

December weather was moderate except for bitter cold from the 19th to the 21st, with warmer weather returning by the 23rd. The first two weeks of January were relatively warm, but intense cold set in on the 21st, and a major storm on 22–23 January blanketed most of the Region with heavy snow. Temperatures for the remainder of the month were well below normal. February mirrored January to the extent that the first half was moderate and the second half cold.

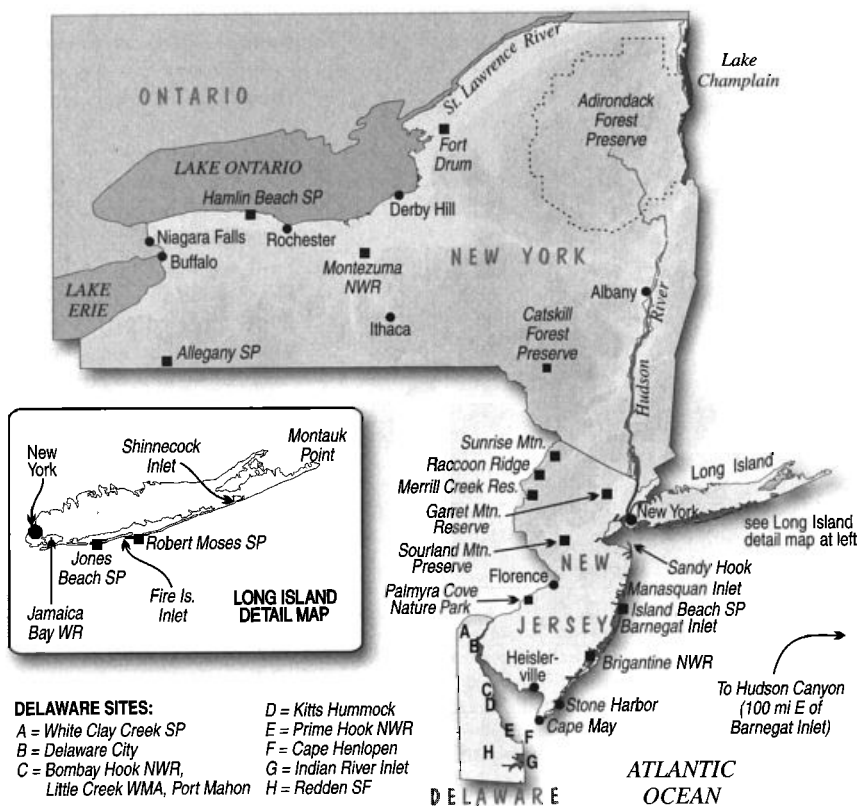
Highlights of the season included Pacific Loons, Western Grebe, Sabine's Gulls, an influx of Thick-billed Murres, Black Guillemots, Boreal Owls, an incursion of Red-headed Woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaires, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Also noteworthy were Tufted Duck, Varied Thrush, Gyrfalcons, California Gulls, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Painted Buntings, and numerous American White Pelicans. On the negative side was an oil spill in the lower Delaware R. off Paulsboro, New Jersey on 28 November. About 300 birds were taken to a rehabilitation center, and the effects were still evident at C.B.C. time.

**Abbreviations:** Avalon (sea watch at Avalon, Cape May, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Central Park (New York City); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., Monroe, NY); I.R.I. (Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE); Montauk Pt. (Montauk Point S.P., Suffolk, NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ).

### LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

For the 5th consecutive winter, Pacific Loons have been reported, this year at Avalon 6 Dec (CV, BF) and from Montauk Pt. 16 Dec (BPf et al.). New Jersey has 14 accepted prior records and New York a similar number. Though more common in recent years than in the past, this species is still considered very rare, remains tricky to identify, and requires careful documentation. Five Eared Grebes were reported: 2 at Lakes Bay, Atlantic, NJ 4–24 Dec (TB, Al Driscoll et al.) and singles at Aurora, Cayuga, NY 16 Jan (Bob Guthrie, Leona Lauster), Cupsogue County Park, Suffolk, NY 29 Jan (ABa), and the Ponquogue Bridge over Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk, NY 9 Feb (Carl Starace). Now virtually annual, Eared Grebes have visited New Jersey over 40 times and New York over 100. Continuing the string of rare waterbirds, the Western Grebe at S. Amboy, NJ continued through 24 Dec (MBr et al.). Another or possibly the same individual was reported at Island Beach S.P., Ocean, NJ 1–2 Jan (G. Cantrell). The former report constitutes New Jersey's 2nd accepted record (14 others are listed as Western/Clark's Grebe). A good count of 118 Northern Fulmars was record-

