

only a couple of small flocks penetrated into the n.w. corner of the state.

Purple Finches were once again very scarce, most strikingly in Vermont where Peterson indicated that there were "no reliable reports"! Crossbills were similarly few and far between, with Reds marginally more numerous than White-wingeds. Across the n. tier of states only 4–5 reports of Red Crossbills were received, while farther south there were several reports from c. Massachusetts, a few from n. Rhode Island, and a group of ≤ 20 birds in Goshen, CT during the latter half of the period. White-winged Crossbills were even harder to find in n. New England, with only one report each from Maine and New Hampshire, and none from Vermont, several reports from Massachusetts, and single birds in Rhode Island and at 2 sites in Connecticut.

Common Redpolls were far and away the most widespread and abundant of the n. finches; they were found from one end of the Region to the other, in flocks often numbering >100 , up to a maximum of 400 birds. Although there seemed to be some seasonal fluctuation in numbers from one area to another, no obvious Regionwide pattern was apparent. It did seem that in most places the birds stayed away from feeders until the latter half of the season. A redpoll in S. Londonderry Jan. 6–Feb. 7 was identified as the Greenland race *nostrata* (WN), but no details were submitted. Not surprisingly, given the magnitude of the redpoll flight, there was a flurry of Hoary Redpoll reports, most of them, regrettably, lacking documentation. At least a dozen sightings in Maine included an eyebrow-raising report of 15 in Ft. Kent (*fide* WT). New Hampshire had five Hoaries, three of them well documented (*fide* RS), and there were five or six in Vermont (*fide* JP). Southernmost Hoaries were two–three in Massachusetts (*fide* RHS) and one in Little Compton, RI (RB).

Pine Siskins presented a feast or famine scenario, mostly the latter, as very few were present in n. New England and they were essentially absent from the coastal plain in s. New England. However, there were a handful of sizable flocks in c. Massachusetts, including 250 birds in Athol, MA Jan. 9 (D. Small), and a few smaller flocks were noted in the n. portions of Rhode Island and Connecticut. Evening Grosbeaks were widely distributed across interior New England, but were nowhere numerous, and were once again virtually absent from the s. coastal plain.

Sub-regional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and observers: Tom Aversa, *Jim Berry*, J. Botelho (JBo), Mike Boucher, Richard Bowen, Cape Cod Bird Club, *Alan*

& Barbara Delory, Glen d'Entremont, Diane De Luca, Jody Despres, David Emerson, Richard A. Forster, John Gaskell, Henry Golet, Greg Hanisek, Richard Heil, Kyle Jones, Seth Kellogg, Betty Kleiner, Douglas Kraus, Vernon Laux, Mark Lynch, Mary Murray, Russ Naylor, William Norse, Jackie Papale (JPa), Judy Peterson, David Provencher, Jackie Sones, Rebecca Suomala, Robert H. Stymeist, William Townsend, Peter Trimble, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, D. Zimmerlin.

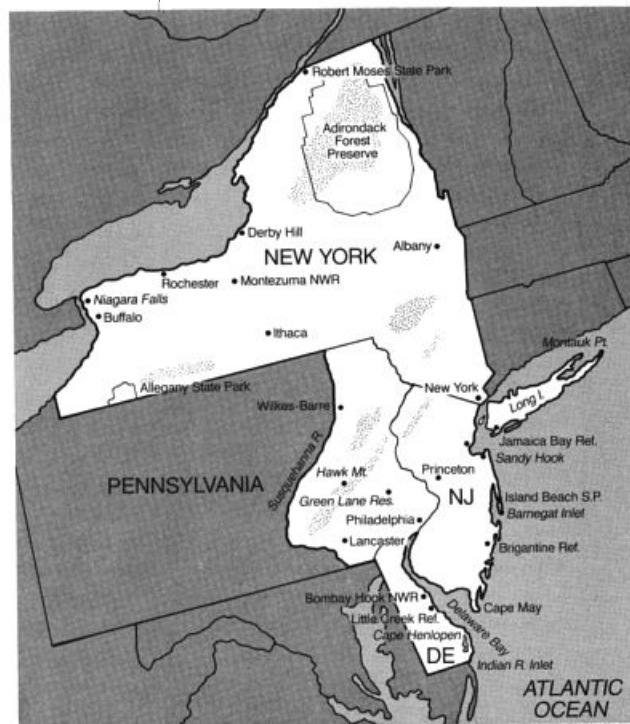
—*Blair Nikula*, 2 Gilbert Lane, Harwich Port, MA 02646.

Hudson-Delaware Region

EDWARD S. BRINKLEY, WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., ROBERT O. PAXTON, AND DAVID A. CUTLER

The Great Winter of 1993–1994 combined the record-low temperatures of 1976–1977 with the record snowfalls of 1977–1978. Add in the brutal ice storms in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and especially south Delaware, and it was one of the most difficult birding winters in recent memory.

It was the snowiest winter on record in several areas across the Region. Barnes Corners, New York tallied 350 inches of snow for the season, five feet of which fell in 24 hours January 18–19. Record-low temperatures were set in cities too numerous to mention, with -48° F being the lowest at Crown Point, New York Jan. 27. By mid-January, most major bodies of water—including rivers, bays, and inlets as far as south-central New Jersey—were ice-locked. Avian mortality was surely affected, but the extent of losses, as always, was difficult to gauge. The sub-zero temperatures were prolonged, but not as much as in 1976–1977,



so species such as Carolina Wren and Eastern Bluebird, which suffered huge losses then, were not mentioned by observers as having lost ground.

Waterfowl, raptors, and gallinaceous birds, however, were all very hard hit, beginning with the first major cold fronts December 21–29 and continuing until the first break in the cold February 17. Outbreaks of a duck viral enteritis epidemic among waterfowl in the northwest portion of the Region, as well as an avian cholera epidemic among seafoal in the southeast, took its tolls on some species. The near-complete freezing of the Great Lakes (all but small portions of Michigan and Ontario) forced divers that normally overwinter, particularly Horned and Red-necked grebes, to the south and east. Observers recorded all-time high counts of the latter species in virtually every corner of the Region.

The winter was no less remarkable for the flight of both Common and Hoary redpolls. Both the number of feeders and birders has increased tremendously since earlier flights in the 1950s and 1970s, so it is impossible to accurately compare current and historical flights. Otherwise it was not exceptional season for winter finches, and northern owls, including Short-eared and Snowy, were comparatively scarce, if widespread. Other *Microtus* eaters were in average numbers: Rough-legged Hawks were fewer in the north but more numerous in the south, and Northern Shrikes were found in the north. Gyrfalcons visited the northern parts of the Region in healthy but not unprecedented numbers. Alcids were above average.

Glaucous and Iceland gulls had their best showing in recent years, even if they were not uniformly abundant. After the tantalizing fall flight, Bohemian Waxwings kept mostly to the north and east of the Region, probably discouraged by the summer failure of the Mountain Ash crop and other favored berries.

