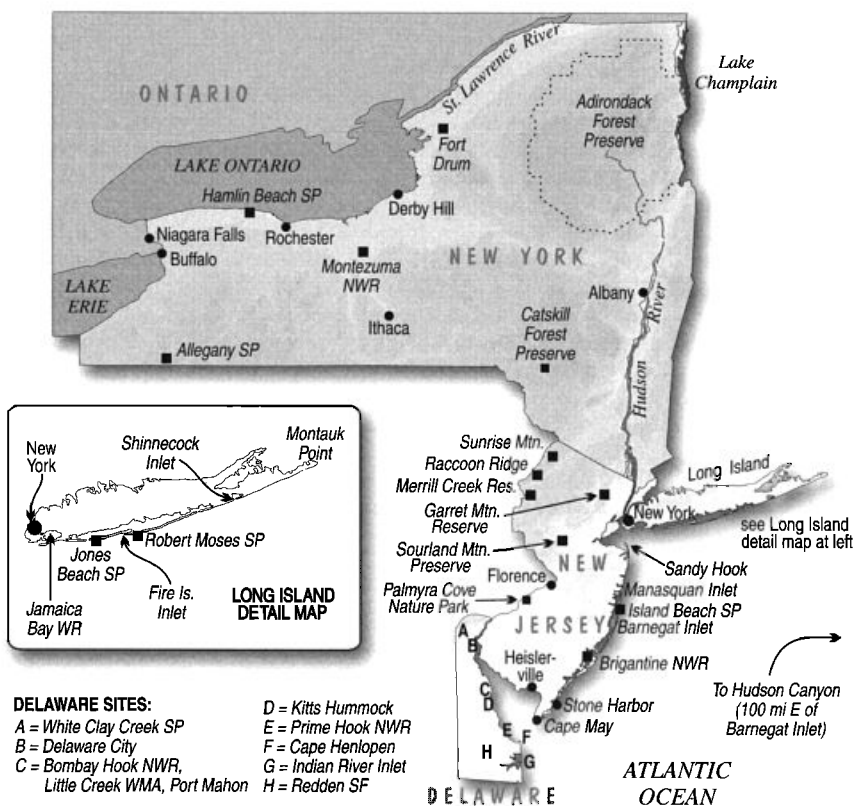


# Hudson-Delaware



Early snow followed by sustained cold characterized this winter for much of the Region. Major snowfalls began with one on 5–6 Dec followed by a larger one on 14–15 Dec that badly disrupted the first C.B.C.s. In January, major snowfalls on 11–13 and 27–28 helped make the month one of the snowiest on record. February's only major snow came on the 3rd. Early December was colder than normal, but temperatures moderated on the 22nd. On the 7th of January, a deep freeze set in for the remainder of the month, and turned conditions brutal, especially in most northerly parts of the Region. February was more nearly moderate however, except for a very cold period on the 15th through the 17th. Southern and coastal portions were less strongly affected but were not entirely spared. Surprisingly, despite the harsh conditions, an unusual number of half-hardies persisted, as noted in the following account.

Highlights of the season included Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Black Rails, Long-billed Curlew, Mew Gull, Allen's Hummingbird, Townsend's Solitaire, and incursions of Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls. Also noteworthy were Gyrfalcons, White-eyed Vireos, and Varied Thrushes. On a less happy note, many subregional compilers commented on the disastrous decline in American Kestrels, with record lows on several C.B.C.s and on a raptor census.