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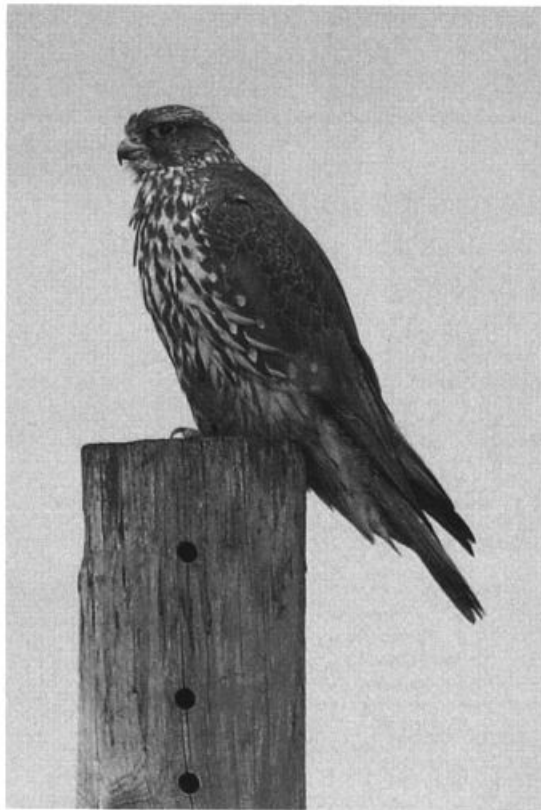
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Providing a first photographic record for the state and a memorable sight for only a few of its would-be admirers, this gray-morph Gyrfalcon at least stopped long enough to be captured on film 15 February 2005 at the east end of Port Mahon Road, Kent County, Delaware. There appear to be two prior reports of the species in the state. Photograph by Robert Lego.

ed in Delaware waters on a pelagic trip from Lewes, DE 26 Feb (PG et al.), one of the highest Regional totals since the establishment of the offshore Exclusive Economic Zone that limits foreign fishing fleets to waters more than 200 nautical miles from shore. Manx Shearwater reports were 6 on a pelagic trip out of Lewes 11 Dec (PG et al.), one out of Belmar, *Monmouth*, NJ 31 Dec (PG et al.), and one 10–15 km off Surf City, *Ocean*, NJ 31 Dec (Doug Gill).

For the 3rd time in the past five winters, American White Pelicans were present. There are no more than about five previous Regional winter records. In New York, a group of 4 was reportedly seen in the Bronx 8 Dec (NJ Birds listserv). In New Jersey, single birds passed through Hereford Inlet, *Cape May* 5 Dec (A. & M. Smith); Heislerville, *Cumberland* 8 Dec (JD, CS); Corbin City/Tuckahoe W.M.A., *Atlantic/Cape May* 8–9 Jan (Karen Johnson); Shark R. Estuary, *Monmouth* 11 Jan (Bob Henschel); and Bombay Hook 24 Dec. A group of 3 visited Jakes Landing and Goshen, *Cape May* 30 Dec (CV, Jeff Stratford) and 31 Dec (Harvey Tomlinson). And a group of 4, possibly the same group reported in the Bronx, was

observed at Cranbury, *Middlesex* 10–12 Dec (Warren Barnes, Roger Dreyling). The year's last Brown Pelican passed Avalon 3 Dec (BF, CV). Despite the cold Feb weather, a Glossy Ibis at Southaven County Park, *Suffolk*, NY 26 Feb (John McNeil) was perhaps record early. Birds of this species do not normally arrive before late Mar.

### WATERFOWL

Unprecedented was a group of 12 Greater White-fronted Geese on the Princeton University soccer field 19 Dec on the Princeton C.B.C. (*fide* LL). About a dozen more scattered over the Region was a normal number. Nine Ross's Geese this year was also fairly normal. Nearly 40 Cackling Geese were found, with a surprising 12 also on the Princeton C.B.C., on a corporate lawn not far from the Greater White-fronted Geese (*fide* LL). Black Brant were excellent finds at S. Amboy, NJ, where this race has appeared previously, 21 Dec (†PEL, †RC) and 2 Feb (†SB), and a continuing bird from the fall was at I.R.I. through 30 Jan (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn, Matt Hafner et al.). After two years with multiple reports, and last year with just a single report, the only Barnacle Goose was in Wantage Twp., *Sussex*, NJ (†JB, Jim Zamos, ph. Cheryl Boyd et al.). The provenance of this individual, which was not banded, is unknown but probably wild.