Exceptional records included returning Spotted Redshank in Brooklyn and Pacific Loon at Manasquan, New Jersey; a Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow Warbler, two Painted Buntings, and LeConte's and Golden-crowned sparrows in New Jersey; Ivory and California gulls in upstate New York; White-winged Dove on Long Island; Indigo Bunting in the Adirondacks; three Northern Parula Warblers; and Mew Gull and Say's Phoebe in Pennsylvania. More regular strays were Rufous Hummingbird, Varied Thrush, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and a Boreal Chickadee in southeast New York.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (*Bombay*

Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); C. Henlopen (*Cape Henlopen S.P., Sussex, DE*); C. May (*Cape May, NJ*); C.M.B.O. (*Cape May Bird Observatory*); C.M.P.S.P. (*Cape May Point State Park*); Derby Hill (*Derby Hill Bird Observatory, near Mexico, Oswego, NY*); D.O.S. (*Delaware Ornithological Society*); Dunkirk (*Dunkirk Harbor area, Chataqua, NY*); Indian R. (*Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE*); LI (*Long Island*); Manasquan (*Manasquan Inlet, Monmouth-Ocean, NJ*); Montauk (*Montauk Point and vicinity, Long Island, NY*); M.N.W.R. (*Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca-Cayuga, NY*); N.Y.S.D.E.C. (*NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation*); Prime Hook (*Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE, including Broadkill Beach*); RBA (*Rochester Birding Assoc.*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows*).

Loons to Herons

Single Red-throated Loons, normally scarce in upstate New York in late winter, were at Seneca L., Feb. 4–14 (JG); Fair Haven S.P., Dec. 11; Saratoga L., Dec. 3 (R. Beeler); Irondequoit Bay Jan. 22 (CC); Dunkirk Jan. 22 (FRE, BC) and Feb. 18–19 (WD, FRE); and one fall-out in a parking lot in Oneida, NY Jan. 17 (J. McIntyre, *vide* DC). A Pacific Loon was seen again this year at Manasquan Dec. 5–Jan. 15+ (PB, LM).

The Avalon, NJ seawatch sponsored by C.M.B.O. ended its season in January with a whopping 53,944 Red-throated Loons tallied since September (DW, CS, FM). By contrast, only 3371 Com. Loons were counted, which lends plausibility to the hypothesis that the Cayuga L. flights of Commons continue along the Susquehanna R. valley to the Chesapeake Bay (WRE, SK in *ms.*; see AB47:5). Reports of 15 single Red-necked Grebes from CBCs and coastal localities through late January were above par but a mere drop in the bucket compared to the flight that followed.

SA The story of the winter was the mass exodus of Red-necked Grebes from the frozen Great Lakes into our Region and farther south. It was the largest on record, probably surpassing the 1934 flight. The first wave of grebes, largely Horneds, was detected mostly in w. and c. New York, but stretched to Newark, DE with >300 Horned and two Eared grebes found wrecked at various inland locations Jan. 6–20 (188 Horneds from the snowbelt e. of L. Erie alone, *vide* WD). The movement of Red-neckeds began later,

with the greatest numbers reported early February–early April from >300 locations. The first arrivals showed up Feb. 10, when Crossley noted 15 at C. May and one was brought to rehabilitators in Newark, DE (L. Evans).

Mortality during the late February flight in 1934 was probably tremendous; Breslau found 375+ Feb. 22 alone, with 225 dead and about 150 alive but weakened, including "14 Holboell's Grebes just alive enough to waddle in the town street" of Montauk village (Joseph J. Hickey, "The Ornithological Year in the NYC Region," *Proc. Linn Soc.* 47 [1935]:103–04). Although at least 14 dead or wrecked Red-neckeds were reported from various locations this season, most of the >850 birds observed were feeding and appeared healthy. Since the c. portions of the Finger Lakes remained ice-free throughout the season (unlike 1934), the area may have served as a stopover point for birds flying over c. New York: >105 were counted on Cayuga L., Feb. 20, with 68 at Myers Pt. alone (WRE, ESB) Nineteen counted by Bertram on Seneca L., Feb. 13 swelled to >134 (JG) into March. The previous upstate New York maximum was 47 (both in April, at Cayuga L. 1992 and Rochester 1963). Reports to C.M.B.O. indicate that >250 birds were present in coastal New Jersey counties alone in mid- to late February (PS, PB). High counts around the Region were: 120 C. May Feb. 12 (CS, m.ob.) and 178 Feb. 21 (D. Freeland); 65 around Rehoboth Bay, Feb. 26 (R. Rufe, CDC, F. Buhl); 60 from Montauk to Shinnecock, Feb. 26 (ABa, AJL); 53 along the Niagara R., Feb. 15–21 (D. DiTommaso, *et al.*); 33 at Dunkirk Feb. 19 (FRE); 27 from the Conejohela flats to Marietta, PA Feb. 13 (JH, RM).

Horned Grebes were reported in relatively high numbers from inland lakes and coastal locales, with 251 on the Oceanville, NJ CBC Dec. 18, plus two Eared Grebes at Pleasantville, new to that count. In w. New York, single Eareds were at Java, *Wyoming*; Batavia, *Genesee*; Holland and W. Seneca (both *Erie*) Jan. 6 (M. Kandell, N.Y.S. D.E.C.); and at Watkins Glen, *Schuyler* Feb. 5–12 (JG). Others were at Holgate, NJ and Rehoboth, DE Feb. 20 (APE).

The only tubenose reported was a Manx Shearwater Dec. 11 off Brielle, NJ (AH, ABr). Three Am. White Pelicans tarried N of C. May Dec. 1–11; what was probably

the same trio passed Sandy Hook New Year's Day, next putting in an appearance for the s. *Nassau*, NY CBC Jan. 2 (JPA). Single Browns were at C. May (T. Naughton); Indian R., Jan. 1 (JFW), and Lewes, DE Jan. 2 (JFW, JFS).

Northern Gannets turned up at the Read Sanctuary in Rye, NY Dec. 10 (TWB), near Union Beach, *Monmouth*, NJ far into Raritan Bay Dec. 5 during a nor'easter (LL, R. Kane), and on the Niagara near Lewiston Dec. 16 (RA, D. Roberson). Great Cormorants also continue to be found away from the immediate coast: One was at the Kensico Res., *Westchester*, NY Dec. 22, <20 on the Peekskill light tower in the Hudson R., *Westchester* in early January (*fide* JPA), nine at Jones Point, *Rockland*, NY Jan. 29 (C. Weiss), and four at the Round Valley Res., *Hunterdon*, NJ Jan. 16. Greats were more numerous than usual in Delaware: Two were firsts on the Wilmington CBC Dec. 26 (HB), and three were at Essington on the Glenolden, *Delaware* CBC Dec. 18 (NJP).

Some Am. Bitterns stayed the season, with an excellent 17 reports of 22 birds throughout the period, including five at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ Jan. 1 (JU *et al.*). Many Great Blue Herons were also reported, despite frozen conditions. Only one Great Egret was found at Bombay Hook Dec. 19 (DAC). A Green Heron was at C.M.P.S.P., Dec. 8–24 (DSi), and six Little Blues and a Tricolored were at N. Wildwood Dec. 11 (R. Ditch). A single Tricolored lasted at Rehobeth, DE through Jan. 1 (JFW), whereas a Least Bittern at Brig Feb. 20 may have been a returning bird in the record warmth of that day (R. Berry). A few Black-crowned Night-Herons were usual on coastal CBCs, but what can one say about the *six* that spent the winter in a residential area of Buffalo, NY, roosting in a spruce tree for the 3rd consecutive winter (R. Brock)? Glossy Ibis was a good find on both the Brooklyn CBC Dec. 18 and the Queens CBC the next day. A *Plegadis* ibis, probably a Glossy, flew over I-95 in Ewing, *Mercer*, NJ Dec. 14 (H. Thompson).

