

# JANUARY 2017 RECORDS

Of this month one might say "Zero to sixty in 31 days" as the temperatures were all over the place. The forms of precipitation were equally varied.

(The number of records listed for most species is the record count from eBird (plus a few others). eBird record count is the number of checklists reporting the species, not the count of birds. If 10 people go to see a single special bird, the # of records is 10. Some effort is made to eliminate duplicates (same date, location, count). There were nearly 600 eBird checklists, some include all identified species, but many list only a few birds. For most species, we list the largest group "Most". First or Last is noted only occasionally, because so few arrive or depart in January. Common birds present in expected numbers and places are not listed.)

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 6/16 Stissing Pd CP, BMa (only record). CP - Surprised to see 6 at once. Smaller than Canada Geese. Overall color similar to Canadas' but had white shield around orange bill, horizontal white line on each side, black barring across belly, orange legs & feet.

**Snow Goose:** 3/15 BMa, SJ; 3/17 TLi; 3/17 BMa, CP, Black "grin" clearly visible on white adult and 2 immatures. All in the area of Gretna and Netherwood Rd, Pleasant Valley.

**Cackling Goose:** 1/5 Sylvan Lk CP; 1/15 Round Pd Amenia MR; 1/22 Wapp Lk KH.

**Canada Goose:** 128 records, avg 214 each. Most 1500/6 HVRT Coleman Stn CV; 1200/5 Sylvan Lk CP; 1000/16 Stissing Pd BMa.

**Mute Swan:** 43 records, avg 4 each. Most 12/12 Sylvan Lk CP, CV; 12/17 Sylvan Lk CP.

**American Black Duck:** 33 records, avg 5 each. Most 35/21 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd JCo; 11/28 The Fly, pond on Rte 82, Pine Plains DK.

**Mallard:** 118 records, avg 23 each. Most 200/1 Whaley Lk CP, HT.

**Northern Pintail:** 2/12 Sylvan Lk CP; 2/16 Sylvan Lk CV.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 23 records, avg 20 each. most 140/17 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Bufflehead:** 6 records, avg 2 each. 3/6 Madam Brett Pk AL; 3/29 Madam Brett Pk PS; 3/26 Twin Island Lk BMa; 1/27 Twin Island Lk, being hunted by Bald Eagle CP; 3/27 Vanderburgh Cove BMa.

**Common Goldeneye:** 4/5 Sylvan Lk JC; 76/19 Mills SP CP; 6/19 Cruger Island Rd SR.

**Hooded Merganser:** 35 records, avg 12 each. 2/29 Madam Brett Pk PS; Most 64/5 Whaley Lk CP; 56/5 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Common Merganser:** 91 records, avg 14 each. Most 125/13 Madam Brett Pk BN; 120/13 Dennings Pt BSi; 75/19 Cruger Island Rd SR.

**Ruddy Duck:** 5 records, avg 13 each. 8/2 Sylvan Lk CP; Last 23/6 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 9 records, avg 10 each. 13/8 Dover Plains SJ; 14/29 Dover Plains GB; Most 23/20 Dover Plains HT, CP; 2/14 yd Red Oaks Mill BL.

**Wild Turkey:** 34 recds, avg 22 each. 14/1 Rhinebeck yd MP; 38/29 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; Most 66/5 Stissing Mtn Rd CV.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1/5 Sylvan Lk CP, only record

**Great Cormorant:** All reports from Breakneck Ridge South Train Stop - 1/28 CP; 2/29 AMP, BMa; 2/30 MK, DK, Both flew and perched on Channel Marker #48, White chin, white hip patch seen on one.

**Great Blue Heron:** 10 records, avg 1 each. First 1/1 Wapp Lk KH; Last 1/28 Hillside Lk BJM;

**Black Vulture:** 36 records, avg 7 each. Most 100/4 Millbrook Schl FT, AMP; 30/21 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd JCo, At least 30 circling on thermals, more constantly joining.

**Turkey Vulture:** 16 records, avg 1 each. First 1/10 Dia:Beacon BN; Most 3/28 Beacon SFa.

**Golden Eagle:** 8 records, avg 2 each. First 1/6 McEnroe Compost CV, Juvenile in flight with gulls; Other 7 reports of 1 immature and 1 adult from Dover area.

**Northern Harrier:** 27 records, avg 1 each. Most 4/2 Rt 82 at Conklin Hill Rd. Stanfordville SJ; 3/29 Dover Plains GB.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 12 rcds, avg 1 ea. 1/31 Rhinecliff MR.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 44 records, avg 1 each. Most 4/20 Dover Plains CP, HT; 3/5 Mashomack CV.

**Bald Eagle:** 125 records, avg 3 each. Most 13/5 Mashomack CV; 11/9 Dover Plains DK; 10/12 Dennings Pt BSi; 12/22 Dennings Pt SJ.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 28 records, avg 1 each. Most 2/11 Allen Rd Salt Pt BMa.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 144 records, avg 3 each. Most 21/27 Dover Plains BMa, AMP.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2/1 Pleasant Ridge Rd AMP.

**American Coot:** 8 records, avg 4 each. Most 12/1 Whaley Lk HT, CP; 3/6 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 8 records, avg 1 each. From 3 different locations.

**Great Horned Owl:** 7 records, avg 2 each. From 4 locations.

**Barred Owl:** 3 reports of 1-2 from 3 locations..

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1/29 LaGrange GB.

Rest of the **woodpeckers** listed in order of abundance – Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, Pileated, Northern Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

**American Kestrel:** 13 records, avg 1 each. Most 2/4 O'Leary Fm Salt Point BMa.

**Merlin:** 1/1 Beyer Drive Poughquag AMP; 1/2 Beyer Drive Poughquag CP; 1/2 Perry's Corners Rd DK, CV; 1/10 Indian Lake Rd, Millerton CV; 1/22 Dover Plains MRi.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 1/15 Shadows Restaurant Pking Lot, Poughkeepsie CV; 2/18 Waryas Pk KH; 1/19-20 Mid-Hudson Bridge RN; 1/27 Dover Plains BMa, AMP; 1/31 Red Hook-Campus Rd LE.

**Common Raven:** 46 records, avg 2 each. Most 10/1 yd Milan Circling above the yard SJ; 7/21 Dover Plains AG, PA.

**Horned Lark:** 26 records, avg 103 each. Most 400/8 Morse Hill Rd CP; 250/2 Taylor Rd Millerton CV; 150/22 Millerton, Perotti Rd HT, CP.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 13 records, avg 1 each. First 1/1 yd Milan SJ; Last 1/24 Bedell Rd Pok CF; Most 2/16 Reese Pk KH.

**Brown Creeper:** 12 records, avg 1 each. Most 2/10 & 29 LaGrange CV.

**Winter Wren:** 1/6 Reese Sanctuary KH; 1/6 Madam Brett Pk AL; 1/13 Madam Brett Pk JCo; 1/21 Buttercup MN; 1/31 Cruger Island Rd DHar.

## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

**Carolina Wren:** 36 records, avg 1 each. Most 3/1 Beacon-171 Union Street OB.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 12 records, avg 2 each. Most 6/29 Dover Plains GB; 5/15 Beacon: Riverfront Trl CJ.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1/6 HVRT Coleman Stn CV; 1/14 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd MR; 1/31 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd DHar.

**Eastern Bluebird:** 69 records, avg 4 each. Most 12/6 Reese Sanctuary KH; 12/11 Allen Rd Salt Pt BMa; 11/28 Breakneck Ridge South Train Stop CP.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1/1 Depot Hill / Grape Hollow CP, HT.

**American Robin:** 40 records, avg 11 each. Most 56/2 Lower Sharon Stn Rd CV; 50/6 HVRT Coleman Stn CV; 35/25 Bowdoin Pk CP, FT.

**Northern Mockingbird:** 40 records, avg 1 each. Most 3/21 Dover Plains PA, AG.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 9 records, avg 12 each. Most 30/18 Nellie Hill BB; 18/28 CIES BMa, FT, MF, AMP.