Ten to 11 Eurasian Wigeons in New Jersey was high for that state, while numbers were closer to normal in New York and Delaware. Two Northern Shovelers at Dunkirk Harbor, *Erie*, NY 1 Jan–13 Feb (†WW) were out of place in midwinter. Three Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was a good count: one at the Corbin City W.M.A. and Tuckahoe W.M.A., *Cape May/Atlantic*, NJ found 7 Jan and still present on 16 Feb (CS, JD); one at Tuckahoe and Yonkers, *Westchester*, NY 10 Feb+ (Andrew Block, MB, KJ, Sandra Marraffino); and one at L. Takanassee, *Monmouth*, NJ (Al Pochek, ph. Mike Fahay). This race has averaged a bit over one per year over the past decade, although most years with none, but two years with 3 and one year with 4.

In the Finger Lakes, 6600 Redheads at Keuka L., *Yates/Steuben*, NY 29 Jan (BO) was well below last year's 19,000 on Cayuga L. but still impressive. The high count away from the Finger Lakes was an outstanding 5374 at Conesus L. 2 Jan on the Conesus–Hemlock–Honeoye Lakes C.B.C. Farther south, where even a few are of interest, an excellent total was 24 on Barnegat Bay, off Brick Twp., NJ 12 Feb (Richard Heddy). A duck at Weehawken, *Hudson*, NJ 24–26 Dec (Glenn Mahler) caused a stir when reported as a possible Common Pochard; it was thought to be a hybrid. The only report of Tufted Duck was of one undocumented at Rye, *Westchester*, NY 20 Jan (Pat Pollock, Chuck McAlexander, KJ). This area has been a hot spot for the species in recent years. High counts of Greater Scaup were 20,000 in Raritan Bay off *Monmouth*, NJ 2 Feb (SB) and 8000 in the Niagara R., *Erie*, NY 10–18 Jan.



An exploratory inshore boat trip along the northern New Jersey coast 29 January 2005 turned up a record four Thick-billed Murres within 400 meters of shore. This individual sat for its portrait about 100 meters from the shore at Long Branch, *Monmouth* County, New Jersey. Photograph by Chip Krilowicz.

But a greater number may have been present in a raft of about 70,000 ducks, mostly Greater Scaup and Canvasback, in the Niagara R. near Grand I. in early Feb (*vide* MM).

With over 30 reported, King Eider had one of its best recent years. Peak counts included 4 at Montauk Pt. 24 Dec (Seth Ausubel, Isaac Grant, Kevin O'Leary) and 3 at Barnegat Inlet, NJ 7 Feb (LM), with smaller numbers spread along the coast from Cape May to Montauk Pt. At the opposite end of the Region, Morgante commented that reports were more numerous in New York's Niagara Frontier than in any recent winter. Common Eiders also enjoyed a good year, with high counts of 1550 on the Montauk C.B.C. 18 Dec and 500 at Montauk Pt. 30 Jan (ABa et al.). Away from Montauk, the peak was 13 at Barnegat Inlet 7 Feb (LM), with counts of one to 5 scattered from there to Cape May. Harlequin Ducks were also present in excellent numbers, with the typical maximum of 34+ at Barnegat Inlet 17 Feb (Nikolas Haass) and about 25 more scattered from Montauk to I.R.I. Farther afield, a female was at Niagara Falls 4-5 Dec (WD). A fantastic 112,000 scoters were recorded on the Sagaponac, NY C.B.C. 19 Dec: 64,400 Surf, 782 White-winged, 34,300 Black, and 13,400 unidentified scoters. The adjacent Montauk C.B.C. partially made up for the low count of White-winged Scoters, with 8900 on the previous day. This species appears to be in decline. Eleven Barrow's Goldeneye was a somewhat below-normal tally. Six of them were in New York's northernmost corner: single males were at Plattsburgh, Clinton 8-13 Dec (Bill Krueger, Charles Mitchell, Jr.) and Essex, Essex 12 Dec (Matt Medler), and 4 more were added on the New York State Waterfowl Count 15-16 Dec. Elsewhere, 3 males were farther w. in New York, one on Long I. and 2 females in New Jersey.

### RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

With about 500 reported, Bald Eagles continued their strong recovery. The highest total of Northern Harriers was 105 on the Bombay Hook C.B.C. 26 Dec. An impressive 42 were found along the lower Mullica R., Atlantic/Burlington, NJ 25 Jan (JD, CS), pushed there by the heavy snowfall two days earlier. The Central Park Broad-winged Hawk continued from last season until 31 Dec (TF, m.ob.). One group of the many observers reported that it had an injured right wing. Another Broad-winged was observed at Sandy Hook 5-9 Dec (SB); that observer did not note any injury. Barring unusual circumstances, a healthy Broad-winged Hawk should be long gone by this date. With over 100 reported, Rough-legged Hawks were well represented. The high count was 21 along the lower Mullica R. 25 Jan (CS, JD).



While trying out a new camera lens to photograph chickadees from her upstairs window at Niagara Falls, New York on 17 December 2004, the photographer (who claims not to be a birder) saw an unfamiliar bird. After looking through a field guide, she decided it was a Black-throated Gray Warbler. Luckily, she had this photograph to confirm its identification; the bird was last seen the next day. Photograph by Joan Hills.

This year's total of 22 Golden Eagles was substantially better than last year's, considering that we did not get a report from the Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch in Delaware, NY. The high count of 3 was on the Walnut Valley, NJ C.B.C. 18 Dec. A sampling of C.B.C. totals had American Kestrel numbers similar to last year's—dismally low. This species is showing no sign of recovery. However, about 45 Merlins was a good number, with 6 at the roost on the SUNY campus in Buffalo through the season. A gray-morph Gyr Falcon at Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ 11-12 Dec (vt. Dave Magpiong) and probably the same individual at Port Mahon, Kent, DE 15-18 Feb (Bob Lego et al.) was outstanding. Another visited Aurora, Cayuga, NY 28 Feb (Matt Victoria). And finally, a gray-morph Gyr Falcon was reported 12 Feb at Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY (Donna Fletcher), where they occur more frequently. New Jersey has only 17 accepted previous records and Delaware just one or two, while New York has well over 100.

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Tantalizing was a report by non-birders of an apparent Northern Lapwing at Southold, Suffolk, NY 16-19 Dec, reasonably described but not photographed. Sadly, it was gone before word got out. Two Semipalmated Plovers made for an outstanding find along the Manasquan R. on the Lakehurst, NJ C.B.C. 18 Dec (AT), with one remaining through 8 Jan (Nick Taylor). One to 2 were present off Ocean Drive, Cape May, NJ 30 Dec-1 Jan (RC), with one near Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, NY on about 9 Jan (Bill Reeves, Scott Ogeri). In most years, a few individu-

als have lingered along the coast into Dec, but by Jan they are quite rare. The high count of American Oystercatcher was 508 on the Cape May C.B.C. 19 Dec, obliterating the prior count record of 352. Ninety five of these remained near Nummy I. 1 Feb (PEL). Twenty-eight Willets was typical of the past three years' counts on the Oceanville, NJ C.B.C. Six were present at Nummy I., Cape May, NJ 7 Jan (MO) and 3 there 1 Feb (PEL). Of 2 at Point Lookout, across the inlet from Jones Beach S.P. in early Jan (m.ob.), one remained through season's end. Willets in winter in this Region are normally *inornatus*. A report of a very late Spotted Sandpiper came from Whitesbog, Cumberland, NJ 1 Feb (Augie Sexauer); there are no previous Feb reports for the state. Typical of recent years, 20 Marbled Godwits were observed on the Oceanville C.B.C. 18 Dec, in the usual location at Absecon Inlet, Atlantic. The same C.B.C. recorded 11,000 Dunlin for only the 2nd time in its 50-year history.