Waterfowl

There were 2100 Tundra Swan reported at M.N.W.R., Dec. 4, and 69 were at Conesus L. the same day (RBA). An imm. Trumpeter Swan at Slater Cr. near Rochester Feb. 11–28 (†RGS, DSh, m.ob.) was likely from a reintroduction program, as were four (one adult, three immature, also unbanded) at Mannington Marsh, *Salem* NJ Feb. 6 (WWD, D. Merkh). Three Whooper Swan at Argyle L., Babylon, LI were surely last year's probable escapes (ABA).

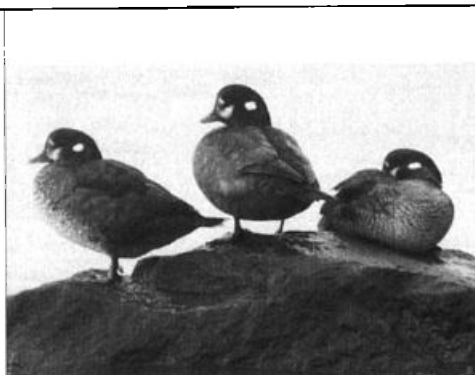
Greater White-fronted Geese turned up in New York at Saratoga L., with three Dec. 2

(W. Corbett), and at Seneca Lake S.P., *Seneca*, including three Dec. 23 (S. Morris). There were singles in *Bucks*, PA (near Doylestown Dec. 16 and New Hope late January) and at L. Galen, Peace Valley, PA in early January (*fide* AH). Ross' Goose has become regular, with the consequence that no details were submitted for sight records. One Ross' was at East Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ Feb. 6 (JD, CS), and two singles were at Kitts Hummock, DE Jan. 5 (CDC) and Gumboro, *Sussex* Feb. 10 (S. Dyke). Two were found at Prime Hook Jan. 29 (CDC) and two at Ocatararo Res. on the *Lancaster-Chester*, PA border Dec. 19 (*fide* AH), the latter with over 22,000 Snows. A CBC record was set with 40,508 Snows at *Cumberland*, NJ (CS), and over 91,000 wintered in the Bombay Hook area in late December (DAC).

Wood Ducks graced many CBCs in the s.e. parts of the Region, with 27 on the Kensico Res. in early December (*fide* JPA); up to 13 in the Rochester area throughout January was more unusual (v.o.). Two (Eur.) Green-winged Teal were at L. Galen, PA Dec. 31–Feb. 19 (A. Mirabella, S. Farbotnik, m.ob.). Four N. Shoveler stayed at M.N.W.R. until Dec. 4 (RBA), and one leucistic bird was seen at the Tappan Res. on the Hackensack-Ridgewood CBC in NJ Dec. 18 (*fide* IHB). Blue-winged Teal were surprises on the Harrisburg (*fide* BM) and Syracuse (JH) CBCs Dec. 18. Eurasian Wigeon were well off last winter's high counts, with only seven each from New Jersey and New York, and one report from Port Mahon, Little Creek W.M.A., DE Feb. 27 (FRO).

Only three Tufted Ducks were found, all in New York: the returning drake at Read Sanctuary Dec. 23–Jan. 9 (TWB), and a pair at Calverton, *Suffolk* Dec. 12+ (AJL, ABa, RK). Also at Read, Greater Scaup peaked at 5000 Feb. 13 (TWB), while 1200 were along the Niagara R., Dec. 12 (m.ob.). The LI Sound wintering population seems stable at about 20,000, estimated by air on the NYS Waterfowl Count Jan. 16. The Sandy Hook CBC in New Jersey reported 20,975 Dec. 16 (EB). The Eaton Bird Club found Redheads in good numbers on Seneca L., 2500 at Sampson S.P., Feb. 10 being the best report from upstate. The s. parts of the Region, however, had many more than usual: Delaware had >30, a high number, and New Jersey had >80. A count of 94 Canvasbacks on the *Cumberland*, NJ CBC was dubbed "Chesapeake-like" (CS).

Neither King nor Com. eider made a special showing: 300 Commons at Montauk Dec. 18 was below last year's counts, and seven Kings from coastal areas was low. Harlequin Ducks, however, staged a mini-invasion, with over 50 reported: three at Barnegat, NJ Dec. 4 swelled to 30 by the



Exceptional numbers of Harlequin Ducks reached the Hudson-Delaware Region this winter. These three were at Indian River Inlet, Delaware, during the season. Photograph/Colin D. Campbell.

end of January (v.o.); 11 were at Pt. Lookout, *Nassau*, NY in February, and inland New York singles were at Cumberland Head near Plattsburgh, *Clinton* Dec. 19 (W. Krueger, P. Taber) and at Ft. Erie Jan. 3–Feb. 27 (WD, m.ob.).

At least 2199 Oldsquaw were counted at the Avalon watch in December and January, but a mammoth 204,091 scoters were tallied there for the entire fall/winter season (43,748 Black, 65,699 Surf, 2863 White-winged, plus unidentified scoters). By contrast, 40,000 scoters estimated at Montauk Feb. 26 were predominantly White-winged (JA). A few more White-winged than usual remained in upstate New York in February, with one at the Vischer Ferry, *Saratoga* (WGE, RPY), up to three on Cayuga L. (CB, JG), one at Buffalo (MG, W. Watson), five at Dunkirk (FRe, L. Holmes), and three from Fulton to Oswego, *Oswego* (*fide* DC). The Buffalo area also had a lingering Black at Dunkirk Jan. 22 (WD, FRe, RS) and a Surf on the Niagara R., Jan. 1 (MG); another Black was present Jan. 2+ at Cohoes, *Albany* (WGE).

The Suttons counted 1400 Com. Goldeneye in Delaware Bay Jan. 24, for a possible New Jersey high count. Barrow's Goldeneyes turned up in 8 locations: Females were seen in New York at Stony Brook Harbor Jan. 3 (P. Steineck), Shinnecock Feb. 20–26 (ABA, JQ, J. Clinton), Willsboro Pt., *Essex*, NY Jan. 15 (R. MacDonald, R. Wei, MP), and Greece, *Monroe*, NY Jan. 21–22 (DT, †DSh), and in New Jersey at Stone Harbor, *C. May* Feb. 25 (J. Gutmuth), while drakes were seen in New York at Cohoes, *Albany* Feb. 5–18 and Stillwater, *Saratoga* Feb. 18–19 (both WGE, NLM). A pair of ad. Barrow's were at the Moses-Saunders Dam in Massena, *St. Lawrence*, NY Feb. 5–20 (*fide* KLC). A Com. Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser was at Ocatararo Res. in mid-December (*fide* AH). On the Susquehanna R. n. of Conowingo Dam, 2000 Com. Mergansers were noted Dec. 16 (*fide* AH), while 1000 were on Onondoga L., Feb. 7 (*fide* DC). Hooded Mergansers were

noted in near-record numbers from Buffalo (WD) to C. May (CS). The 75 Ruddy Ducks in C. May harbor Jan. 8 (R. Widmer) represent about 0.1% of the Delaware R. wintering population of 20 years ago; the highest total in the Region was only 225 off coastal Westchester on the Waterfowl Count Jan. 16 (TWB).