**Lapland Longspur:** 2/8 Northeast Perotti Rd SJ.

**Snow Bunting:** 6 records, avg 4 each. First 1/1 Linden Fm SR; Last 1/10 Morse Hill Rd, Amenia BMa; Most 12/3 Wappingers Falls - Big Lots KH; 4/8 Morse Hill Rd CP.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1/21 Dover Plains AG, PA; 2/22 Dover Plains HT, CP; 5/29 Dover Plains GB.

**American Tree Sparrow:** 37 records, avg 5 each. Most 10/8 yd Red Oaks Mill BL; 25/10 Mills SP/Hopeland PSt; 25/10 Reagan Rd CV; 12/14 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd MR.

**Chipping Sparrow:** 1/18,19,26-31 Hi View Rd Wapp BAm. deck yd. (photo).

**Fox Sparrow:** 1/7 Depot Hill CP; 1/14 yd Red Oaks Mill BL.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 183 records, avg 10 each. Most 48/7 Depot Hill CP; 100/8 Millerton, Perotti Rd CP; 100/8 North East-2-22 Perotti Rd SJ; 45/27 Haight Rd, Amenia CV.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 6/11 Coleman Stn Rd area FT, AMP; 2/19 Reagan Rd CV; 1/22 Dover Plains HT, CP.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 85 records, avg 4 each. Most 12/8 yd Red Oaks Mill BL; 20/10 Mills SP/Hopeland PSt; 20/13 Madam Brett Pk JCo.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 1/1 Greig Fm MR; 1/1 Poughquag AMP; 1/8 Millerton, Perotti Rd CP; 1/21 Dover Plains AG, PA.

**Song Sparrow:** 52 records, avg 2 each. Most 8/10 Madam Brett Pk BN; 8/11 Coleman Stn Rd area FT, AMP.

**Swamp Sparrow:** 1/16 Thompson Pd SR.

**Northern Cardinal:** 126 records, avg 3 each. Most 25/31 Mansell Yard BMa.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 9 records, avg 62 each. Most 400/20 Dover Plains CP, HT; 30/11 Coleman Stn Rd area AMP, FT; 60/27 Dover, Sand Hill Rd MS, KS.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 1/14 Tivoli Bays MR; 1/21 Cary IES MF; 1/31 Tivoli Bays DHar.

**Common Grackle:** 4 records, avg 103 each. 1/1 Beacon Union Street OB; 300/4 Millbrook Schl AMP, FT; 100/6 Dover Plains CP; Last 10/8 Verbank yd BB.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 16 records, avg 44 each. Most 300/6 Dover Plains CP; 200/27 Morse Hill Rd, Amenia, Not uncommon at this farm with livestock/feed CV.

### OBSERVERS -

Patricia Aitken (PA); Janet Allison (JAlI); John Askildsen (JA); Bob & Cyd Averill (BCA); Gail Benson (GB); Brent Bomkamp (BBo); Oliver Burton (OB); Barbara Butler (BB); Charles Caron (CC); Sean Carroll (SC); Betsy Carswell (BC); Jamie Collins (JCo); Jeremy Collison (JC); Roberta Dapson (RD); Lizzy Elliott (LE); Scott Fackenthall (SFa); Michael Fargione (MF); Claudius Feger (CF); Dorothy Fleury (DF); Brendan Fogarty (BF); Eamon Freiburger (EF); John Gaglione (JG); Arie Gilbert (AG); David Grover (DG); Richard Guthrie (RG); Ken Harris (KH); David Harrison (DHAr); David Hayes (DH); Bob & Sue Infante (BSI); Carlmais Johnson (CJ); Susan Joseph (SJ); Maha Katnani (MK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Bill Lenhart (BL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Tracy Little (TLi); Barbara Mansell (BMA); Liz Martens (LM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Michael Nicosia (MN); Richard Nord (RN); Bruce Nott (BN); Mona Payton (MP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Morgan Rich (MRi); Susan Rogers (SR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Steven Schellenger (SS); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Phil Shea (PS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Peter Stewart (PSt); Herb Thompson (HT); Chet Vincent (CV); Deb Weltsch (DWe); Waterman Bird Club (FT)

## FEBRUARY 2017 RECORDS

Much of February was remarkably warm with temps ranging from 8 to 76 degrees. We had 17 inches of snow for the month.

The detailed data set for February (including complete list of observers) is not available to us at this time but summary data available considers all checklists submitted. Not all observed species are mentioned here. The focus is on waterfowl, winter specialties, and a few early arrivals..

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 4 found at Stissing Pond on the 4<sup>th</sup> by Chet Vincent. Others found 8 there later in the day. Up to 8 seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at Bethel Cross Road by CV and DK. Both locations are in Pine Plains.

**Snow Goose:** 1/25 Strauss Marsh CV – only report for Feb.

**Canada Goose:** Most 600 on several reports.

**Wood Duck:** first 2/19 Madam Brett RO; most 6/23 Vanderburgh Cove DK; 6/26 Salt Point yd LM; several other reports

**American Wigeon:** most 10/8 Thompson Pond FT; also 1/6 Wapp Creek PSh; 3/19 Madam Brett RO; 2/25 Tivoli North Bay AMP, BMa

**Northern Pintail:** 2/1 Willow Brook Farm, Millerton CV; 1/25 MR, 1/27 BMa, 2/28 BB Strever Farm Pd.

**Green-winged Teal:** first 4/23 Vanderburgh CP, SJ; 2/23 The Fly DK; then 4 more reports of up to 5.

**Black Scoter** – 3/22 Norrie Point CF - flying on the Ulster side of the Hudson River

**Bufflehead:** early report at Norrie and Mills SR, MR, then up to 11 from 23<sup>rd</sup> on in several locations

**Common Goldeneye:** 2/5 Mills MR; 2/16 Westage, Fishkill SF; 1/20 Traver Pond CV;

**Hooded and Common Mergansers:** well reported across the county

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1/23 Vanderburgh Cove CP, SJ

**Ruddy Duck:** 1/15, 1/24 Sylvan Lk CP; 1/23 Stissing Pond CV; 4/25 Woodward Hill Rd, Pine Plains MR.

**Wild Turkey:** most 70/2 Hollow Rd, Salt Point BMa

**Common Loon:** 1/4 Red Wing Pond, Velie Road, Lagrange DK, AMP, JAs, MG; 1/5 Mills Norrie SP SR

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1/20 Sylvan Lk CP – only report

**Great Cormorant:** 1/26 near Bannerman's Island BN (seen here also in January)

**Great Blue Heron:** a few reports from the SW corner of the county

**Golden Eagle:** 1/14 Reagan Road Millerton CV - Came from Taylor Road hillside with a Canada Goose in his talons, losing altitude and eventually dropped the Goose in the snow next to a bridge over a creek and flew off. The Goose flopped toward the creek, then flew to join the other Geese nearby. When I got out of the car and approached the creek, its tail feathers were askew but was able to fly okay. Golden nape clearly visible, dark tail and barely any white in the wrists of the wings on the eagle.

The rest of the Golden Eagle reports are from the Town of Dover, one adult and one immature, reported by many, last on the 18<sup>th</sup> in Feb. (They were still being reported in March.)

**Northern Harrier:** about 20 reports of 1-2 across the county. More than usual for February.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** about 9 reports. AG listed the take at her feeder: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, Tufted Titmouse.

**Bald Eagle:** many reports of 1-2 from all over and reports of more than 10 from several different places, along the Hudson, Towns of Dover and Pine Plains, and other places

**Rough-legged Hawk:** scarce this winter. 1/8 Red Hook PS, only report.

**Killdeer:** arrived Feb 23, 5/23 Wassiac RR station SM plus reports from Dover and Salt Point. Good reports after.

**American Woodcock:** arrived Feb 23 – reports from Towns of Lagrange and Clinton, 3 reports after.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1/17 Valkill NHS, Hyde Park FT

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Most 6/27 Lagrange yard CV

**American Kestrel:** 6 reports from 5 different locations

**Merlin:** 3 reports from Vassar Farm. 4 other reports including 1 of a Merlin catching and consuming a Snow Bunting 1/15 Dover CP.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2/21 perched in the same tree, Union Vale DK photo; 1/4 flew through the crows coming to roost at Poughkeepsie and knocked one out of the sky. Group with CV. See also American Crow.

