Common Murre in breeding plumage washed up on the beach at E. Quogue, *Suffolk*, NY (*vide* GF, ph. HM). A Thick-billed Murre was reported on the Brooklyn, NY C.B.C. 21 Dec (Eric Salzman, Valery Helton). An excellent total of 891 Razorbills was recorded on the Montauk C.B.C., *Suffolk*, NY, where they have become common in recent years. But astounding were 116 on the Bronx-Westchester C.B.C. 22 Dec. Many of these were observed moving w. past a location where on the previous day only the second *Westchester* record was recorded, and 23 more passed there on 23 Dec. Some 50 recorded on three New Jersey C.B.C.s were noteworthy. One reached Delaware, at I.R. I. 3 Jan (Sam Dyke). Ten to 15 remained along the New Jersey coast through most of January, with the last report being of 4 at Manasquan Inlet 14 Feb. A Black Guillemot on the Montauk C.B.C. 14 Dec was outstanding, but one on the Long Branch C.B.C., *Monmouth*, NJ (†Glenn Mahler), and probably the same individual at Deal 31 Dec (RR, TV), provided New Jersey's 9th record. Finally, 2 Atlantic Puffins on the Hudson Canyon pelagic trip 7 Dec (FONT) delighted participants.

(†WD). Though regular in the Niagara area, California Gull, with fewer than 10 accepted records, is still rare in the state. Small numbers of Thayer's Gulls continue to be reported, some with details, all requiring records committee review. First-winter individuals were reported at Perinton, *Monroe*, NY 9-10 Dec (Dominic Sherony) and again there 20 Dec (R. & C. McKinney, R. O'Hara); at Manasquan Inlet 29 Dec (†Bruce McWharter); at Buck Pond, *Greece*, NY (†J. Barry); and at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY (†KG, RS). A maximum of 3 of unspecified age class was reported at Florence, *Burlington*, NJ (m. ob.) without details. The gulls of the season, however, were 2 **Ross's Gulls** in New York: an ad. at Niaraga Falls 1 Dec (Ron Scovell, †WD), the first at this gull capital since 1995, and a first-winter bird at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY 9-13 Jan (†RS, m. ob.). There are only six prior records from New York, only one from New Jersey and one from Delaware otherwise.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

According to a Selbyville, *Sussex*, DE resident, his mother has been feeding the small flock of Eurasian Collared-Doves there for about 10 years (per Larry Graff). If this story is accurate, then these birds are probably of local captive origin, rather than from the Bahamian introduction. Last season's White-winged Dove in W. Cape May, NJ remained until 4 Dec (Sheila Lego, Marlene Murgitroyde). A well-publicized Northern Hawk Owl in Root, *Montgomery*, NY 18 Jan+ (Ellen & Chuck Kieweg, m. ob., ph.) lured many observers outdoors into the cold. This was the 5th confirmed record for New York's Hudson-Mohawk Region. In Delaware, last season's Rufous Hummingbird at Milton, *Sussex* remained until 3 Dec (Sally Fintel), and the **Allen's Hummingbird** at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, *Kent* remained until 1 Dec (FR). Last winter's incursion of Red-headed Woodpeckers did not repeat itself. Only 13 were reported, 4 of them on the E.