Raptors

Raptors across the Region showed signs of stress: Northern Harriers and Red-shouldered Hawks were seen taking carrion in New Jersey and New York; Am. Kestrel, and Red-shouldered and Sharp-shinned hawks ate suet at several feeders; and all 3 accipiters were reported by the dozens haunting feeding stations (cf. AB31:312).

Black Vultures continue their increase, with records of 95 on the Princeton CBC Dec. 19 (LL) and 45 on the Boonton, NJ CBC Dec. 26 (fide IHB). A record-early Turkey Vulture tilted over Iroquois N.W.R., Feb. 20 during the heat wave (P. Yoerg, BH). Late Ospreys were on the *Delaware-Otsego* CBC in NY Dec. 18 (RM), the Captree, LI CBC, Jakes Landing, C. May Dec. 19, and another at Long Neck near Rehobeth Jan. 1 (ML). The annual mid-winter Bald Eagle survey in s. New Jersey yielded a 16-year high of 64 (27 adults) in 7 counties (PS *et al.*); highlights were 16 eagles feasting on an enormous carp along the Maurice R., and a large imm. female at Union L. trying to steal fish from a family of otters. The NYS Bald Eagle census found 125, 83 of which (53 adults) were in the southeast (P. Nye, fide JGr).

Coastal New Jersey reported good numbers of N. Harriers: Observers found concentrations at Jakes Landing, C. May and Motts Creek, *Atlantic* in December and January, and a record 129 on the *Cumberland* CBC. By contrast, harriers virtually vacated upstate New York during the severe weather (WD, DC), down 90% from last winter in *Seneca* according to Guirey. Northern Goshawks were widespread following a strong fall flight. Reports of over 60 individuals, from Niagara to C. May Pt. (where an imm. female spent the winter, DSI)—and even two in Delaware—marked a banner winter. One ad. male was seen taking a rat amidst a crowd of startled shoppers in downtown Ithaca, NY Jan. 26 (ESB). Cooper's apparently outnumbered Sharp-shinned hawks at feeders, and there were several reports of Cooper's hunting in heavily urban areas.

One of few firm winter records, a well-described Broad-winged Hawk was seen in New Jersey at Hackensack, *Hudson* Dec. 21 (BS). Red-tailed Hawks were in higher numbers than last winter by some 31% in c.

New York (cf. the record-high 129 on the Ithaca CBC Jan. 1), while Rough-legged Hawks were down about 10% (BG). At least 36 Rough-leggeds at Pt. Pen., *Jefferson*, NY Feb. 5–6 (B&MW, JPA, AG) were largely dark-morphs. The general sentiment throughout the Region that most Rough-leggeds were dark-morphs (JG, WD, BG) seemed borne out by late winter flights at Derby Hill (BS). An all-white Red-tailed on the *Hunterdon* plateau in New Jersey was present for a 7th consecutive winter, and a very pale individual at Pt. Pen., Feb. 6 suggested *krideri* (†JPA, AG, MW). Red-shouldered Hawks were either more obvious or numerous than usual, with a record four on the Ithaca, NY CBC Jan. 1, four in the Buffalo area Dec. 21–Jan. 30 (fide WD), and ≤five per day in the C. May area (one eating a dead Canada Goose Feb. 15, TP).

Golden Eagle reports may now be routine, but most are (laudably) documented: 20 reports of ≥15 individuals were received, with seven on the New Jersey Bald Eagle survey; four at Motts Cr./Leed's Pt., *Atlantic* (Dec. 6, BS; also Jan. 8–9, J. Liguori); the pair at Stissing Mt., *Dutchess*, NY in December and January (RK *et al.*); and an im-



Immature gray-morph Gyrfalcon near Cape Vincent, Jefferson County, New York, February 15, 1994. At least five Gyrfalcons, a remarkable concentration, frequented the Cape Vincent area in February. Photograph/Betty Hughes.

mature at Pt. Pen., Dec. 6 (F. Nicoletti, fide KLC). Among falcons, Gyrs were the only departure from the norm, with 22 reports of ≤15 birds, all in n. New York in January and February. An incredible congregation of five (two dark, three gray) was located 5 mi n. of C. Vincent, *Jefferson* Feb. 6–17 (†JPA, AG, B&MW, LC, KLC, *et al.*) Several at a time were seen eating meadow voles in a wind-swept field free of snow (ph. B. Hughes, ph. R. Asanoma, L. Linder *et al.*). In total, at least nine gray and three each of white- and dark-morphs were identified.

Gallinaceous to Shorebirds

Along with Gyrfalcons, the C. Vincent area held good numbers of Gray Partridge, with ≤40 seen e. of town (B&MW, LC, m.ob.). After a successful nesting season, Wild

Turkey were found frozen to death from Buffalo to Binghamton (WD, MDo); Ring-necked Pheasant probably suffered similar fates (JG, RGS). The expansion of Wild Turkey to its historical range was nowhere more shocking than in the Bronx, where the CBC recorded its first ever Dec. 26 (PAB).

Fifteen Clapper Rails were calling at Jakes Landing Jan. 29 (PS), and local s. New Jersey CBCs found over 50 at Belleplain and Cumberland. Virginia Rails turned up on many coastal counts, but one Jan. 17 at Brighton and a Sora Jan. 9 at Mendon Ponds (MDa, D&DT) were extraordinary finds around Rochester after the severe New Year weather. Another Sora was a first on the Bronx-Westchester CBC since 1962; the only one in New Jersey was at Brick, *Ocean* Dec. 13 (M&J Casper). A Com. Moorhen lingered at nearby Buck Pond until Dec. 19 (MDa), and singles were at S.C.M.M., Dec. 14 (fide PS) and Highland, *Ulster*, NY Dec. 18 (JPA, AG). Two reports of Sandhill Cranes matched last winter's total: one at Marlton, *Burlington*, NJ Dec. 3–6 (WWD, T. Hurley) and probably the same individual 40 mi away in *Salem* (fide J. Haag) Dec. 6–10. There was a flyover at Ithaca, NY Feb. 20 (A. Farnsworth).

Two Marbled Godwits at Brig I. on the Oceanville, NJ CBC Dec. 18 may have been last year's duo (J. LaVia); two Hudsonians stayed at Bombay Hook until Dec. 11 (FRo). American Oystercatchers were present in large numbers in early winter, as evidenced by 165 on the Oceanville CBC and 150 at Stone Harbor on the C. May CBC Dec. 26. A solo Whimbrel was nearby at Nummy I., Dec. 10 (JD). Semipalmated was the best plover found, a single on the Queens CBC Dec. 19 and 11 at C. May on the CBC Dec. 26 (fide K. Seager).

Purple Sandpipers made news in n. New York: One at Russell Station near Rochester Dec. 17–18 stayed very late (CC, G. Chapin), as did two at Fairhaven to the east through mid-December (fide DC). A C. May count of 100 Purples Feb. 12 was normal (VE). Both yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plover, and W. Sandpiper were present in typical concentrations in the s. parts of the Region in December, but only one Greater Yellowlegs and a few Black-bellied Plovers could be found in C. May after Jan. 1 (DSi). Once again 10 Long-billed Dowitchers wintered at Massapequa Preserve, *Nassau*, LI Dec. 10–March (JF, RK), while the only Short-billeds reported were five on the Wilmington CBC Dec. 26 (HB).