**Abbreviations:** Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., Monroe, NY); I.R.I. (Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

For the 4th time in the past six winters, a Pacific Loon was present in New York, this time at Myers Pt., Lansing, Tompkins on Cayuga L. 8 Feb into Mar (Anne Marie Johnson, †Pete Hosner, m. ob.). With more than a dozen accepted records in the state and increasing in recent years, this species is still very rare and requires careful documentation. After last spring's massive movement, Red-necked Grebes returned to normal numbers, with nearly all reports coming either in Dec or Jan, suggestive of through-migration. Peak counts were 17 at Hamlin Beach 9 Dec (William Symonds, RS) and 22 on Seneca L., NY 13 Feb (Steve Fast, BM). Three Eared Grebes visited the Region this season, singles at the Aurora Bay Overlook, Cayuga L., NY 28 Feb (BM, Ann Mitchell) and Strathmere, NJ 23 Feb (PEL et al.). A Western Grebe was reported at L. Champlain at Cumberland Head, Clin-

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ton, NY 7 Jan (Michael DiNunzio). If accepted, it will add to about a half-dozen previous New York records, though there are several others assigned to Western/Clark's Grebe.

The only tubenose of note reported was a Manx Shearwater seen from the Cape May–Lewes Ferry 21 Feb (Paul Pisano et al.). An out-of-place imm. Northern Gannet visited interior New York at Niagara Falls 6–16 Dec (†WD, †William Watson, GB), and a different individual was observed farther upriver at Whirlpool S.P. 6 Dec (*vide* MM). This species is rare inland, but it is not entirely unexpected on L. Ontario. Four American White Pelicans were at Cape May Pt., NJ 3 Dec (PEL), probably part of the group of 5 present there in Nov. And 3, presumed to be part of the same group, subsequently appeared on the Bombay Hook C.B.C. 21 Dec (Joel Citron); at Cape May Pt. again on 17 Jan (Bill Murphy et al.); late on the same day at Brick, Ocean, NJ (AT); then nearby on the following day at Brielle (Rebecca Buck). The Bombay Hook report is only Delaware's 3rd in winter. In the past several winters, Brown Pelicans have been regular. This year, at least 2 were observed in Delaware, 4–9 in New Jersey, and one in New York. The latest was an imm. at I.R.I. 1 Jan (A. Guarente), and the northernmost was at Shinnecock Inlet 19 Dec (Jim Clinton). But utterly unexpected was the flock of 3 seen flying in a snowstorm in Passaic, a n. county of New Jersey, on 15 Dec (J. & T. Keller)—one must wonder whether these birds were moving inland or were fleeing the Great Lakes, where several have been present in recent autumns. A Great Cormorant at Seaford, Sussex, DE 31 Jan (GL) provided a first inland winter record for Delaware. Surprising in a harsh winter was a Least Bittern found standing on ice at Corbin City W.M.A., Atlantic, NJ 11 Jan (Karen Williams, KJ). Taken to a rehabilitation center, it was eating well a few days later and was scheduled for release where it was found.

## WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese continued their recent trend, with a strong showing of 22: 7 in New York, 12 in New Jersey, and 3 in Delaware. Ross's Geese were also present in strong numbers: 4 each in Delaware and New Jersey and 3 in New York. Of particular interest were 2 in upstate New York, where still rare: one at the Aurora Bay Overlook on Cayuga L. 14 Dec (Jay & Kevin McGowan) and one at Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee/Oreans, NY 27 Dec–2 Jan (†MM). Richardson's Canada Geese continued their appearances in small numbers with one in Aurora, Erie, NY 15 Dec (Linda Holmes); one in Evans, Erie, NY 10 Jan (DS); and 2 at Cape May Pt., NJ 25–31 Jan (RC, PEL). A Black Brant at

Strathmere, NJ, 1 Dec (Clay Sutton) was an excellent find. After two winters with good numbers, only one Barnacle Goose returned to the area, at various locations on e. Long I. mid-Dec–late Feb (m. ob.). With 12 reported, Eurasian Wigeons were present in normal numbers after two somewhat lower years: 7 in New York and 5 in New Jersey. An ad. male Cinnamon Teal at Hackensack Meadows, Lyndhurst, Bergen, NJ remained from last season through 1 Dec (Dave Pereksta). A Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was at and near Prime Hook for about a week beginning 15 Feb (FR, MG, ES), the only one reported. However, an apparent hybrid Green-winged Teal x Common Teal visited Hempstead L. S.P., Nassau, NY 21 Feb (Bobby Berlingeri).