**American Crow:** 20000/4 coming into roost at Poughkeepsie south of Mid-Hudson Bridge, watched by group of 11 with CV. See also Peregrine Falcon.

**Horned Lark:** 400/5 Bethel Cross Rd, Pine Plains AMP; 300/15 Morse Hill Rd CP; 150/1 Willow Brook Farm, Millerton CV; 150/15 Separate Rd CV, AMP; 150/16 Johnny Cake Hollow Rd, Pine Plains CV; smaller flocks seen at various places, especially in the vicinity of Coleman Station. Also at O'Leary Farm, Salt Point.

**Tree Swallow:** 2/25 Strauss Marsh CV, Surprised to see them flying over the pond. Did not stay in sight long. (usual arrival – Mar 1)

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 3/1 Vassar Campus FT; 8 other singles reported, most at feeders

**Marsh Wren:** 2/19 Thompson Pond SR. We have a few winter records, but this is the first one for February.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 1/15 Dover Plains DK; 1/28 HVRT Amenia CP; scarce for February.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1/17 Cruger Island Rd DG – unusual to find in February.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1/11 Vassar Farm FT

**Cedar Waxwing:** seem scarce – few large flocks – 8 reports, largest flock 29/28 Cary IES AMP

**Lapland Longspur:** 1/5 Bethel Cross Rd, Pine Plains AMP

**Chipping Sparrow:** 1/1-24 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM – continuing from January.

**Fox Sparrow:** 1/9 yard CP; 1/18 Wingdale yd SM; 1/26 Stanford yd DK.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1/5 Haight Rd, Amenia CV; 5/14 Indian Lake Rd, Millerton CV; 3 other reports from nearby Reagan Road.

**White-throated Sparrow:** numbers peaked mid-month.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1/12 found in blizzard conditions along a roadside south of Millerton by Alex Kearney. Seen by CV and several others through the 25<sup>th</sup>, often associated with Horned Larks. Vesper Sparrow is quite unusual for February.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1/23 Stissing Mtn Rd, Pine Plains DK. Very unusual in February

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Most 3500/5 Mid-County Gun Club AP

**Rusty Blackbird:** 5/22 Jameson Hill Rd, Stanford AMP; 3/27 Tamarack BMa; 3/28 Cary IES AMP

**Purple Finch:** 1/13 Stanford yard DK

## **WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017**

**Pine Siskin:** 1/12-15 Salt Point yard BMa; 3/17 Clinton yd JAI;  
6 other reports.

Huge flocks of several thousand blackbirds (**European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird**) were noted by DK, RM, BCA, LM in the Dover Plains area during 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Birds we usually find in February that were absent this year.....  
**Canvasback, Rough-legged Hawk, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe,** and **Field Sparrow**

### **Observers cited -**

JAI – Janet Allison, JAs - John Askildsen, SF – Scott Fackenthall, CF - Claudius Feger, MG – Mary Gall, SJ - Susan Joseph, Alex Kearney, DK - Deborah Kral, BMa - Barbara Mansell, LM – Liz Martens, SM – Sariena Masiero, BAM - Barbara and Allan Michelin, BN - Bruce Nott, RO – Russ O'Malley, AP – Alan Peterson, CP - Carena Pooth, AMP - Adrienne Popko, SR - Susan Rogers, PSh – Phil Shea, PS - Peter Stewart, CV - Chet Vincent  
FT - Waterman Bird Club field trip

Compiler – Barbara Butler

## MARCH 2017 RECORDS

**Request to eBirders: PLEASE USE HOTSPOTS.** When you enter your sightings, please look for an established eBird **hotspot** where you birded before using a location name of your own. Identifying and combining duplicate sightings when they are assigned to different names for the same location is a lot of extra work for compilers. Not to mention that **birders like you will benefit** if everyone uses hotspots, since they can study hotspot data to figure out where to go birding next!

**SUMMARY STATS.** There were 4,538 records (after removal of duplicate reports and eBird checklist shares). 114 species were reported (vs 107 last year).

**WEATHER.** Unlike last year, we endured a pretty unfriendly March, highlighted by a huge snowstorm on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The upside was a resurgence of Horned Lark and Snow Bunting sightings after the snow, along with a welcome deluge of Fox Sparrows and other appreciative birds in our yards. Some birds seemed late, but this was not a universal trend by far.

**HEADLINERS.** My favorite (which I missed, of course) is the breeding-plumaged **LAPLAND LONGSPUR**. We also had our first March records of **VESPER SPARROW** and **GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, and our second March records for **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, and **NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW**. There was also one report each of **ICELAND GULL** and **SANDHILL CRANE**.

**WATERFOWL.** Once again this year, there wasn't much ice around. Winter and migrating waterfowl did not have to search for open water, so they were more scattered and less predictable than in colder years. Nonetheless, plenty of **migrating and returning ducks and geese** were found by diligent observers. Good numbers were reported for **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser**, all showing up no later than the 6<sup>th</sup>. Liz Martens reported 24 **Wood Ducks** in her yard on the 25<sup>th</sup>, commenting "There was a line up to get into the nesting box." Less common birds in the waterfowl category included:

**Snow Goose:** 4 records, avg 4 each. 2/24,26 Gretna Rd Pleasant Valley CF, CP/HT; 11/26 Strauss Marsh (one blue phase) CV; 2/30 South Rd Pd, Millbrook SL.

**Gadwall:** 3/13 Round Pd Amenia MR.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** 4 records, avg 6 each.

**REDHEAD:** 1/5 Tivoli Bays SR; 1/11 Myers Corners Rd found by ESti, also seen by CP; 2/25 Emmadine Pd, H.Jct ES.

**Greater Scaup:** 1-4/19-21,25,30 Norrie Pt seen by CP, SJ, CF, AMP, BMa. Comment from CP/21: Swimming, diving, loafing, and occasionally preening with one Lesser Scaup.

**Lesser Scaup:** 6 records 1-3 each but also 50-70/27 Red Wing Beekman (3 separate visits) CP, HT, CF

**LONG-TAILED DUCK:** 1/29 Red Wing Beekman found by AMP, also seen by DK, BMa, CP, CF. Adult male transitioning to summer plumage.

**Common Goldeneye:** 9 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 8/6 Tivoli Bays South Bay CP; LAST 1/29 Sylvan Lk CP, CF, BMa

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1/4 Woodward Hill Rd SJ; 1/25 Norrie Pt CP.

**Ruddy Duck:** 2/12 HVRT Sharon Stn SL; 1/19 Twin Island Lk BJM; 1/29 Drake Lk BMa.

**Conspicuously absent** (third year in a row): **Canvasback**. We also missed **Blue-winged Teal** this year.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, LOONS, GREBES, and HERONS.** **Ring-necked Pheasants** were listed on 7 reports, although these are not "countable" as wild birds, since Dutchess is peppered with hunting preserves that regularly replenish their "huntee" population. **Wild Turkeys** have rebounded to their pre-2016 numbers, with 30 records averaging 15 each. Deb Kral found 6 turkeys on Stissing Mountain Rd on the 17<sup>th</sup>, "high in poplar trees eating buds." **Common Loon**, unusual for March, turned up one at a time in 5 different locations, the earliest reported by Scott Lenhart on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had 3 different **grebes** this year: **Pied-billed** (normal numbers), **Horned** (1/18-19 Sylvan Lk CP, MR, BMa, CF), and one breeding-plumaged **Red-necked Grebe** found by Carena Pooth on the Hudson at Mills Mansion on the 21<sup>st</sup>. **Great Blue Herons** were seen starting the 3<sup>rd</sup>, on nests at various heronries around in the second half of the month.

**Double-crested Cormorants** returned with 4 records, the first being 4/25 Tivoli Bays SR, PS, AMP, BMa, CP.

**VULTURES.** **Black Vultures** (20 records, avg 4 each) and **Turkey Vultures** (84 records, avg 3 each) were seen throughout the month as expected.