The Spotted Redshank kept faithful to its Brooklyn haunts until frozen out around Jan. 19 (fide TWB). Spotted Sandpiper singles held on in Read at Rye through Dec. 10 (TWB) and in *Nassau*, NY until Jan. 2 (fide

AJL). Along the Manumuskinn R., *Cumberland*, NJ, 120 Com. Snipe were counted by kayak Dec. 2 (M. Fritz); harder to explain were the two singles around Syracuse in mid-January (*fide* DC) and one on the *Chenango* CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* MDo). A Willet at Avalon Dec. 26 (DW) and two Feb. 24 (JW) spent a 5th consecutive winter there. The cold concentrated Am. Woodcock at C. May, with 50 Jan. 19 (M. Smith), and 27 there 3 days later, 12 of which were dead.

Jaegers to Alcids

The season's one reported jaeger was identified only to genus at Avalon Dec. 14 (DW). Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on all trips out of Brielle, NJ; 330 from the *Atlantis* Dec. 11 (AH, ABr, ESB) was the highest count. About 20 were counted at Montauk Pt. the next day (AJL). Between one-three kittiwakes were reported from C. May on 6 dates through Jan. 14; one was at Buffalo Jan. 2 (WD, B. Potter). An imm. Ivory Gull, about the 11th for New York, was found Jan. 2 at Sodus Bay, *Wayne* by Don and Donna Traver; dozens saw the bird through the next afternoon (†D&DT, †DH, ph. S. Skelly). Little Gulls were widely reported in small numbers, with six from C. May, three each from LI, Rochester, and Niagara, and one from Delaware. Common Black-headed Gull reports seemed average, with one from Pennsylvania, two from Delaware, three from New York, and four from New Jersey. A concentration of 7000 Bonaparte's Gulls was along the Niagara R. Dec. 4–5, with one ad. Bonaparte's Dec. 4 showing entirely black plumage (not oiled) to mantle and hind-crown, as in juv. Little (ABr, ESB). The last Laughing Gulls flew by C. May Dec. 24 (CS, FM) and Indian R., Jan. 16 (FRo).

Reports of *Mew Gulls* in Pennsylvania were of great interest: One at Core Cr Park Dec. 18 (H. Rufe) and Penn Manor lakes Dec. 28 and Jan. 3–4 (both in *Bucks*) may have been the same bird (CD, *fide* B&FH). These constitute potential 2nd and 3rd state records for this species and will be reviewed by the appropriate committees.

What was undoubtedly last year's California Gull returned to the same roost rock in the Niagara R. just in time for the Am. Birding Association convention Dec. 5 (Cayuga Bird Club, m.ob.). Great Black-backed Gulls increased sharply in *Cortland*, *Oswego*, *Cayuga*, and *Tompkins*, NY in mid-January, no doubt in response to the freeze-up to the north and west (MDo, DC). Reports of 32 single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were overshadowed by the tally of 40 from Penn Manor lakes Jan. 5, a Regional record (CD), with 18–25 remaining in the vicinity for another 2 months (R. Lewis, P. Post).

Iceland and Glaucous gulls made a splash in upstate New York: Askildsen and A. Guthrie counted 18 Iceland (apparently a state high count) and 12 Glaucous at Green L., *Rensselaer*, NY in the Hudson R., Feb. 19. Good numbers of Iceland elsewhere were six at Penn Manor Jan. 5 (CD), six at the Moses-Saunders Dam Jan. 29 (*fide* KLC), four at Niagara Dec. 4–5, three at Port of Wilmington, DE Feb. 19 (B&NM, P. Vanderhorst, CDC), and three at Ulysses, *Tompkins*, NY Feb. 21+ (WRE, SK). Singles or pairs were reported from 14 other locations. At Niagara, six Glaucous and a Glaucous x Herring hybrid were seen Dec. 13 (Buffalo area bird line), and seven Glaucous were at Penn Manor, PA Jan. 5 (CD). The wily Thayer's Gull produced some superb debates at Niagara Dec. 5 (between 2–4 birds), and one was well-documented at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY Jan. 8 (D&DT). Forster's Terns peaked at 75 at C. May Dec. 20 (TP), but a late Royal Tern on the Lakehurst CBC Dec. 18 took top honors in its genus this winter (F. Lesser).

All 6 alcid species put in token appearances. Although reported in normal numbers, Razorbills appeared to keep to the s. of the Region; top counts were 18 and 26 off Brielle, NJ Jan. 23 and Feb. 20 (LL; AKe), 14 at Avalon Jan. 2 (DW), and 40 at Montauk Dec. 11 (AJL). Between 1–13 Razor-

bills were recorded at 12 coastal locations from Montauk to Indian R. through late February. Single Com. Murres were noted Dec. 17 at Ditch Plains, LI (ABa), Feb. 5 at Jones Inlet (SW, m.ob.) and off Brielle, NJ Dec. 11 (AH), with two 35–40 mi off the latter port Feb. 20 (AK). Single Thick-billed Murres were at Montauk Dec. 17 (H. McGuinness) and Barnegat Feb. 28. Also off Brielle were a Thick-billed and one murre sp., Jan. 23 (LL, KT; J. Danzenbaker, *et al.*) and two Atlantic Puffins and nine Dovekies Dec. 11 (AH, ABr, ESB).

Doves to Gnatcatchers

A White-winged Dove surprised Kurtz near Cedar Beach, LI on the Captree CBC Dec. 19, providing only the 2nd documented New York record. Snowy Owls visited in numbers much like last year: 25 in upstate New York, about six downstate, eight in New Jersey. Four at C. Henlopen (early December) and another at Port Mahon Jan. 23 (BTL, JPP) was good for Delaware. A Great Gray Owl showed up briefly at Keene Valley, *Essex* Feb. 9–10 (J. Runyan). Short-eared Owls seemed to be at a cyclic low, with few concentrations in the north: 18 and 13 at Hamlin, *Monroe* Dec. 12 and Jan. 15 respectively (DH); five at Ft. Edward, *Washington* Dec. 18 (BP); five at Scipioville, *Cayuga* through the period (CB,

King Bird Tours

P.O. BOX 196
PLANETARIUM STATION
NEW YORK, NY
10024 U.S.A.
(212) 866-7923

"the greatest
operator of
ornithological
tours on
earth"

Arthur
Frommer

The Asia Specialists

Write for
itineraries

1994 BIRDING TOUR SOUTH CHINA

Pheasants & Cranes

Yunnan, Guizhou, Jiangxi
10 December–2 January
Cabot's Tragopan Extension
2–8 January

1995 BIRDING TOURS

BHUTAN EXPLORATORY

6–29 January

THAILAND

7–29 January

SRI LANKA

28 January–13 February

VIETNAM

28 January–21 February

PHILIPPINES

24 February–27 March

TIBET/WEST CHINA

5–29 May

KAZAKHSTAN

3–27 June

MALAYSIA

20 July–12 August

INDONESIA #1

Halmahera/Sulawesi

21 July–13 August

INDONESIA #2

Lesser Sundas

Flores, Timor, Sumba

Komodo, Sumbawa

13 August–1 September

SK); and eight at Lima, *Livingston* Jan. 13+ (*fide* NM). Seven reports totaling 12 birds were received for New Jersey.

Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls were fewer in w. and c. New York (WD, ESB) and in Delaware (APE) this winter than last; most CBC and February reports came from s. New Jersey wintering areas (EM, v.o.) and the Allentown, PA area (K. Martnick), where both were scarce last winter. An E. Screech-Owl feasted on suet at midday in January in Hamden, *Delaware*, NY (H. Pierce), and a Long-eared was observed hunting a marsh at noon on the Nike Base, Pt. Lookout, *Nassau*, LI Jan. 22 (AJL). A well-seen Barn Owl in Ithaca Jan. 29 established a first area winter record for a species very rare in c. New York at any time (K. Hagedorin); a probable Barn was heard by the Spahns in Greece, *Monroe* Dec. 19. A goatsucker, possibly a Whip-poor-will, was seen flying around a street light in C. May Dec. 2 (JD).

If any group of birds benefit in the coming years from the ice storms' damage to trees, it may be woodpeckers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more apparent at feeders this winter than most: One was a rarity on the Syracuse CBC Dec. 18 (JH), one of three in that area; two were on the Dunkirk CBC Jan. 2 (GR); three were on the *Delaware-Orsego* CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* MDo); one was in Binghamton, NY Jan. 23–Feb. 8 (S. Moore); another ate bananas at a feeder in Irondequoit, *Monroe*, NY through the season (G. Leubner); and many were found in s. New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Red-headed Woodpeckers put in strong showings on s. CBCs, with seven on the Great Swamp, NJ CBC Dec. 18. Two toughed it out in Geneseo, *Livingston* through Jan. 29, one in *Tioga*, NY (S&C Hunt), and another at Wampsville, *Oneida*, NY Dec. 13+ (B&M Peebles).

Zemaitis found the season's jazzy fly-catcher, an Ash-throated, at the Beanery, C. May Dec. 13. A Say's Phoebe, rare in the Region, provided a 3rd CBC and 4th local record on the Hamburg, PA CBC Dec. 26 (SS, AKo). An E. Phoebe was a first local winter record for the Niagara frontier Dec. 21 in Gerry, *Chataqua* (R. Sundell). Forty-nine were on CBCs in Delaware, a record number, and one may have wintered at Hidden Valley, C. May; it was seen as late as Jan. 7 (v.o.). Three Barn Swallows dallied in that wondrous county through Dec. 8 (WG), and a Tree Swallow at C.M.P.S.P. lasted until Jan. 17 (TP); three Trees Feb. 19 were returning migrants (DSi). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA (JH), on the Seaford-Nanticoke, DE CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* B. Fintel), at the Montauk dump in December (PAB), and at C. May through Dec. 17 (JD). Yu-

nick's banding station at Jenny L., w. of Corinth, *Saratoga*, NY, detected a good flight of Black-capped Chickadees: 86 banded in December, 44 Dec. 4 alone. A large percentage were adults; most flights are predominantly of imm. birds. Only three Black-cappeds were found in Delaware this season, a bit below par (*fide* APE). A Boreal Chickadee entertained the multitudes at a Patterson, *Putnam*, NY feeder Dec. 21–March (H. Pollock, SG, JPA). After a fine September flight, Red-breasted Nuthatches attended feeders in good numbers throughout the Region (WD, SK, MDo, *et al.*).

Wrens to Warblers

The most esoteric find of the season was a probable *pacificus* Winter Wren at the Beanery, C. May Dec. 9 (DSi), a subspecies found in w. North America. Identification was based primarily on call note. A check of museums and the literature provided no record of a previous e. coast passage. A Marsh Wren was at C.M.P.S.P., Jan. 22 (WG, TP), where apparently three survived the winter (DSi). The only unseasonal *Catharus* thrush was a very late Veery at Jones Beach, LI Dec. 2 (JQ, JF), although a Hermit Thrush eating suet and snow near Ithaca Feb. 9 was unusual (SK).

Varied Thrushes only appeared in Pennsylvania: One brightly colored male blessed the Wyncote, *Montgomery* CBC at Flourtown Dec. 18 (†R&N Murphy); others were at Mt. Gretna, *Lebanon* Jan. 8–11 (BH, RM) and Downingtown Jan. 6–15 (M. Hearon). The D.O.S. and others have labored putting up E. Bluebird boxes in recent years, and the results have been gratifying: The CBCs at Seaford, Wilmington, and Rehobeth had 594 combined, and most flocks appeared to fare the winter well. A few Am. Pipits survived the winter at C. May; singles Feb. 20 at Assunpink, *Monmouth*, and the Salem Nuclear Plant, *Salem*, both in New Jersey, may have wintered but more likely were returning during the warm spell.

Outside the n. country, Bohemian Waxwings were scarce in the Region by mid-December, following a very promising late-November passage. The Jamestown, NY CBC turned up 16 Bohemians Dec. 19, while 11 accompanied 11 Cedars at Golden Hill S.P., *Niagara* Dec. 4 (WD). Throckmorton discovered six in Scriba, *Oswego* Dec. 2, and two were at Durand Eastman Park near Rochester Jan. 1 (NM). Singles were seen at Caroline, *Tompkins* Dec. 4 (SK), in Machias, *Cattaraugus* Dec. 5 (B. Schweigert), Somerset, *Niagara* Dec. 4, Ft. Niagara S.P., Jan. 29 (both WD), Whitehall, *Washington* (WGE, NLM), and Hastings, *Oswego* Jan. 29 (B. Purcell). Exceptional

were groups of >175 roaming the C. Vincent area Feb. 6+, 200 in Watertown Dec. 2 (*fide* KLC), and 300 in Henderson, *Jefferson* Feb. 16 (LC). Northern Shrikes were about average, with some 34 in upstate New York, one downstate, but none elsewhere. The Region's only wintering Loggerhead from past years returned to Prime Hook (APE, m.ob.). Twelve warbler species remained in relatively mild early December, the most remarkable being the Yellow at Avalon Dec. 6 found by Dowdell, who had one Dec. 15 in the same area last winter. Two different Nashvilles were at Hidden Valley in C. May Dec. 2–9 (DSi, JD, RC). Another Nashville was present Dec. 24–28 at Allentown, PA (N&J Boyer, *fide* BM). In New York, a Cape May was on Barker's I. in Southampton Dec. 9, single Wilson's were in the Bronx and Brooklyn Dec. 9 & 18, a Black-and-white was on the Captree CBC Dec. 19 (all *fide* TWB). A N. Parula was listed in "count week" at Montauk Dec. 17 (ABA), and others lingered at C. May Dec. 6–7 (Hidden Valley DSi, LZ) and Dec. 14 (Beanery, RC). In *Rockland*, NY a visitor from Illinois was surprised to see an Ovenbird at a Sloatsburg feeder (†J. Pollock). In Delaware, a Black-and-white at Lewes Jan. 2 was the state's first in winter (JFS, ph. JFW). Palm, Pine, Orange-crowned, Com. Yellowthroat, and Yellow-breasted Chat were all more expected December lingerers; none was found after the New Year. A Pine Warbler at Saranac Inn provided a first *Franklin*, NY winter record Dec. 10–17 (R. Hagar).

Cardinal to Finches

Almost all observers in the n. parts of the Region commented on droves of N. Cardinals drawn to feeders by the heavy snow. The same was true, especially in the south, for species such as Fox Sparrow (up to 12 at C.M.B.O. feeders), Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, and the more common sparrows. An Indigo Bunting lingered at Lee's feeder at Inlet, *Hamilton*, NY Oct. 26–Dec. 6, and Painted Buntings brought color to Brick, *Ocean* Dec. 12–mid-January and Colts Neck, *Monmouth*, NJ Jan. 29+ (both m.ob.).