Redhead numbers were excellent in both New Jersey and New York but disappointing in Delaware. Forty-one were recorded at Snug Harbor near Toms River, Ocean, NJ 13 Dec (Shaun Wainright), a single-day, single-site total that appears not to have been reached in New Jersey since the late 1970s; elsewhere in the state, better-than-normal

9 Dec (Sam Dyke) could be the same individual that appeared there in Jan 2002.

About 20 King Eiders was a better total than in most recent years. Some 6 were spread around e. Long Island; 3–4 remained near Barnegat Inlet, NJ; and 6–8 moved along the Cape May coast. High count of Common Eiders in New Jersey was of 25 at Cold Spring Jetty on the n. side of Cape May Inlet 2–8 Feb (RC), with the maximum in New York about 3000 at Montauk Pt. mid-to late Dec (Henry Halama, m. ob.), where such large numbers are normal. High counts of Harlequin Duck included 55+ at Barnegat Inlet 21 Feb (EB)—about double New Jersey's previous single-site record, held by the same location, and even eclipsing the state's highest previous statewide total. In New York, up to 11 were at Pt. Lookout on the w. end of Long I., and 6–9 moved about the e. end. In Delaware, 2–3 visited I.R.I. at different times. Eleven Barrow's Goldeneyes was not up to last year's 18, with one or 2 females at Sandy Hook 20 Dec–Mar (Jenifer Hanson, m. ob.) and 9 more scattered widely over New York.



Regular in small numbers in winter in the East, Greater White-fronted Geese were well reported from many regions in winter 2003–2004. This bird, of the race *flavirostris* from Greenland, was nicely photographed at Lavalette, New Jersey 24 January 2004. Photograph by Alex Tongas.

numbers were common. Some 19,000 were on Cayuga L. at the Wells College Boathouse near Aurora, Cayuga, NY 8 Feb (Mickey Scilingo et al.), the highest total in New York since the phenomenal 50,000 on Seneca L. in 1976. Single Tufted Ducks were at Oswego 14–29 Dec (Gerard Phillips et al.) and Sodus Bay, Wayne 11 Jan to 17 Feb (MT et al.) and later at Little Sodus Bay at Fair Haven, Cayuga 22 Feb–Mar (Kevin McGowan); no others were reported in the Region. An apparent Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid at Silver L., Rehoboth Beach, Sussex, DE

## RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Raptors generally did well, with the exception of Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and American Kestrel. No fewer than 6 Ospreys were reported between 26 Dec and late Jan. Five were at coastal or southerly locations, but one remarkable individual at Vestal, Broome, NY 29 Jan (Colleen Wolpert) was neither. Bald Eagles continued their strong recovery, with high totals on many C.B.C.s and all-time records at various locations. Except in most n. locations where numbers diminished after Dec, Northern



This apparent Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull hybrid was one of several reported in the East this winter. Photographed at Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey 8 February 2004, this first-winter individual remained for at least a week here. Photograph by Alex Tongas.

Harriers did exceptionally well, too. An all-time high of 75 was recorded on the Salem County (New Jersey) Raptor Census 1 Feb; 58 from Thompson's Beach to Stow Cr., Cumberland, NJ 16 Feb (KJ, Janet Crawford); and farther n., 23 together in the same field at dawn at Porter, Niagara, NY 28 Dec (MM). The total of 23 Golden Eagles, 6 in New Jersey and 17 in New York, was well below last year's 49. This difference may be accounted for by weather conditions at the Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, Delaware, NY, where this season's total was only 10 compared to last year's 30. With comments like "all-time low," "very hard to find," and "numbers continue to plunge," several noted the scarcity of American Kestrels. In particular, following a startling decline to 6 on this year's Cumberland, NJ C.B.C. from averages of 49 in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and 30 in the late 1980s and 1990s, Clay and Pat Sutton urged action for state listing as Endangered. Two New York locations provided most of the Merlin reports this year. The traditional winter roost in Buffalo yielded 7 through the season (†PY); and a nest site at Binghamton, Broome produced multiple reports of birds presumed to be the parent pair and last season's young (m. ob.) A gray-morph Gyrfalcon at the Pt. Peninsula at Cape Vincent, Jefferson, NY 1 Dec (Gerry Smith, Tom Carrolan, ph.) was at a location where semi-regular. Another upstate Gyr visited Sodus Pt., Wayne, NY 20–29 Feb (MT, m. ob.). A band was noted, so the bird was captured, the band number noted, and the bird released. This individual had been illegally caught last year, then recovered by authorities and released in Nov.