Single Parasitic Jaegers at Avalon 10 & 13 Dec (BF) provided the only jaeger reports. Some 12,000+ Ring-billed Gulls at a roost at Round Valley Res. on the Northwest Hunterdon, NJ C.B.C. 19 Dec (Pete Kwiatek) was a high count there. Expected were 2 ad. California Gulls at the Niagara Power Project on the Niagara R., Niagara, NY until 27 Dec (†WD, †WW); a Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrid was also there 12 Dec and later. Two Sabine's Gulls, one ad. and one imm., at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua, NY 28 Dec-1 Jan (Dick Miga, Peter Yoerg, Ben Coulter) were one of the season's real highlights. Even in the Niagara Frontier, Sabine's Gulls are exceptionally



A very rare bird for inland New York, and even more rarely found wintering, this Lark Sparrow was discovered and identified by Vicki Rothman at her feeding station in the town of Porter, Niagara County 15 (here 25) December 2004 and stayed at least through 19 February 2005. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

rare in winter. A late Black Skimmer at the Cape May Coast Guard Station 17 Dec (Coast Guard personnel) was missed on the C.B.C. two days later.

For the 3rd winter in a row, alcids were recorded in some numbers coastally. A pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE produced 33 Dovekies 26 Feb in Delaware waters (PG et al.), and pelagic trips out of Belmar, NJ 4 & 31 Dec produced 7 and 9, respectively (PG et al.). Seven Common Murres were also found on the 26 Feb trip from Lewes, and another was at Jones Inlet, Nassau, NY 2 Jan (Ken & Sue Feustel). About 220 Razorbills were observed on pelagic trips from Belmar on 4 & 31 Dec and 29 Jan and from Lewes on 11 Dec and 26–27 Feb (PG et al.); the Montauk C.B.C. had 258 on 18 Dec. Razorbills were observed daily at Avalon, with a maximum of 19 on 17 Dec (BF); roughly 50 more were scattered along the coast. Three Black Guillemots, perhaps the Region's rarest alcid, were also reported: one ad. at Avalon 16 Dec (Cameron Cox); one at Montauk Pt. 22–24 Dec (Vicki Bustamante); and one at I.R.I. 29 Jan–9 Feb (m.ob., finder un-

known), Delaware's 2nd. Seven Atlantic Puffins were observed on the pelagic trip from Belmar 4 Dec (PG et al.), while a total of 3 was observed on the trips from Lewes on 11 Dec and 26 Feb (PG et al.)

#### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owls totaled 12 in New York, 4 in New Jersey, and one at Port Mahon, Kent, DE 26 Dec–7 Jan (Jim White). *Selasphorus* hummingbirds continued at Central Park until 13 Dec (m.ob.) and at Orient, Suffolk, NY until 5 Dec (HM et al.). The Allen's Hummingbird at Villas, Cape May, NJ continued until 19 Dec (JD, Doyle Dowdell). A highlight of the season was an influx of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Forty-six were recorded in the Great Swamp, Morris, NJ 18 Dec on the C.B.C. (Bill Boyle, Tom Fritz et al.). Other counts of 7 at Baisto, Burlington 30 Jan and 13 Feb (TB), 5 at Wharton S.F., Atlantic/Burlington 20 Feb (TB), and 4 singles elsewhere gave New Jersey one of its highest winter totals ever. Eight at Barcelona Neck near Sag Harbor, Suffolk NY 19 Dec (BK) and 9 more statewide gave New York a

very high count as well. Another bird at Newark, DE 12 Dec–1 Jan (Ginny Schiavelli) made the Region's total 78, possibly a record. A single American Three-toed Woodpecker at Ferd's Bog, Hamilton, NY in Dec (Gary Lee) was the only report; a total of 12 Black-backed Woodpeckers was reported from the usual locations in the Adirondack area.

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

The Ash-throated Flycatcher from last season at Cape May remained until 19 Dec (ph. MO, Louise Zemaitis), and one at Prospect Park, Brooklyn was joined by another 5 Dec (Rob Jett et al.); the latter 2 remained until the C.B.C. 18 Dec. Another Ash-throated at Hamlin Beach 3–7 Dec (DT, †DS, †RS, ph. B. Carlson, m.ob.) furnished the first record for New York's Genessee Region. Extremely rare before the early nineties, this species has become almost expected in