One **OSPREY** arrived early this year. Deb Kral found it in the pouring rain at Tamarack (Bontecou) Lake on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**EAGLES and HAWKS.** **Bald Eagle** numbers were consistent with last year's (69 records avg 3 ea). There were 7 records of **Golden Eagle**, all in Dover except 1/5 HVRT Sharon Stn DK and 1/24 Mashomack DK. There were 20 records of **Northern Harrier**, just like last year. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were both reported throughout the month, with Cooper's being spotted about twice as often as Sharp-shinned (as usual). **Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks** were normal, with 27 and 134 reports respectively. **Broad-winged** and **Rough-legged Hawks** eluded us this year.

**American Coot:** 1/20 Drake Lk CF, SJ; 1/25 Drake Lk LM

**CRANES.** Last year brought in Dutchess County's first two March records of **Sandhill Crane**. This year we had one report from Justin Schmidt, who saw one flying behind a flock of geese near the Rhinebeck library on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A rare bird with literary aspirations?

**SHOREBIRDS.** **Killdeer**, which had arrived in February, were reliably vocal and visible throughout March (31 records, avg 3). Mona Payton entered the earliest report, of two birds on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Southlands. She said it was "fluffed up and trying to probe the freezing ground." Susan Rogers reported the first-ever March **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** in the county from Tivoli Bays on the 5<sup>th</sup>. One **Wilson's Snipe** was found by John Askildsen at the CIES Lowlands on the 28<sup>th</sup>. **American Woodcock** was reported early in the month after arriving in February, but it is likely this species was adversely affected by the snowstorm and extreme cold that hit on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Many woodcocks were found dead in Central Park after the storm, victims of starvation because of the deep snow. Dutchess woodcock details for March: 3/1 Recreation Rd Beekman CP; 1/1 Red Wing Beekman CP; 1/2 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 1/16

## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

Daley Rd LaGrange, flushed from recently plowed gravel driveway, 18-24" of snow fell 2 days ago CP; 1/24 Verbank yd, heard peenting BB.

**GULLS.** Our usual gulls, **Ring-billed**, **Herring**, and **Great Black-backed**, were as expected. More exciting were two **ICELAND GULLS** found at McEnroe Compost by John Askildsen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** found on the Hudson River at Beacon Waterfront Park by Curt McDermott on the 5<sup>th</sup>, seen also by several members returning home from a club field trip to Croton Point.

**OWLS.** Plenty of reports – PEEPSters got the word out!

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 10 records, avg 1 each. All were reported from the Pine Plains/Stanfordville area except one at Ryder Pond. Both red & gray phase were seen.

**Great Horned Owl:** 12 records, avg 1 each. Deb Kral reported one on the 21<sup>st</sup> in her yard, adding, "Nest failure as anticipated with the storm, one of the pair remains in the area and was chased through the woods, across the street and back by a 'murder' of 8 American Crows."

**Barred Owl:** 6 records, avg 2 each.

**KINGFISHER.** There were 21 records of **Belted Kingfisher** throughout the month.

**WOODPECKERS** were well reported as usual: **Red-bellied** and **Downy** 106 and 110 records respectively; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 8 records; **Hairy** 61 records (higher than usual); **Northern Flicker** 22 records (still low); **Pileated** 39 records. Scott Fackenthall reported the only **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER**, on the 27<sup>th</sup> on Didell Rd. Unfortunately, Mudder Kill Swamp, where Justin Schmidt found a pair last March that was seen by others for several weeks, did not yield any Red-headed Woodpecker sightings this year.

**FALCON** reports included 19 records of **American Kestrel**, 6 of **Peregrine Falcon**, and 2 of **Merlin**.

**PASSERINES** – the largest taxonomic order of birds.

An exciting first March record for Dutchess was a **VESPER SPARROW**, reported on Sheffield Hill Rd on the 5<sup>th</sup> by Alex Kearney and at the same location by Chet Vincent on the 13<sup>th</sup>; it was subsequently seen by many club members. Alex initially found the bird on February 12<sup>th</sup> and took some photos, which are included in his 2/12/17 eBird checklist ([ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S34998818](https://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S34998818)).

This year's initial migration push was punctuated by that mid-March snowstorm, which brought snowbound birders much delight at their feeders. We enjoyed large numbers of **American Tree Sparrow** (54 records vs 24 in 2016) and **Fox Sparrows** (59 records vs 19 in 2016), which reminded me of my comment in the March 2007 records report: "Wow! They showed up everywhere with the last snowstorm on the 16th!" Once the roads had been cleared, birders ventured out. We had 18 records of **Horned Lark** averaging 111 each (versus one lonely bird last March!). The go-to sites we visited back in January and February were once again abuzz with larks, and there were 16 records of **Snow Bunting** mixed in, averaging 13 each. Topping that, Barbara Butler checked O'Leary Farm on the 18<sup>th</sup> and was rewarded with a surprise **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** in breeding plumage!

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** (15 records vs 0 in 2016) and **Winter Wren** (6 records vs 0 in 2016) were easier to find this year than last. Observers also recorded **Brown Creeper** (6 records). There were 3 sightings of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** but none of **Ruby-crowned**.

Alex Caviglia found a very early **Gray Catbird** at Bower Park on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Also reported were **Hermit Thrush** (2 records) and **Cedar Waxwing** (6 records, avg 11 each). A lone **Chipping Sparrow** spent the month in the welcoming yard of the Michelins in Wappingers. There were 2 records of **White-crowned** and 86 of **White-throated Sparrow**. Susan Rogers found the only **Field Sparrows** (3/30 Mills/Hopeland). There were 2 records of **Savannah Sparrow** and 3 of **Swamp Sparrow**. There were two sightings of **Eastern Meadowlark** (3/13 Sheffield Hill Rd CV; 1/28 Bethel Cross Rd CV). Janet Allison was the only one reporting **Pine Siskin**, with 7 at her feeders on the 7<sup>th</sup>. **Purple Finches** were few (only 2 records vs 35 last year). There were **NO towhees** of any kind and **NO warblers** this March.

Reflecting the contrast with March 2016's mild weather, many species were back to normal numbers after having surged last year, including **Eastern Phoebe** (24 records vs last year's 72), **Tree Swallow** (21 vs 50), **Eastern Bluebird** (70 vs 125), **American Robin** 98 vs 159), **Northern Mockingbird** (30 vs 51), and **Rusty Blackbird** (5 vs 16).

Finally, many common birds were reported as usual: **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, **Mallard**, **Rock Pigeon**, **Mourning Dove**, **Blue Jay**, **American Crow**, **Fish Crow**, **Common Raven**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Carolina Wren**, **European Starling**, **Song Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Northern Cardinal**, **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Common Grackle**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, **House Finch**, **American Goldfinch** and **House Sparrow**.

**OBSERVERS:** Janet Allison (JAII); John Askildsen (JA); Bob & Cyd Averill (BCA); Andrew Baksh (AB); Mike Birmingham (MB); Renée Burgevin (RB); Barbara Butler (BB); Sean Camillieri (SC); Alex Caviglia (AC); Jim Clinton (JCli); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Jamie Collins (JCo); John & Abby Dux (JAD); Scott Fackenthall (SFa); Michael Fargione (MF); Claudius Feger (CF); Natalie Gilbert (NG); Ken Harris (KH); David Hayes (DH); Bilqis Hijjas (BH); Robert G Williams Iii (RI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Maha Katnani (MK); Alex Kearney (AK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Janet Leavens (JL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Patricia Lindsay (PL); Barbara Mansell (BMA); Liz Martens (LM); Curt McDermott (CM); Allan Michelin (AJM); Barbara Michelin (BJM); Barbara & Allan Michelin (BAM); Shai Mitra (SM); Mona Payton (MP); Margaret Phillips (MPh); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Susan Rogers (SR); Jane Rossman (JR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Justin Schmidt (JS); Peter Schoenberger (PS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Eileen Stickle (ESTi); Herb Thompson (HT); Tricia van Oers (TV); Chet Vincent (CV); Eliza Wein (EW); Ernie Welch (ErW); Deborah Weltsch (DW)

- Carena Pooth, March Records Editor

**Please enter your April records into eBird or e-mail to [records1@watermanbirdclub.org](mailto:records1@watermanbirdclub.org). DEADLINE: May 3**

## APRIL 2017 RECORDS

Weather – No April showers this year. Only 5 days had more than a quarter inch of rain, and none more than an inch. Despite the lack of April rainfall, streams and ponds were full of the March blizzard's meltwater. The only nights at or below freezing were 1-2 and 8-9. For most days the high temperatures were 60s to 80s.