Apart from an unusual total of 25 near

Deerfield, Cumberland, NJ 31 Jan (Jean Gutmuth), the case of Northern Bobwhite is unfortunately reminiscent of the American Kestrel's. Away from areas stocked for hunting, this species has all but vanished. A Black Rail found standing on ice in Quogue, Suffolk, NY 11 Jan startled the observers



Good numbers of Black-legged Kittiwake, as many as 5000, were found during a productive pelagic trip from Belmar, New Jersey on 13 December 2003. Photograph by Angus Wilson.

(TWB, AG); it was noted during the coldest period of the month. At least two previous Dec records and one on 6 Jan on Long I. suggest that this species, which is difficult to de-

tect when not calling, may be present in winter more often than expected. Another Black Rail—seen briefly in flight at close range—was reported on the Belleplain, NJ C.B.C. 21 Dec.

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Piping Plover at Stone Harbor Pt., Cape May, NJ continued from Oct through 14 Dec (Mike Fritz) to be on the Cape May C.B.C., about the 5th to linger so late in the state. An excellent total of 265 American Oystercatchers was counted on the Oceanville, NJ C.B.C. 20 Dec, and 195 were present at Stone Harbor Pt./Hereford Inlet 19 Dec (PEL), continuing the trend of high counts that began in the 1990s. A remarkable mid-winter total of 33 American Avocets remained at Bombay Hook 1 Jan (FR). Though 4 were present at the same location last Jan, there are still very few mid-winter records for the Region. While the maximum of 38 was seen at Absecon Inlet, Atlantic, NJ 4 Dec (Kathie Sandel), a Willet present at Buffalo 9 Dec–3 Jan (†PY, †WD) provided a first winter record for New York's Niagara Frontier Region. All winter records of the species refer to the Western Willet, *inornatus*. Last season's Long-billed Curlew remained near Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ until 14 Dec, when it was recorded on the Cape May C.B.C. Marbled Godwits remained at Abse-

con Inlet once again, with a peak count of 46 on 10 Dec (*vide* EB) and 35 there on 5 Jan. One-hundred Wilson's Snipe in Elsinboro, Salem 5 Jan (Frank Lenik) would appear to have set a new winter record for New Jersey.

Very rare was a winter Laughing Gull at Tonawanda, Niagara, NY 21 Dec (†Nick Sly), where it is unusual in any season; possibly the same individual was at Amherst, Erie, NY 11 Jan (†DS). The gull of the season was the Mew Gull of the race *brachyrhynchus* on the Niagara R. at Lewiston, NY 13 & 16 Dec (†WD, Mike Hamilton), first found a week earlier on the Ontario side of the river. The state has only about three accepted previous records, one of them at the same location. As usual, up to 2

ad. California Gulls were at the same location 6 Dec–12 Jan (†WD, GB). A Royal Tern surprised an observer at Island Beach S.P., Ocean, NJ 6 Jan (GW), a very late date for

the state. Other very late terns included a Common Tern at Orient Pt., Suffolk, NY 5 Dec (PSt) and a Forster's Tern on the Central Suffolk, NY C.B.C. 27 Dec (Mary Laura Lamont).