Up to 15 White-crowned Sparrows overwintered in the Rochester area (WL, CC, MDa), an unusual event. A group of 200 Am. Tree Sparrows at Nassau, *Rensselaer*, NY Dec. 12 was the highest total submitted (W. Raup). Up to five wintered at C. May Pt., the best showing in many years (DSi).

With the exception of an ad. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco in Elbridge, *Onondaga*, NY Dec. 29 (JH), the fancy *emberizids* were mostly in New Jersey: Clay-colored Sparrows were at Hidden Valley Dec. 9 (JD), at Mercer Co. Park Dec. 18 (R. Blicharz), and

on the Boonton CBC Dec. 26 (KK); a LeConte's Sparrow was along the Cohansey R. in *Cumberland*, NJ Jan. 1 (ph. D. Githens, TP, FM, WG), one of about 12 New Jersey records; and Grasshopper Sparrows were at S.C.M.M., Dec. 12–Jan. 11 (m.ob.) and Higbee Beach Dec. 1–6 (JD). Barber found an imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland* Feb. 6, about the 5th individual for New Jersey. The only non-CBC report of marsh sparrows was of six Seaside and five Sharp-tailed in C. May Jan. 14 (DSi). Another Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco was found on the Barnegat CBC Jan. 2 (*fide* F. Lenik).

A single Dickcissel visited C. May feeders on several dates Dec. 9–Feb. 20 (DSi, TP, WG); others were at Lumberton, *Burlington* NJ Dec. 25 (WD), Rye Jan. 1–13, and Jones Beach, LI Dec. 29–Jan. 9 (both TWB). Dasey found large numbers of sparrows wintering on spoil islands in the Delaware R.: 502 Savannah and 1010 Swamp sparrows in a small area of the Middletown, DE CBC Dec. 29 constituted some of the largest counts in recent history for a winter site.

Small flocks of Snow Buntings invaded feeding stations in e. New York during the cold spell: 50 was a representative count from Schaghticoke, *Rensselaer* Jan. 13 (*fide* R. Guthrie). Farther south, 400 were at C. Henlopen Dec. 31 (*fide* AH) and 300 in the Dover AFB area Jan. 30 (FRo). The largest flocks were around Rochester: 1000 from Perry Jan. 11 (D&DT), and 3000 at Hamlin Jan. 31 (W. Symonds). At least 14 Lapland Longspurs were seen with the latter group; >15 were at Somerset, *Niagara*, NY Jan. 12–30 (BC, T. Harper); and 16 were at C. Vincent Feb. 5–6 (MW). A group of 50, apparently a local high, was at Peru, *Clinton*, NY in mid-February (A&L Sherman).

Brewer's Blackbirds were again in force near Bombay Hook this winter (68 on the CBC, DAC), and 8–15 were in *Salem*, NJ on various dates Dec. 9–Feb. 19 (B. J. Rose, J. Meritt, EM, WWD, m.ob.), while one–two were at Assunpink through Feb. 12 (T. Bailey). Single ♀ Brewer's established first local records for Central Park Nov. 30–Dec. 4 (S. Friedman, m.ob.) and for *Livingston*, NY at Avon Jan. 1 (D&H. Lown). Other reports were from *Bucks* and *Lancaster*, PA in December and January. Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds in New Jersey and one in *Lancaster*, PA were the fewest reported in several years. Northern Orioles, on the other hand, were up, with eight "Baltimores" in New York and New Jersey, one male in alternate plumage at Easton, PA Jan. 16 (P. Morris), and two Delaware reports of Bullock's: a probable female at Brandywine Creek S.P., Dec. 26–Jan. 8 (J.

Little) and one at Redmill Pond, Lewes Jan. 8–Feb. 28 (B. Fintel).

White-winged Crossbill singles were seen at Aurora, *Cayuga* Dec. 9+ (KD); Garrison, *Putnam* Dec. 1–20+ (JA); and Jenny L., *Saratoga* Feb. 19 (RPY). There were 2 counts of 17—on the Jamestown CBC Dec. 19 and at Sugar Bush, *Franklin* Jan. 12 (D. Fasking)—and one of 19 at Greece, *Monroe* Dec. 19 (K. Griffith). The Johnstown-Gloverville, *Fulton* CBC in New York found seven White-wingeds Dec. 27. Reds were even scarcer: three—four at Jenny L., Dec. 11 (RPY) and one at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ Dec. 1 (P. Dunne) were the only noted. Pine Grosbeaks could be found at scattered locations in New York and New Jersey, with groups totaling about 397 in New York through the period's end. Purple Finches were common nowhere, with only single digits found at feeders in scattered areas. Pine Siskin groups were much larger, with 300 in the Whapaucau S.E., *Chenango*, NY Dec. 25 (D. Windsor), 280 on the Scio, NY CBC Dec. 18, and 50 in the Huber Woods, *Monmouth*, NJ (M&JC) the most notable numbers. The itinerant Evening Grosbeak abounded in several w. and c. New York areas, but decreased in number elsewhere after mid-December. Between 50–100 were in Chatsworth, NJ Dec. 7–12, and 30 were in Woodbine, *C. May* Dec. 11 (P. Kosten). Two Pine Grosbeaks were seen in the New Jersey Pine Barrens at Stafford Forge W.M.A., *Ocean* (M. Riley).

The November flight of redpolls continued undiminished into December; Com. Redpolls were quickly deemed "too numerous to mention" on most Rare Bird Alerts in New York and n. New York, with counts of 200–300 becoming routine by late January. High counts in the s. areas came from C. May (>70 at the magnesite plant Jan. 21, PS, RC, JW), from Centerville, DE (130 in January, S&ES), from Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ (300 Jan. 22, LL, J. Williams), from Harrisburg, PA (150 Feb. 28, C. Jones), and from Allentown, PA (70 Dec. 19+, R. Wiltraut). From the north, a flock of >4000 was at C. Vincent Dec. 1–9 (SK; KLC), 3000+ at Hamlin Jan. 29 (K&C. Griffith), 2017 on the Oak Orchard CBC Dec. 27, a record 1594 on the Saranac L. CBC Jan. 2, and 1000 were at Pittsford, *Monroe*, also Jan. 2 (DH).

SA Hoary Redpoll identification has not been addressed in this column since 1978 (AB 32.3:330–31, 404), but with over 36 in the Region this winter, the time may have come to do so again. Despite the publication of a recent

scholarly article suggesting that all redpoll taxa are conspecific (D. M. Troy, "A Phenetic Analysis of the Redpolls," *Auk* 102 [1985]: 82–96), most researchers favor conserving at least 2 species (A. G. Knox, "The Taxonomy of Redpolls," *Ardea* 76 [1988]: 1–26), some even 4 (M. Herremans, "Taxonomy and Evolution in Redpolls," *Ardea* 78 [1990]: 441–58). Observers should, however, not be under the impression that every redpoll well seen is identifiable to species, and we maintain that only well-documented Hoaries with field characters in the paler range of that species are acceptable: predominantly unstreaked, whitish rump, flanks, nape, and crissum, with white edging to mantle feathers, and wide, white greater upperwing covert tips, producing at least one noticeably wide white wingbar. The last 2 characters appear to be most consistent in Hoary, although wear on feathers in late winter and spring makes these less reliable then. Note also that younger *exilipes* Hoaries overlap in almost all field characters with Com. Redpoll. M. Peterson notes that all Hoaries banded at his feeder in Elizabethtown showed "very fine streaking on the underparts, as in Lincoln's Sparrow." Hoary's bill measurements fall within the range of Com. Redpoll, such that impressions of bill length are unreliable, although a bird with a very tiny, "pushed in" bill is probably a / Hoary. Most birds in the hand may be reliably identified to species using the biometric indices given in Herremans (1990). The reader is urged to consult P. Lansdown, *et al.*, "Identification of Arctic Redpoll," *British Birds* 84 [1991]: 41–56, for a thorough treatment of the subject.