The standing water around the creek in the Cary Lowlands produced some interesting marsh birds. The marsh birds that frequented the wetlands along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Amenia have returned. The first big wave of warblers came during the last 3 days of April. There were some late winter finches.

### WATERFOWL

The spring waterfowl migration occurs during March through May. The exact range differs for each species. The spring migrants that appeared in April were ---

**Gadwall:** 1/5 Bowdoin Pk FT.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 2/22 Separate Rd AMP; 2/27 Buttercup West FT.

**Northern Pintail:** 1/1 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd JCo.

**Green-winged Teal:** Here through the month. Most - 60/20 Buttercup West BMA; 23/10 Round Pd Amenia DK.

\* **Redhead:** 1/21 CIES VM

**Ring-necked Duck:** Most around the Thompson Pond area thru the 6<sup>th</sup>. Peak - 150/1 Twin Island Lk MR; Last - 2/23 Ryder Pd DK.

**Greater/Lesser Scaup** (too far out to get specific ID): 50/1 Rhinecliff MR; 6/1 Mills-Norrie SP--Norrie Pt MR.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 1/19 Round Pd Amenia CP.

**Bufflehead:** 1/1 Mills SP JCo; 1/9 Hunns Lk DK; 5/12 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Common Goldeneye:** 1/1 Mills-Norrie SP--Norrie Pt MR; 4/9 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1/13 Madam Brett Pk AL; 2/28 Stissing Pd CP, BMA.

**Ruddy Duck:** 1/19 Round Pd Amenia CP.

**Common Loon:** 1/24 a flyover at Peach Hill CP.

\* **Ruffed Grouse:** 1/2 Buttercup MR. A good find.

\* **Red-necked Grebe:** 1/14 SJ; 1/15 SR; both reports from Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd.

### MARSH BIRDS

Several uncommon marsh birds found the wet meadows at Cary Lowlands. The standing water has stayed longer than usual, perhaps due to the March blizzard's slowly melting 2 feet of snow. American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail were heard by many and seen by a lucky few. The interesting marsh birds at Sharon Station have also returned.

**American Bittern:** At Cary -- First 1/8 FT; Last 1/11 LD, WLS, DH; At Cruger Island Rd -- 1/10, 1/12 SR; At HVRT Sharon Station Rd -- First 1/20 CV, AMP; Most 2/29 BMA; Last 1/30 HVRT Sharon Stn BMA, JA, CV.

\* Least Bittern: 2/30 HVRT Sharon Stn BMA, JA. First April record since the 1970s or 1980s.

**Great Blue Heron:** 6 active heronries around the county.

\* **Great Egret:** 1/10 Vanderburgh Cove CP, HT; Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd 1/22 SR, 1/23 DG; Unusual for April before 2015.

**Green Heron:** First 1/13 Hunns Lake Rd-Goose Chase Pd CV, AMP; Most 2/28 CIES BB. 11 records, avg 1 each.

\* **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 2/13, 2/15 SR; 1/14 SJ. All at Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd.

**Virginia Rail:** 18 records, avg 2 each. First 1/15 Bontecou Wetland Area FT; First at HVRT Sharon Station 2/19 CP, Most at HVRT 5/30 JA; First at CIES 1/20 BMA, DK, most 3/23 CIES BMA. Some will stay to nest.

**Sora:** 6 records. At CIES Lowlands heard often and seen by a lucky few. First 1/22 CIES MR, CV, CP, BMA, CP, SL, AP and continuing thru end of month; 1/27 HVRT Sharon Stn BMA.

**Common Gallinule:** Returned to Sharon Station Rd at the HVRT. First 1/19 Lower Sharon Stn Rd CP; Most 6/30 HVRT Sharon Stn JA. We expect they will nest as they did last year.

**Wilson's Snipe:** First 1/3 CIES BMA; 18/9 CIES at Fowler Rd CV; 18/12 CIES LD, WHS Last report from CIES; Many observers at CIES heard them calling. Also other places -- 6/9 McEnroe Puddle, Amenia CV; 1/12 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR; Last report - 12/15 Strever Fm MR. 36 records, avg 5 each.

**RAPTORS** -- Here as usual: Black and Turkey Vultures, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks.

**Osprey:** 1/27 near Bannerman's Island BN; Most -- 2/23 Mashomack DK; 2/24 TMR Fm CP; 2/25 Norrie Pt BMA. 36 records, avg 1 each.

\* **Golden Eagle:** 1/1 Strever Fm DK; 1/7 Tamarack Lk AMP.

**Northern Harrier:** Last 1/27 HVRT Coleman Stn AL; Most 2/7 Mashomack DK; 11 records, avg 1 each.

**Bald Eagle:** Most - 3/2 Berkshire Rd Dover TV; 3/2 Strever Fm MR; 3/5 Bowdoin Pk FT. 56 records, avg 1 each.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First 2/8 yd Rhinebeck MP; Most 3/12 Lake Rd, Pine Plains DK; 19 records, avg 1 each.

**SHOREBIRDS** -- Killdeer and Woodcock around all month.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 1/21 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR; 1/29 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 1/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 19 records, avg 2 each. First 1/21 CIES CV; 1/21 Daley Fm, 787 North Ave, Salt Pt BMA; Most - 5/30 Vassar Fm DE; 4/28 CIES BB.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 4/10 Sharon Stn Rd - vernal pond CP, HT, DK; Most 9/22 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1/28 CIES AMP; 1/30 Strever Fm MR.

**Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs:** 16/23 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd DG

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1/29 CIES CV; 1/30 Peach Hill DK.

**Chimney Swift:** First 2/27 Vassar Fm DWe; Most 6/29 yd Rhinebeck MP;

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First 1/24 Purgatory Hill Pawling TV; 1/29 yd Salt Pt LM; 1/30 yd Rhinebeck MP.

**WOODPECKERS** -- Observed in the usual numbers.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Some here thru the winter, but numbers increased during April.

### FALCONS

**American Kestrel:** Most 8/5 Stissing Mountain Rd Pine Plains, perched on cedar, interacting, hunting DK. 59 records.



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**Merlin:** 1/8 over house Clinton Corners AP; 1/15 Greig Fm Pitcher Ln MR; 1/22 Buttercup West JCo.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 1/7 Drake Lk BMA; 1/30 Nellie Hill SC.

### FLYCATCHERS

**Willow Flycatcher?:** 1/21 MN; 1/21 AL, MK; 1/22 JCo all at Buttercup West; Very early. Obs didn't hear the fitz-bew. Photos available, but this is an empidonax, so it's hard to say.

**Least Flycatcher:** 12 records, avg 2 each. First 1/24 CIES JAll; Most 4/30 Deep Hollow Rd MR.

**Eastern Phoebe:** All over! Most 25/9 Buttercup "Multiples in multiple locations" MR; 5/16 CIES 3 at Fern Glen (pr building a nest near creek weather station) DK; 2/23 yd Rhinebeck pair building nest under eave of barn MP.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** On the 29<sup>th</sup> some showed up in 4 different places. Most 4/29 Buttercup MR.

**Eastern Kingbird:** First 1/28 CIES BB, DK, CP; Found in 5 places in 3 days.

**VIREOS** – As usual, Blue-headed and Warbling arrive first and second of the Vireos. The rest usually don't get here until May, but this year a few of each made it by end of April.

**White-eyed Vireo:** 1/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT; 1/30 Peach Hill DK.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1/29 yd Millbrook JA; 2/30 SE Mountain Rd Wingdale MR; 1/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** First 1/15 Tivoli Bays Kidd Ln MR; Most 4/22 Southlands MP; 3/22 Taconic-Hereford MUA BMA. 18 records, avg 1 each.