While alcids did not repeat their major incursion of last year, they were present in above-average numbers. Fourteen Dovekies was a good showing, with 2 on the Montauk, NY C.B.C. 20 Dec; 5 on a pelagic trip off Belmar, Monmouth, NJ 13 Dec (PG et al.); 5 on the Cape May C.B.C. 14 Dec; one off Bethany Beach, Sussex, DE (GL); and one at I.R.I. 13 Feb (Odette James). Three Common Murres were present: one each on pelagic trips from Belmar 13 Dec and 2 Jan (PG et al.) and from Delaware 28 Feb (PG et al.). The Delaware report if accepted will be about the 2nd for that state. More unusual in recent years was a Thick-billed Murre, found dead but otherwise in good condition, at Wildwood Crest, Cape May, NJ 22 Feb (B. & B. Weber). Razorbills were plentiful, with over 50 each in New York and New Jersey and several in Delaware. A Black Guillemot was far out of place at Noblewood Park, Essex, NY 28 Dec (Matt Medler), the 2nd record in the state's Adirondack-Champlain Region; another Black Guillemot seen from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry 28 Dec (PEL) will provide Delaware's first record. And finally an Atlantic Puffin, not a rarity offshore, was recorded on the 2 Jan pelagic trip from Belmar (PG et al.).

### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove, New Jersey's 17th, was found by observers searching for Bohemian Waxwings at Island Beach S.P., NJ 9 Jan (GW, John Danzenbaker, AT). A Snowy Owl at I.R.I. 28 Feb (Mari Castellanos, *vide* Maurice Barnhill) was unusual in a year with few reports. Less common than Rufous Hummingbird in winter, one of last season's late Ruby-throateds remained until at least 3 Jan at W. Cape May, NJ (m. ob.), while last season's Rufous Hummingbirds remained at Wilmington, DE until 9 Jan (Dan Stine) and on Long I. at Orient until 22 Dec (Ruthi Oliva) and at East Hampton until 9 Jan (Jane Ross). Another remained from the fall at Milton, Sussex, DE until 3 Dec (Sally Fintel, MG et al.). Last season's Allen's Hummingbird remained at Cape May, NJ until 12 Jan (Chris Vogel, G. Davis). Only 6-7 Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported, probably a new winter low. The one at Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris, NJ returned again for the season (m. ob.). Another was found at Cape May N.W.R., NJ 11 Jan and remained through Feb (Tom Bailey et al.). One was recorded on the Hamburg, NY C.B.C. 4 Jan, up to 2 were present near Wallkill, Ulster, NY 19 Jan and 14 Feb (Rich Guthrie et al.), and 2 were at Esopus, Ulster, NY 21 Jan (Steve Chorvas).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Last season's hybrid *Tyrannus*, thought to be a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Couch's Kingbird, remained at Leicester, Livingston, NY until 2 Dec (Jim Kimball). Single Western Kingbirds were in Montville, Morris, NJ on the Boonton C.B.C. 21 Dec (Jonathan Klizas et al.; through 23 Dec) and on Staten I., NY 3 Jan (Jim Madden, Mike Mayer). Though Northern Shrikes staged a modest irruption in n. parts of the Region, their numbers were unspectacular farther south. Most reports were from Dec and Feb, with few in Jan, suggesting through-migrants. From their distribution in New York, it seems that most later birds moved through Pennsylvania; this would explain the low numbers in Delaware and New Jersey, as well as on Long I. High counts were 22 from Carlton, Orleans to Somerset, Niagara, NY 17 Feb (DT) and 22 along the L. Ontario shore in w. Monroe and e. Orleans, NY 26 Feb (DT). These totals were the result of methodical searches by the same observer and represent record-high counts for both the Genesee and Niagara Frontier regions of the state. White-eyed Vireos were unexpected on the Belleplain, NJ C.B.C. 21 Dec and the Barnegat, NJ C.B.C. 28 Dec. There are only about three previous records of White-eyed Vireo in New Jersey at this season. With a maximum of 33 at Cape Henlopen S.P., Sussex, DE 4 Jan (FR), Brown-headed Nuthatch staged a minor explosion. Single-digit highs have been the rule in recent years. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Rio Grande, Cape May, NJ 13 Dec (PEL) eluded observers the following day on the C.B.C. This species occurs only occasionally at this time here.