Orange County C.B.C., NY 14 Dec. The number of Red-bellied Woodpeckers recorded on C.B.C.s approached that for Downy. About 500 were counted on Long Island alone! The one-day peak count of Black-backed Woodpeckers was 4, on the Saranac L. C.B.C., *Franklin*, NY, with scattered other reports from the usual places.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Despite the cold and snowy conditions, no fewer than 7 Eastern Phoeebes were observed in Jan and Feb. One at Elbridge, *Onondaga*, NY 1 Jan (Lois Needham) provided the 4th winter record for the Oneida L. Basin. Reports in Feb included one at Riverdale, Bronx, NY 3 Feb and one in Varick, *Seneca*, NY 9 Feb (Bob Guthrie, Leona Lauster). Last season's Ash-throated Flycatcher remained at Two Mile Beach, *Cape May*, NJ until 2 Dec (Chris Vogel). A Western Kingbird remained on Staten I., NY until 2 Dec, while another stayed in W. Cape May, NJ until 27 Dec (CS, m. ob.). Several observers commented on the low number of Northern Shrikes. Only 43 were reported, somewhat below average. A Blue-headed Vireo on the Seaford-Nanticoke C.B.C., *Sussex*, DE 4 Jan provided only the 2nd count record. Very rare away from its Adirondack haunts, a Gray Jay at a feeder in Lewisville, *St. Lawrence*, NY (†Marilyn Badger) was convincingly described, and a New York record high of 17 came from the Saranac L. C.B.C., *Franklin* 28 Dec. Some reporters commented on reduced numbers of American Crows, but various factors prevented establishing a firm connection to West Nile virus. A count of 1000 Fish Crows at the Cherry I. Landfill, *New Castle*, DE 18 Jan (FR) was good, even at this site, which often hosts large numbers in winter.

Three hundred Tree Swallows were sitting on the beach during the Rehoboth C.B.C., *Sussex*, DE 28 Dec (AE, Sandy Roe), perhaps driven there by severe weather to the state's north. About 45 remained into early Jan near Cape May, NJ and 4 until 24

Feb at Slaughter Beach, *Sussex*, DE. Unprecedented was a single individual in extreme n. New York at Ausable Pt. W.M.A., *Clinton* 16 Feb (DR) following a -20° F night. The official high at Plattsburgh that day was -2° F. The last Cave Swallow departed the Cape May, NJ area 2 Dec (Michael O'Brien). While Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost absent from most of the Region, the Saranac L. C.B.C., *Franklin*, NY 28 Dec recorded an excellent total of 136. Twenty Winter Wrens on the Moorestown C.B.C., *Burlington*, NJ 22 Dec provided a new count record. Very rare n. of s. Texas in Dec, a Wood Thrush remained in Central Park, New York City until 15 Dec (TF), recorded on the Lower Hudson C.B.C. Four Varied Thrushes was an excellent count this season: one in Knowlton Twp., *Warren*, NJ 13-15 Dec (Alan Boyd, †Dennis Briede, Brian Hardiman, ph.); one at Haddonfield, *Camden*, NJ 28 Jan (†Marilyn Courtney); one at Tuckerton, NJ 17 Feb (Kevin Des Roberts); and one at Ridge, *Suffolk*, NY 10-20 Feb (*vide* JC, Robert Adamo). Ten Gray Catbirds provided a new winter high for New York's Oneida L. Basin. Two remained at Manlius Center, *Onondaga* 16 Feb (David Wheeler). A Brown Thrasher through at least 9 Feb was out of place at Black River, *Jefferson* in n. New York, a location not too far from the n. limit of its summer range. Last winter's incursion of Bohemian Waxwings did not repeat itself.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In a winter in which warblers were generally scarce, Nashville Warblers made a good showing, with 5 on Long Island, NY and 6 in the Cape May area. Open water at the Caledonia Fish Hatchery, *Livingston*, NY in otherwise frozen surroundings attracted 60+ Yellow-rumped Warblers 18 Jan (DT, MD). Last season's Townsend's x Hermit Warbler hybrid at Jones Beach S.P., *Nassau*, NY remained until 1 Dec. An Ovenbird at Montauk Pt. 26 Jan (Bobby Berlinger et al.) provided New York with its 2nd latest record. A Northern Waterthrush at the Caledonia Fish Hatchery 15-18 Jan (DT, MD) may also be the 2nd latest New York record. New Jersey was blessed with 2 Western Tanagers this season, one at Erma, *Cape May* 12-24 Dec (Bob Mercer, Rick Mellon, m. ob.) and one at Shark River Hills, *Monmouth* 14 Feb+ (Fred Armstrong, Joyce O'Keefe, m. ob.). These provide the 25th and 26th records for the state. While some parts of the Region had few American Tree Sparrows, others had many, as the high total of 1302 on the Ithaca C.B.C., *Tompkins*, NY illustrates. Two at Little Tupper L., *Hamilton*, NY 3 Dec (Joan Collins) and one at Inlet, *Hamilton*, NY for the season (Gary Lee) were both noteworthy. Clay-