**Warbling Vireo:** First 1/24 CIES JAll; Most 5/30 HVRT Sharon Stn MR; 4/29 Buttercup MR. 29 records, avg 2 each.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 1/28 Rombout & Freedom Plains Rd AMP; 1/29 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 1/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT.

**SWALLOWS** – Trees arrived in March, Barn and Rough-wing during the first week of April.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** First 2/5 Reagan Rd CP; Most 15/6 Wapp Crk JCo. 40 records, avg 3 each.

**Purple Martin:** 8/28 Knight Rd., horse fields CP; 7/28 RT82 near Jameson Hill Rd BMA.

**Tree Swallow:** Most 94/8 CIES FT; 75/7 Drake Lk BMA.

**Bank Swallow:** 1/29 Poughkeepsie-Walkway Over the Hudson DW. Later arrival than usual.

**Barn Swallow:** First 1/6 CIES DK; Most 20/20 Vassar Fm KC; 14/30 Southlands MP. 54 records, avg 4 each.

**Cliff Swallow:** 2/24 collecting mud Mashomack DK; 2/30 Mashomack DK; 8/29 Tower Hill Rd Millbrook BM.

**CHICKADEES to WRENS** – Chickadee, titmouse, and WB nuthatch as usual.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** They are still around some feeders as they have been all winter. Reports of more than 1 -- 2/8 CIES FT; 2/9 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM; 2/19 Dutchess Rail Trl-Hopewell Junction FT.

**Brown Creeper:** Most 2/21 Buttercup MN; 2/22 Taconic-Hereford MUA BMA.

**House Wren:** First 1/15 yd Millbrook JA; Most 14/29 Peach Hill CP. 52 records, avg 2 each.

**Winter Wren:** First 1/1 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd JCo; Most 2/22 Taconic-Hereford MUA BMA; 1/22 Dover Stone Church FT; 1/29 Washington, Deep Hollow Rd CP. 5 other reports.

**Marsh Wren:** 1/30 HVRT Sharon Stn BMA. They usually arrive in May.

**Carolina Wren:** Still in good numbers from the winter. Most 4/5 Dennings Pt AL; 2/5 Bowdoin Pk FT; 2/14 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SJ.

### GNATCATCHERS and KINGLETS

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First 1/9 Clinton Nature Trl BMA; Most - 12/20 Tivoli Bays Kidd Ln "numerous individuals all over WMA" ESh; 10/27 Buttercup W FT. 66 records, avg 3 each.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Last 1/26 Vanderbilt NHS LM; Most 15/7 Hopeland JCo; 11/8 Buttercup MR. 26 rcds, avg 4 each.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First 1/3 CIES BMA; Most - 20/22 Buttercup MR; 12/21 Nuclear Lk CP. 119 records, avg 3 each.

**THRUSHES** – Robins and Bluebirds are always a welcome sight thru the winter. Now joined by their "snowbird" relatives that come north to breed. Still waiting for the migrant Swainson's and Gray-cheeked.

**Veery:** 1/29 CIES CP, HT; 1/29 Deep Hollow Rd, Millbrook DK; 1/30 Buttercup East DK; 1/30 SE Mountain Rd Wingdale HT, CP. Early, usually arrive in May.

**Hermit Thrush:** First 1/5 Bowdoin Pk FT; Most - 3/23 Buttercup West CV; 2/22 Buttercup West CP; 2/28 Peach Hill AL. 17 records, avg 1 each.

**Wood Thrush:** Most 3/29 CIES MF; 3/29 Peach Hill CP; 2/30 Berkshire Rd Dover HT, CP. Early, usually arrive in May. 9 records, avg 2 each.

**Gray Catbird:** First 1/5 Dennings Pt AL; 1/18 Peach Hill JCo; These 2 were scouts. The rest of the catbirds arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup> or later. Most 14/29 Peach Hill CP; 12/30 HVRT Sharon Stn MR. 41 records, avg 4 each.

**Brown Thrasher:** First 1/9 Tivoli Bays WMA SR; Most 4/30 Peach Hill BCA; Most reports are from the 20<sup>th</sup> and later. 38 records, avg 1 each.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Most 7/30 TMR Fm CP, HT. 64 records, avg 2 each.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Most - 44/26 "Very large flock feeding on buds in a tree." Buttercup West MS, KS; 30/7 Hopeland JCo; 16/23 Buttercup East JAll. 18 records, avg 8 each.

### WARBLERS

**The early warblers –**

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** First 1/5 Wappinger yd MeF; Most 4/14 Depot Hill CP. 49 records, avg 2 each.

**Palm Warbler:** First 1/4 CIES DK; Most 14/21 Buttercup MN; 13/19 HVRT Amenia CP. 90 records, avg 4 each.

**Pine Warbler:** First 2/5 CIES CF, CP, BMA; 2/5 Hopeland DK; Most 5/23 Tymor Pk BB. 28 records, avg 2 each.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First 4/8 CIES FT; Most 32/20 Buttercup West BMA; 28/19 Dutchess Rail Trl-Hopewell Junction FT; 25/22 CIES MR. 73 records, avg 6 each.

*\* Not usually an early warbler...* **Common Yellowthroat:** First 1/9 Purgatory Hill Pawling TV; next sightings - 2/28 CIES BB, DK; 21 records, avg 2 each. This is a new early date, the previous being April 13, 2002.

**The First wave -- 20<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Blue-winged Warbler:** First 1/24 Peach Hill CP; Most 6/30 Nellie Hill SC; 9/30 Peach Hill DK, DE. 23 records, avg 3 each.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** First 1/20 Buttercup West BMA; 1/20 CIES SL; 1/20 yd Stanfordville DK; Most 9/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT; 8/30 Nellie Hill SC. 38 records, avg 2 each.

**Yellow Warbler:** First 1/20 Andrew Haight Rd. DK; Most 14/29 CIES HT, CP; 11/29 Peach Hill CP. Began arriving in



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small numbers by the 24th, then larger numbers by the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
64 records, avg 3 each.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** First 1/24 Peach Hill CF; Most 3/30 Peach Hill DE, CF; 2/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT. 7 records, avg 2 each.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** First 2/24 Ferncliff SR; Most 8/29 Deep Hollow Rd AMP; 7/29 Deep Hollow Rd CP. 14 records, avg 3 each.

**The BIG wave – 28<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup>, included several not “due” until May.**

**Ovenbird:** First 2/28 CIES MF; 1/28 Rt 83 & 70, Pine Plains BMA; Most 16/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT. 14 rcds, avg 3 each.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1/29 Berkshire Rd Dover DK, JA; 1/30 Berkshire Rd Dover CP, HT.

**Northern Waterthrush:** 1/28 Buttercup West CP, BMA.

**\* Golden-winged Warbler:** 3/29 Deep Hollow Rd south of bridge AMP.

**\* Brewster's Warbler (hybrid):** 1/30 Peach Hill DK, photographed.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 1/30 Peach Hill DK; 1/30 Vassar Fm DE.

**Nashville Warbler:** 3/30 Berkshire Rd Dover CP, HT; 1/30 Peach Hill DE, EW; 1/30 Vassar Fm DE; 1/30 Verbank yd BB.

**Hooded Warbler:** 2/30 Pawling Nature Rsv FT

**American Redstart:** First 1/27 Hi View Rd Wapp AJM; Most 2/29 SE Mountain Rd Wingdale DK. 12 records, avg 1 each.

**\* Cerulean Warbler:** 3/30 SE Mountain Rd Wingdale MR.

**Northern Parula:** 1/29 Deep Hollow Rd AMP, AMP; 2/29 Peach Hill CP; 1/30 Peach Hill DK; 2/30 Vassar Fm DE.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 5/29 Buttercup MR.

**Prairie Warbler:** First 1/28 CIES MF; 1/28 Homan Rd, Stanfordville DK; Most 8/30 Nellie Hill SC; 4/29 Peach Hill BCA. 8 records, avg 2 each.

**The unexpected...**

**\* Prothonotary Warbler:** 1/27 CIES AMP – south bridge. Observed for about a minute, then flew away. Well described. 1/29 CIES CP, HT - Heard singing south of the north bridge by observers very familiar with song.