Ednie noted a crash in Delaware's Eastern Bluebird population: "Sixteen counted

at Bombay Hook C.B.C. was a sharp decline from last year's 92. Seaford C.B.C. dropped this year to 41. Bluebirds were rare at Brandywine Creek S.P. through the season." A Townsend's Solitaire at Grand I., Erie, NY 6-7 Dec (Susan & Tom O'Donnell) provided a 2nd record for the Niagara Frontier region. New York has fewer than 10 accepted records. Two Varied Thrushes visited the Region: one at Byrne, Albany, NY 10-15 Jan (Jocelyn Cole-Calkins, m. ob.) and one at River Vale, Bergen, NJ 3-29 Feb (Leona Klauth, Judy Cinquina). Although there are nearly 50 previous records in New York and



One of three Common Murres in the Hudson-Delaware region this season, this individual was found on the pelagic trip from Belmar, New Jersey 13 December 2003. Photograph by Chip Krilowicz.

20 in New Jersey, this species is still rare. A Brown Thrasher lingering at Hamlin Beach, NY 1 Dec (DT) was of note. Unlike Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwings were present in below normal numbers in most areas.

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Cape May Warbler surprised observers at East Hampton, Suffolk, NY 16 Jan (HM, Michele Claeys), potentially a New York record-late date. Single Yellow-throated Warblers visited w. New York at Elmira, Chemung 3 Dec (BO) and Binghamton 1-15 Jan (Jan Peterson, Dave Sterling, m. ob.), the latter tying the previous state late date.

**SA** The enormous invasion of Bohemian Waxwings farther n. made itself felt in this Region as well. Reports in New York totaled about 1000 individuals; comparable numbers of the species had been recorded in the winters of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the state. Peak New York counts included 200 at Canton, St. Lawrence 28 Feb (*vide* JBo); 175 at E. Hoosick, Rensselaer 21 Feb (AG, m. ob.); 156 on the Watertown C.B.C. 20 Dec; and three reports of 75-80 in Essex.

A more telling indicator of the magnitude of this flight was its extent in New Jersey, where such incursions have not previously been felt. In that state, which has only eight previous records of the species, all but one of single birds (up to 3 were at Barnegat Light in 1968), at least 8 were present among five locations. One at Island Beach S.P. 1 Jan (AT) increased to 3 by 11 Feb (Chip Krilowicz), with at least one remaining until 16 Feb. One at Great Swamp N.W.R. 21 Jan (Harvey Tomlinson et al.) may have been the same as the one at Somerset County Environmental Center 30 Jan-1 Feb (Steve Ozard). One at Nummy's I., Cape May, NJ 10 Feb (Diana Wentink) was present for only a day, whereas one at Sandy Hook 12 Feb (Tom Boyle) increased to 3-5 by 14 Feb (m. ob.), with one individual remaining into Mar. Though none were reported in Delaware, this movement reached as far s. as Maryland's Eastern Shore and offshore s. to Bermuda.