small numbers in late fall. Three C.B.C.s in New Jersey recorded one Western Kingbird apiece: the Lakehurst C.B.C. 18 Dec (AT), the Cape May C.B.C. 19 Dec (T. Reed et al.), and the Cumberland C.B.C. 2 Jan. Even more interesting was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Assunpink W.M.A., Monmouth, NJ 5 Dec (†John Maret, Pat Brundage) and 19–20 Dec (†TB et al.)—the state's first Dec record, the previous late date being 6 Nov, and possibly the first Dec record for the Region. With about 100 reported, Northern Shrikes were well represented, nearly all in New York, with 5 in New Jersey, and one in Delaware at Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex for the entire season. A White-eyed Vireo at Hamlin Beach 2 Dec (Kenny Frisch, DT, †DS) was record late in New York's Genessee Region; another was found at Green Creek on the Cape May C.B.C. 19 Dec (PEL). A Blue-headed Vireo on the Hudson Falls, NY C.B.C. 19 Dec was a Dec first for Washington. The peak count of Gray Jays was 19 on the Saranac L., NY C.B.C., with a few other reports from Essex and Franklin, NY. Three to 4 Cave Swallows, all in New Jersey, remained from Nov, with the last reports on 12 Dec at Cape May (PEL) and at Cedar Run, Ocean (†MBr, Bill Elrick). Unrecorded prior to 1990, this species has recently been annual. Two Black-capped Chickadees were s. of their normal range at Rancocas, Burlington, NJ 12–26 Dec (TB, Sandra Keller). Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers lingered at Baiting Hollow, Suffolk, NY 2–8 Dec (ABa) and the Montauk area 18 Dec (Willy Becker).

**SA** After two decades in which Thick-billed Murres have been exceptionally scarce, this season produced an invasion, beginning with a report on 27 Jan in Maine and extending to South Carolina. This Region's first reports came on 28 Jan, with 2 each at Barnegat Inlet (Blake Mathys) and at Shinnecock Inlet (PSc). With peaks of 5 individuals reported in New Jersey on 29 Jan and 7 on Long I. 30 Jan, and with the southernmost at Cape Henlopen 2 Feb (Meta Little, Colin Campbell), reports came almost daily from Montauk Pt. to Cape May until about 11 Feb. The last reports were of one at Westhampton, Suffolk, NY 13 Feb (Andy Murphy) and one at Shinnecock Inlet 20 Feb (Karen & Barbara Rubinstein). This is the first winter ever in which all six Atlantic alcid species were recorded in Delaware.

The Nov **Townsend's Solitaire** at Cedar Run, *Ocean*, NJ was last seen 18 Dec (Chip Krilowicz, JG); another turned up at Maidstone Park, *Suffolk*, NY 19 Dec–18 Jan (BPF, m.ob.). New Jersey has five previous records and New York not many more. Two exceptionally late Wood Thrushes were reported, one at Central Park 2–27 Dec (TF, m.ob.); a late date for the state) and one at Garret Mt. Park, *Passaic*, NJ 19 Dec (Ivan Kossak; only a few prior winter reports). No details were received on either bird, but the reporters are experienced observers. The Varied Thrush from last season at River Vale, *Bergen*, NJ remained until 9 Jan (ph. Leona Krauth, Judy Cinquina). Brown Thrashers were unusually well represented, especially in s. parts of the Region, but one at Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY 31 Jan (DT) was well out of place. Last year's incursion of Bohemian Waxwings did not repeat itself; the peak of 150 was recorded at Keene, *Essex*, NY 21 Feb (Robert McGrath), with 75 elsewhere in Keene and 60 farther n. in Peru, *Clinton*, NY.

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Very rarely remaining later than Oct, a **Blue-winged Warbler** at Hamlin Beach 29 Jan (DT) was record late at that location and for the entire Region as well. A photographed **Yellow Warbler** on the Brooklyn C.B.C. 18 Dec was also very late; this species has been reported on C.B.C.s in the s. half of the Region on several previous occasions. But a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Niagara Falls, NY 17–19 Dec (Joan Hilts, †WD et al.) was the warbler of the season. This vagrant species has provided about a dozen previous records for New York, mainly in fall. Finally, a well-described **Canada Warbler** at Sayville, *Suffolk*, on the Captree (NY) C.B.C. 19 Dec was record late, by about a month. The Smithtown, NY C.B.C. produced a **Western Tanager** at Setauket, *Suffolk* 27 Dec (BK, PSC, HM); a bright male was at Absecon, *Atlantic*, NJ 28 Jan+ (Kris Arcuri).