**SPARROWS** - Song and White-throated Sparrows in usual numbers.

**American Tree Sparrow:** Most 6/1 yd Rhinebeck MP; Last 1/15 yd Stanfordville DK; 13 records, avg 2 each.

**Chipping Sparrow:** First 1/3 yd Lagrange SRE; Most 14/6 Berkshire Rd Dover SM; 15/16 CIES MR; 15/29 Peach Hill BCA. 170 records, avg 3 each.

**Field Sparrow:** Most 20/15 Greig Fm Pitcher Ln MR; 14/29 Peach Hill CP. 131 records, avg 3 each.

**\* Fox Sparrow:** Last 1/20 Tivoli Bays Kidd Ln ESh; Most 4/5 Bowdoin Pk FT; 4/8 CIES SL. 11 records, avg 2 each.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Last 1/27 CIES BMA, LM; Most 35/2 Buttercup MR; 25/6 Wapp yd BAM. 109 records, avg 5 each.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** First 1/29 Wappinger yd MeF; Most 6/30 Peach Hill DE; 2 other reports.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1/21 CIES CV; 1/24 & 25 Taylor Rd Coleman Stn AK.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Most 6/22 & 30 Southlands MP; 6/25 Taylor Rd Coleman Stn AK; 21 records, avg 3 each.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Most 20/22 CIES MR; 20/29 Buttercup MR; 15/30 HVRT Sharon Stn MR. 94 records, avg 4 each.

**Eastern Towhee:** First 1/5 Bowdoin Pk FT; Most 30/24 Peach Hill CP; 116 records, avg 3 each. All reports of 10 or more are from towhee heaven, aka Peach Hill.

### GROSBEAKS - Northern Cardinals

**Scarlet Tanager:** 1/29 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 1/30 Berkshire Rd Dover CP, HT.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** First 1/15 yd Milan FM; Most 5/29 Peach Hill CP; 4/28 yd Milan FM; 4/30 Verbank yd BB. 22 records, avg 2 each. Began arriving in numbers on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**\* Indigo Bunting:** 1/29 Berkshire Rd Dover JA. An early arrival. They don't usually arrive in numbers until mid-May.

**BLACKBIRDS** – Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds as usual.

**Bobolink:** 1/29 Deep Hollow Rd AMP. Unusual in April.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Most 2/7 N Mabbettsville Rd and Andrew Haight Rd JA; 2/14 Vassar Fm MK; 2/21 Daley Fm, North Ave, Salt Pt BMA; 2/29 Deep Hollow Rd AMP. 10 records, avg 1 each.

**Rusty Blackbird:** First 3/2 CIES DK; Last 2/28 CIES DK; Most 25/9 Clinton Nature Trl BMA; 20/14 CIES DK; 3/13 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR. 43 records, avg 4 each. Most reports from CIES Lowlands (26), then Tivoli Bays (4).

**Orchard Oriole:** Most 3/30 Peach Hill BCA; other reports - 1/29 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 1/30 HVRT Sharon Stn BMA.

**Baltimore Oriole:** First 1/28 CIES DK, LM; Most - 3/28 Peach Hill AL; 3/30 Southlands MP. 25 records, avg 2 each. 7 of the reports are from Peach Hill.

**FINCHES** - House Finches and American Goldfinches as usual.

**\* Purple Finch:** Most 12/6 Depot Hill CP; 10/22 yd Salt Pt LM. Up to 5 at a dozen feeders. A treat! 61 records, avg 3 each.

**\* White-winged Crossbill:** 3/22 Hyde Pk-Vanderbilt NHS feeding on hemlock cones on the ground under a hemlock tree GP, RS; 3/26 Vanderbilt NHS Three birds were spotted together high in a deciduous tree in front of the Visitors Center at about 8:15 for five minutes. Photos BMA.

**\* Pine Siskin:** 1/10 Wapp yd at feeder (briefly) BJM; 1/11-12 yd Milan SJ.

**Observers** - Janet Allison (JAlI); John Askildsen (JA); Bob & Cyd Averill (BCA); Renée Burgevin (RB); Barbara Butler (BB); Sean Carroll (SC); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Jamie Collins (JCo); Kevin Cornell (KC); Lisa Dellwo (LD); Ethan Dropkin (ED); John & Abby Dux (JAD); Derrick Eidam (DE); Scott Fackenthall (SfA); Bud & Bonnie Fair (BBF); Debbie Fargione (DF); Michael Fargione (MF); Claudius Feger (CF); Melissa Fischer (MeF); Mary & Ron Gall (MG); Russell Gerry (RGe); Natalie Gilbert (NG); Doug Gochfeld (DG); Ryan Goldberg (RGo); David Grover (DG); Richard Guthrie (RG); David Hayes (DH); Susan Joseph (SJ); Kyle Kassmann (KK); Maha Katnani (MK); Alex Kearney (AK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Gordon Lam (GLa); Gary Leavens (GL); Janet Leavens (JL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Barbara Mansell (BMA); Frank Margiotta (FM); Liz Martens (LM); Sariena Masiero (SM); Jack Mckee (JM); Vincent Meyer (VM); Allan Michelin (AJM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Michael Nicosia (MN); Bruce Nott (BN); Gerhard Patsch (GP); Mona Payton (MP); Alan Peterson (AP); Margaret Phillips (MPH); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Shelly Redl (SRE); Susan Rogers (SR); Jane Rossman (JR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); William Schlesinger (WHS); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Robert Senerchia (RS); Elisa Shaw (ESh); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Clay Spencer (CS); Eileen Stickle (ESi); Alan Strassler (AS); Beverly Sullivan (BS); Herb Thompson (HT);

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Tricia van Oers (TV); Chet Vincent (CV); Sharon Weber (SW);  
Eliza Wein (EW); Deborah Weltsch (DWe); David Winkler  
(DW)

Editor – Barbara Butler

## MAY 2017 RECORDS

This May was cooler and wetter than normal. Some trees, like maples, were leafed out by mid-month. Even the 4 days of 80s-95 during the third week didn't open all the rest. The walnut trees didn't come out fully until month's end. Frequently visited locations were Peach Hill, Cary IES, and Buttercup.

**Notation** - #/day, for example 3/10 means 3 birds were found on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### WATERFOWL –

Resident ducks and geese were raising young ones all over. Female **Hooded Mergansers** with ducklings were reported from Cary IES on the 2<sup>nd</sup> by BMa and DK. SJ reported a **Common Merganser** flying into a hole in a sycamore at CIES on the 19<sup>th</sup>. **Wood Duck** female with 4 downy young found at Berkshire Rd by JA in the 28<sup>th</sup>. The season's last **Green-winged Teal** departed on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Common Loon** – 2/2 flyovers at Peach Hill CV; 1/7 Mills SP LM; 1/13-20 at Hunns Lake by DK, MR. **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Tamarack Lk, Bog Hollow Rd Amenia, and Peach Hill. The other 8 records were all on or near the Hudson.

**Ruffed Grouse**: 1/21 Buttercup East DK (only record).

**Wild Turkey** well reported in groups up to 8.

MARSH BIRDS – Great Blue and Green Herons normal.

**American Bittern**: all 5 records from HVRT Sharon Stn. first 2/1 CV; last 1/21 GB.

**Least Bittern**: 2/2 HVRT Sharon Stn JAll, CP; 1/29 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd, flying near the roundabout lookout to north bay. PSt.

**Great Egret**: 1/7 Strever Fm MR (only record). We get a few records in spring, but not every year.

**Virginia Rail**: 5 records. From HVRT Sharon Stn 2/1 CP; 2/21 HVRT Sharon Stn GB; 1/20 Berkshire Rd Dover. Calling repeatedly from wetland east of Berkshire Rd. JA.

**Sora**: 1/3 CIES Lowlands JCLi (continuing from April)

**Common Gallinule**: 7 records, avg 2 each. All at HVRT Sharon Stn GB, MR; most 3/1 Lower Sharon Stn Rd CV;

HAWKS – Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-tailed normal.