The big invasion of Common Redpolls brought with it a number of Hoary Redpoll reports. This bird in Caernarvon Township, Pennsylvania, March 1, 1994, furnished the first fully documented record of Hoary Redpoll for the state. Photograph/Franklin C. Haas.

No fewer than 21 single Hoary Redpolls were reported with details in New York. Also in New York, two Hoaries were seen in Wainfleet Jan. 18 (R. Cunningham), three were carefully documented by Listman at Hamlin Beach Dec. 6, and six (five banded) were at the Peterson feeder in Elizabethtown Dec. 29–Feb. 8, in addition to a suspected "Greater" Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea rostrata*) Jan. 17. In New Jersey, confirmed Hoary records came from Bridgewater (R. Borzelli), Liberty S.P., Hudson (KK), and Rockaway, Morris (ph., banded, G. Nixon). The Haases photographed Pennsylvania's first fully documented Hoary, a bird thought to be *C. h. hornemanni*, the nominate Greenland form, in Caernarvon Twp., Mar. 1 (†B&FH). A potential state first Hoary for Delaware at Hockessin Feb. 26 (Y. Blades) is still under review.

Addendum

The first round of review by Scandinavian raptor experts suggests that a sub-ad. *Haliaeetus* eagle photographed at Derby Hill April 24, 1993, was a possible Steller's Sea Eagle, rather than a White-tailed Eagle, as reported in this column. The record continues to be circulated.

Observers: Robert Anderle (Buffalo area), John P. Askildsen (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: P. O. Box 32, Chappaqua, NY 10514), Peter Bacinski (coastal NJ: c/o NJ Audubon Society, P. O. Box 125, 790 Ewing Ave., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417), Andrew Baldelli (ABa), Bob Barber, Fred Bertram (Eaton Birding Society), Irving H. Black (nc. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Frank A. Bonnano (Rockland, NY: 71 Richard Ct., Pomona, NY 10970), Alan Brady (ABr), Erik Breden, Howard Brokaw, Elizabeth W. Brooks, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke (NY Rare Bird Alert), Adam Byrne (ABY), Chris Byrne, Colin D. Campbell (CDC), Carolyn Cass, Lee Chamberlaine (Watertown, NY), Bruce Chilton, Richard Crossley, Ken L. Crowell (n.w. NY), Dorothy Crumb (Syracuse area/Oneida L. basin: 3983 Gates Rd., Jamesville, NY 13078), Willie D'Anna (Niagara frontier: 2257 Cayuga Dr. Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304–4522), Ward W. Dasey (WWD, s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Rd., Medford, NJ 08055), Karl David (Cayuga Bird Club), Michael Davids (MDa), Mary Dobinsky (Susquehanna region, NY: 7 Spencer Dr., Oneonta, NY 13820), Chris Dooley, Jim Dowdell, Andrew P. Ednie (Delaware: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Vincent Elia, Walter G. Ellison, William R. Evans, Michael Galas, Paul H. Gillen, David Githens,

William Glaser, Jane Graves (JGr, Hudson-Mohawk region: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), Bernard Guirey, Andrew Guthrie, Barb and Frank Haas, John Hanyak, Phyllis Harlock, David Harrison (n.w. NJ: 126 Westchester Terr., Annandale, NJ 08801), Jonathan Heller, Barbara Henderson, D. Henderson, Armas Hill (Philadelphia Birdline), John P. Janowski, Kevin Karlson, Allan Keith (AKe), Steve Kelling (Finger Lakes region: 732 Old 76 Road, Berkshire, NY 13736), Arlene Koch (AKo), Robert Kurtz, Bruce T. Lance, Laurie Larson (n.c. NJ: 90 N. Stanworth Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540), Anthony J. Lauro (Long Island), Gary Lee, Walt Listman, Meta Little, Linda Mack, Nancy L. Martin (NLM), Ed Manners, Fred Mears, Nancy Miller, Randy Miller, Bernie L. Morris (e. PA: Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18702), Bill & Naomi Murphy, Vivian Pitzrick, William Reid (ne. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Frances Rew (FRe), Gerald Rising, Frank Rohrbacker (FRo), Tom Parsons, John M. C. Peterson (MP, Adirondack-Champlain region: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Nick J. Pulcinella, Barbara Putnam, Joan Quinlan, Eric Salzman, Robert M. Schutsky, David G. Schwenk, Dominic Sherony (DSH), Ellen Short, David Sibley (DSi), Steve Smith, E. Franklin Smith, Robert G. Spahn (Genesee Ornithological Society), Stan & Esther Speck, Brian Sullivan, Clay & Pat Sutton (Cape May, NJ), Joseph F. Swertinski, David Tetlow, Jim Throckmorton (Syracuse area; see DC), Ken Tischner, J. Usecicz, Steve Walter, David Ward, Jack Weis, James F. White, Paul Wierick, Brian and Mary Wood, Robert P. Yunic. Over 1475 pages of material, consolidating records from about 3500 birders, were received from the above and many other observers, whose contributions made this column possible.

—Edward S. Brinkley (guest editor), 409 Altamont Cir., Charlottesville, VA 22903; William J. Boyle, Jr., 12 Glenwood Rd., Denville, NJ 07834; Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; and David A. Cutler, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

Middle Atlantic Coast Region

EIRIK BLOM, MICHAEL O'BRIEN, BRIAN PATTESON, EUGENE J. SCARPULLA

Those who lived through it will remember this as the worst winter since 1978. Temperatures were well below normal, with almost all inland water frozen by mid-January and substantial portions of the Chesapeake Bay iced by February. More notable than the cold were the ice storms that seemed to hit at the end of every week from mid-January to mid-February. Around Baltimore ice on sidewalks remained as thick as four inches for nearly a month, and west of the Chesapeake Bay snow covered most of the ground through the end of the period. Semi-hardy species were hit hard, waterfowl fled farther south, and birding was substantially curtailed. The weather brought northern rarities in astounding numbers, including at least five first state records. The wealth of information and the shortage of space means that much valuable information has been omitted. Eventually it will appear, we hope, in local journals. Although many records are not cited, the contribution of all the observers in the region are critical, and we wish to express our gratitude for those that took the time to write.

Abbreviations: C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel*); C.N.W.R. (*Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge*); E.S.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge*)

Grebes to Waterfowl

SA In any other year the event of the season would have been the invasion of Red-necked Grebes, presumably the result of the Great Lakes freezing. In most winters only one–two are reported, and counts over three are exceptional. Reports began trickling in early February and by midmonth groups of 10–20 birds were being found throughout coastal and Chesapeake Bay waters. There were far too many reports to detail even most local highs. Red-necks were reported from virtually all open water. The best of the best included 25 at Seneca, Montgomery, MD Feb. 16 (MO), 28 at Chincoteague Feb. 20 (PGD), 39 at Ocean City, MD Feb. 22