colored Sparrows were good finds at Rhinebeck, *Dutchess*, NY 12 Dec to season's end (Karen Smith et al.) and in the Queens C.B.C circle, NY 15-16 Dec (Seth Asubel). And, typical of recent winters, 2 Lark Sparrows were found, one at Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ 8 Dec (David Freeland) and one at Dover, *Kent*, DE 25 Feb (*vide* AH). Twenty-five Ipswich Sparrows on the Cape Henlopen-Prime Hook C.B.C., *Sussex* 29 Dec likely afforded a new Delaware high count. Three Grasshopper Sparrows on Long I. C.B.C.s were also noteworthy, as New York has only a few previous winter records; one remained at Montauk Pt. through 18 Jan. A Le Conte's Sparrow Oct+ at Bombay Hook (Sally O'Byrne, Jeff Gordon) was special in Delaware, where very rare. A well-photographed Harris's Sparrow at Middletown, *Monmouth*, NJ 4 Jan (Andrea Blum) provided the state with its 17th record.

Fifty-five Northern Cardinals on the Massena-Cornwall C.B.C., *St. Lawrence*, NY 21 Dec suggests how well established this species is along the St. Lawrence R. A flock of 12 at Plymouth, *Chenango*, NY 23 Feb (Dale Storms) provided a new county high count. Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were present in New York, one at L. Success, *Queens* 14 Dec (Stu Lipkin); one at Webster, *Monroe* until 14 Dec (B. & E. Molyneaux); and one in the Bronx 6 Feb (Starr Saphir, Dorothy Poole). Though by no means regular in winter, this species has made several appearances in New York at this season. A male Painted Bunting visited a feeder at Parlin, *Middlesex*, NJ in Dec (ph. Margaret Tropp). Females or female-plumaged birds were at Cape May 7-17 Dec (Dave Hedeon, Glen Davis, m. ob.), E. Shoreham, *Suffolk*, NY mid-Dec—late Feb (*vide* Paul Gillen), and Ellendale, *Sussex*, DE 24 Feb+ (Shelly Smith). New Jersey has over 20 records of Painted Bunting, New York has 30 or more, and Delaware about 10. Single Dickcissels visited Sag Harbor, *Suffolk*, NY 17 Jan—8 Feb (Bob Wilson et al.) and Plumstead Twp., *Ocean*, NJ 9 Feb (FL).

Two Eastern Meadowlarks in *Essex*, NY—one each at Whallonsburg in early Jan (Sally Smith) and at *Essex*—provided the county's first two Jan records. The highest count for the species was of 17 at Cape May N.W.R., NJ 6 Feb (CS, PS). The traditional flock of Brewer's Blackbirds at Texas Rd. in Leipsic, *Kent*, DE is gone. The farmer sold his cattle, and the blackbirds are now only sporadic there. Elsewhere in Delaware, 4 were at Bombay Hook 6 Jan (Maurice Barnhill, Anthony Gonzon, Eric Braun) and 14 near Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, *Kent*, DE (ph. AE, the first state documentation of this species after 49 years of almost-annual occurrence near Bombay Hook!).

With a maximum of 49 Purple Finches on the Saranac L. C.B.C., *Franklin*, NY 28 Dec, this species was one of only two "winter finches" reported in numbers exceeding 50. Though numbers of American Goldfinch were lower elsewhere, the species was abundant in the Adirondacks, and the Saranac L. C.B.C recorded 1115. Evening Grosbeak went unreported until mid-Feb. Six were seen at Northville, *Fulton*, NY 14 Feb, and a peak of 25 was noted at Saranac Inn, *Franklin*, NY 20 Feb.

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