Three **Chipping Sparrows** at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 10 Dec+ (Betsy Potter, WD) was a record high winter count for the state's **Niagara Frontier**. A Clay-colored Sparrow was at the Clinton, *Hunterdon*, NJ S.T.P. (John DeMarras); 3 were recorded on the **Cumberland** C.B.C. in the same state 2 Jan. **Vesper Sparrows**, once not uncommon in New Jersey, were reported as singles only at Columbia, *Warren* 5 Dec (Brian Hardiman) and on the **Cumberland** C.B.C. 2 Jan. A **Lark Sparrow** at Porter, *Niagara*, NY 15 Dec+ (Vicki

Rothman, †WD, m.ob.) provided a first winter record for the **Niagara Frontier** and the 5th overall. Others were at W. Cape May, NJ 16–17 Dec (Karl Lukens, PEL) and at Croton-on-Hudson, *Westchester*, NY 18–19 Dec (Charlie Roberto). Excellent finds were Harris's Sparrows at Baldwin Harbor, *Nassau*, NY 2–3 Jan (SM, Pat Lindsay) and at Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY 8 Jan (DT, Mike Davids). Three Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows, one in New York and 2 in New Jersey, was about average. An **Oregon Junco** at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 22 Jan (WD, WW) was the season's only report. An **Indigo Bunting**, very scarce in winter, visited W. Cape May 13–19 Dec (CV et al.). New Jersey hosted 3 **Painted Buntings**: an ad. male at Erma, *Cape May* 14 Nov+ (F. MacDonald, †m.ob.) and single green birds at Woodbridge, *Middlesex* 2 Jan (†George Roussey) and Eatontown, *Monmouth* 23–30 Jan (ph. Larry Jones et al.). Six **Dickcissels** in New Jersey was above average, while another was farther n. at Five Rivers, *Albany*, NY 19 Dec–2 Jan (Denise Hackert-Stoner, Tina Markopoulos, Patti Packer, Scott Stoner).

Eastern Meadowlarks made a strong showing relative to recent years, with totals of 60 on the Montauk C.B.C. 18 Dec and of 20+ on two other C.B.C.s, along with many reports of smaller numbers. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** reports consisted of a female at Noyack, *Suffolk*, NY 4 Dec (Bob McGrath) and an ad. male n. of Wilmington, DE 7 Feb (Frank Rohrbacher). The **blackbird roost** at Great Meadows, *Warren*, NJ produced 280,000 **Common Grackles** on the Walnut Valley C.B.C. 18 Dec (BT et al.). **Boat-tailed Grackles** did well too, with a surprising 1075 at Amassas Landing, *Burlington*, NJ 25 Jan (CS, JD). The **blackbird roost** at Great Meadows also held 10,000 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** 18 Dec (BT et al.). **Baltimore Orioles** were well represented in s. parts of the Region; one at Flood Gates near Repaupo Station, *Gloucester*, NJ 28 Feb (JG) was exceptionally late.

Winter finches were again scarce. Even **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins**, though widespread, were not unusually numerous. The only reports of **Pine Grosbeaks** were of 5 on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 2 Jan and singles at five other *Clinton*, *Essex*, and *Hamilton*, NY locations. A paltry 33 **Red Crossbills**—with a maximum of 20 on the Rome, NY C.B.C. 19 Dec—were all that were reported. A total of 34 **White-winged Crossbills** included 20 near Vermontville, *Franklin*, NY 12 Feb (Matthew

Young) and 13 on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 2 Jan. The **Common Redpoll** maximum was 266 on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 2 Jan, but except for 60 at Pompey, *Onondaga*, NY 23 Feb (fide BP), most were confined to the Adirondacks and surrounding areas. The high count of **Evening Grosbeaks** was 130 at Vermontville 12 Feb, with 89 on the Ferrisburgh C.B.C. 18 Dec (partly in New York, partly Vermont) and 87 on Saranac Lake C.B.C. 2 Jan. A handful of other reports of smaller numbers, nearly all in ne. New York, rounded out the total.

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**SA** Up to 5 **Boreal Owls**, all in New York, constituted an invasion by modern standards. The first was discovered at Wilson-Tuscarora S.P., *Niagara* 18 Dec (Bret Ewald, †WW), and possibly the same individual visited some remote property at nearby Wilson 23 Jan+ (Marg Partridge, †WD). On the Lower Hudson C.B.C., one was in Central Park 19 Dec–14 Jan (Jim Demes, Peter Post, m.ob.). Another was at Manitou Beach, *Monroe* 30 Dec–1 Jan (DT, m.ob.); possibly the same individual appeared at Hilton, *Monroe* 22 Jan (Mary Leary).