A Wilson's Warbler found on the Sandy Hook C.B.C. 14 Dec (Susan Phelon) was very late. A Summer Tanager found in Nov at Mauricetown, *Cumberland*, NJ continued through 4 Dec (Pete Dunne), quite late for this s. species. Eastern Towhee numbers exploded, particularly in s. areas. High totals in Delaware were 53 at Woodland Beach, *Kent* 21 Dec (Ed Marshall, Keith Russell); 58 at Milford Neck Wildlife Area, *Sussex* 28 Dec (AE, Kitt Hecksher); and about 60 at Prime Hook 25 Jan (ES); and in New Jersey, 43 at Mad Horse Creek W.M.A. 14 Dec (Ward Dasey, Colin Campbell). Singles in *Chautauqua*, *Niagara*, *Monroe*, *Seneca*, *Oneida*, and *Onondaga*, NY (4 of them into Feb) marked the n. winter limits. Very late Grasshopper Sparrows were found e. of Gilgo, *Suffolk*, NY 7 Dec (John & Gerda Fritz, Pat Lindsay) and on the Cape May C.B.C. 14 Dec (Michael O'Brien). But the biggest surprise was one near Milford, *Sussex*, DE 31 Jan (MG), for the state's only winter record. A possible Slate-colored Fox Sparrow at Hamlin Beach 7–8 Dec (†RS, Susan Spahn) will be reviewed by the N.Y.S.A.R.C.; *zaboria* Red Fox Sparrows should be ruled out in such cases. The latest Lincoln's Sparrow, found on the Moorestown C.B.C., was at Rancocas, *Burlington*, NJ 21–22 Dec. Earlier in the month, singles were found at Jones Beach S.P., *Nassau*, NY; Lincroft, *Monmouth*, NJ; and Cape May. Rounding out the sparrows was a Harris's Sparrow at Gardner's I. on the Montauk C.B.C. 20 Dec (PSt). Though now recorded more than 50 times in New York, it should still be regarded as rare.

An Indigo Bunting at Leicester, *Livingston*, NY 1–3 Dec (†RS et al., ph.) afforded the first winter record for the state's Genesee region. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds—one at Port Penn, *New Castle*, DE 9 Dec (John Janowski), one on the Milford, DE C.B.C. 28 Dec (Meta Little), and one at Pennsville, *Salem*, NJ 28 Dec (Robert Stewart)—was a normal winter total. No Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from Delaware, where they have been regular for 50 years and present in good numbers for the past decade. In New Jersey, with only 12 previous records, there were three reports: up to 8 at Hancock's Bridge, *Salem* 1–16 Feb (PD, m. ob.), possibly one of the same individuals nearby in Elsinboro 14 Feb (Lloyd Shaw), and one at Sharptown, *Salem* 16 Feb (Rick Wiltraut, Jason Horn). In New York, one appeared at Cuylerville, *Livingston* 6 (DT) & 12 Jan (Robert & Chita McKinney). Rusty Blackbird counts were 27 at Montrose, *Westchester* 1 Feb (TWB) and 15–20 at Rhinebeck, *Dutchess* in Jan (m. ob.). With the exception of redpolls, winter finches were scarce. There were few reports of crossbills, and Purple Finches were present only in low numbers despite last fall's big movement. Pine Grosbeaks made a modest appearance, all in New York, with scattered reports in the Adirondacks: one at Lima, *Livingston* 3 Dec (J. Foster), 5 on the Hamburg, *Erie* C.B.C. 4 Jan, and one at Caroline, *Tompkins* 1 Feb; farthest s. were 3 at High Falls, *Ulster* 20 Dec (Ev & Bob Rifenberg). Common Redpolls invaded, though in lesser numbers than in the winters of 1999–2000 and 2001–2002,



Brewer's Blackbirds, rare in New Jersey at any season, have recently been seen almost annually in Salem County in winter. This male was at Hancock's Bridge, where from up to 8 were present between 1 (here 2) and 16 February 2004. Photograph by Chip Krilowicz.

with scattered reports through the Region in early Dec and a major movement along the New Jersey coast into Delaware 28–29 Dec. Peak counts were 1019 on the Saranac L. C.B.C. 4 Jan in the Adirondacks and 244 on the Barnegat, NJ C.B.C. 28 Dec, with flocks of 100–200 scattered over New York s. to New Jersey and a total reported between 2500 and 3000. Hoary Redpolls accompanied the incursion. Though not all were well documented, about 35 were reported, double or triple the number expected based on recent experience. Pine Siskins were widespread in small numbers with a patchy distribution. With over 500 reported, Evening Grosbeaks reached their highest number in three winters. Peak totals, both in the Adirondacks, were 120 on the Saranac L. C.B.C. 4 Jan, and 50–150 at Long Lake for the season (Doug Blodgett).

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