**Black and Turkey Vultures** are around in the usual numbers, with over 5 times as many Turkey reports as Blacks.

**Osprey**: 20 records, avg 1 each. Most, a surprising 4/2 Peach Hill CV; Last on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Buttercup JAll and Tivoli Bays SR.

**Swallow-tailed Kite**: 1/20 over Hopewell Reformed Church by Jeff Gerlach, reported in the Hudson River Almanac. Details at the end of the records.

**Northern Harrier**: 4 records, avg 1 each. Last and most 2/19 Bangall Amenia Rd MR.

**Bald Eagle**: 26 reports. No mention of nesting in our reports, but Hudson River Almanac notes active nests in the county.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**: 47 records, most 3/6 CIES Lowlands BMa; 3/21 yd Rhinebeck MP.

**Broad-winged Hawk**: 21 records, most 3/14 Berkshire Rd EF.

SHOREBIRDS – **Killdeer** nesting noted.

**Spotted Sandpiper**: 24 records, avg 2 each. Most 3/6 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR; 3/28 Montgomery PI PSt.

**Solitary Sandpiper**: 50 records, avg 2 each. Last 1/24 Tamarack Prsv FT; Most 15/2 Rt 199 Pulvers Corners marsh CP I counted them individually 3 times.

**Greater Yellowlegs**: 7 records, avg 1 each. First 1/2 Separate Rd Amenia CP; Last 1/21 Separate Rd Amenia CP, HT; Most 3/9 Stanford-Uphill Fm Salt Pt Tpke SJ.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**: 6 records, avg 1 each. Last 1/14 Randall Rd, Amenia BB; 1/14 Strever Fm MR; Most 3/1 Strever Fm CV; Also at Uphill Farm BMa, SJ.

**Least Sandpiper**: 8 records, avg 2 each. First 1/2 Elk Ravine Fm CP; Last & Most 6/14 Strever Fm MR.

**Wilson's Snipe**: 1/2 HVRT Sharon Stn JAll; 1/2 Rt 199 Pulvers Corners marsh CP.

**American Woodcock**: 1/14 CIES Lowlands EF; 2/21 CIES Lowlands VM; 1/27 Route 308, Rhinebeck MR.

GULLS, DOVES and CUCKOOS – **Ring-billed Gull**, **Herring Gull**, **Rock Pigeon**, and **Mourning Dove** – usual numbers.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 28 records, avg 1 each; Most - all at Nuclear Lake - 2/17 FT; 2/19 MR; 2/23 BMa.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**: 20 records, avg 1 each. Most – all at Peach Hill - 2/2 GZ; 1/16 CP, DK; 2/21 MR, BMa, SJ.

OWLS to KINGFISHERS – Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher in the usual numbers.

**Eastern Screech-Owl**: 1 ea from 3 sites around Pine Plains..

**Great Horned Owl**: 1/1 CIES CS (only record).

**Barred Owl**: 34 records, avg 1 each. Most 3/1 CIES MF; 2/30 Rowe Rd MR.

**Common Nighthawk**: 9 records, avg 1 each. First 1/9 Hopeland KZ; 1/11 Ridge Rd bridges at Cooperstown Rd CP; Last 1/28 yd Mabbettville JA; Most 4/21 CIES Lowlands VM; Notable: 1/16 CIES Lowlands perched near North Bridge DK, LM, SJ, BMa.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will**: 1/8 Ridge Rd bridges at Cooperstown Rd CP; 2/12 Cooperstown Rd C Graham.

WOODPECKERS – **Red-bellied**, **Downy**, **Flicker**, **Pileated**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Hairy** in usual numbers (listed in order of abundance.)

**Red-headed Woodpecker**: All reports from North Mabbettville Rd. 1/11 sitting on a fence along the road DK; 1/12 1 adult on fence rail Millbrook JA; 1/13 DK. Photo by DK.

FALCONS –

**American Kestrel**: 14 records, avg 1 each. Most 2/1 CIES Lowlands near Fowler Rd bridge CS; 2/3 Peach Hill FT; 2/12 North Mabbettville Rd CP.

**Peregrine Falcon**: 1/8 Millbrook Fowler Rd BF (only report).

FLYCATCHERS – Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher well reported.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 1/27 Cobb Ridge, Red Hook Heard the distinct "quick three beers"! SR; 1/28 Guski Rd Red Hook CP, HT, BMa; 1/31 CIES Lowlands Seen swooping down from branch to catch dragonfly, then eating dragonfly with violent head shakes in alder branch SC.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**: Well reported. First 1/10 Ferncliff BMa; 1/10 Pawling Nature Rsv KH; Most 8/31 Thompson Pd FT; There were few reports until the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 1/28 Peach Hill MR (only record).

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**Acadian Flycatcher:** 8 records, avg 1 each. First 2/17

Nuclear Lk CP, CF; 1/24 Tamarack Prsv FT; 1/28 CIES DK; 2/28 Washington, Deep Hollow Rd CP, HT.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 22 records, avg 2 each. First 2/18 Millbrook Schl BMa; 1/18 Peach Hill CP; Most 6/24 Peach Hill BMa.

**Willow Flycatcher:** 53 records, avg 2 each. First 2/16 CIES Lowlands DK, BMa; Most at Peach Hill 4/19 SR; 4/28 MR.

**Least Flycatcher:** 70 records, avg 2 each. Most 8/17 Nuclear Lk FT; 7/31 Thompson Pd FT; Notable: 2/29 Buttercup 1 with nesting material (cattail) MR.

**Eastern Kingbird:** 147 records, avg 2 each. Most 13/3 Peach Hill 10 together in one tree for most of group to see then flew together over our heads FT; 2/19 exhibiting nesting behavior Red Hook Golf Club MP.

VIREOS -- Red-eyed Vireo in the usual places.

**White-eyed Vireo:** 21 records, avg 1 each. Most 3/3 Peach Hill CP; All reports from Peach Hill, except 1/3 Stone Church Rd & Yantz Rd SS; 1/27 Buttercup East CP.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 97 records, avg 2 each. Most 8/6 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 7/21 Buttercup West AMP.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 21 records, avg 1 each. Last 1/24 Tamarack Prsv FT; Most 2/3 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; 2/4 Stony Kill KH; 2/19 Peach Hill MR. They'll nest in a few locations here, but most go on north.

**Warbling Vireo:** Widespread. Most 10/17 Nuclear Lk FT; 8/31 Thompson Pd FT; Plus - 2/31 CIES Lowlands Nesting in sycamore right above south bridge SC.

JAYS and CROWS – Blue Jays, American Crows normal.

**Fish Crow:** 24 records, avg 2 each. Most 5/2 Peach Hill CV; 3/17 pd. Westage Pk. Fishkill BJM; 3/28 Vassar Fm EW.

**Common Raven:** 45 records, avg 1 each. Most 4/31 Thompson Pd FT; 3/4 Stony Kill KH; Also –reports of crows chasing Ravens at Peach Hill and Dutchess Mall.

SWALLOWS – Tree and Barn Swallows here and nesting.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 33 records, avg 3 each. Most 15/12 Route 82 Sand & Gravel JA; 10/20 Mt Beacon JKU.

**Purple Martin:** 5 records, avg 4 each. 5/1 at nest box Milewood Rd, Millbrook BB; 5/19 Knight Rd SJ; 6/25 Verbank Rd, Millbrook DK.

**Bank Swallow:** 14 records, avg 40 each. Most - 120/12 Route 82 Sand & Gravel JA; 200/19 & 21 Wassaic gravel pit Rt 22.

Large colony in gravel banks. The birds appear to be excavating and settling in, not yet sitting on eggs CP, HT.

**Cliff Swallow:** 16 records, avg 8 each.; Hosner Mtn Rd: 8/4 CP; 10/6 CF; 30/23 30 is likely a low count. A few nests have been taken over by House Sparrows. CP; Other locations 4/12 Tower Hill Rd Millbrook 2 nests seen w/ scope BMa, LM, SJ; 2/13 Mashomack DK.

CHICKADEES to CREEPERS – Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch- normal.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 14 records, avg 1 each. First 1/1 Milan yd FM; Last 1/18 Verbank yd BB; Most 2/10 Ferncliff FT.

**Brown Creeper:** 12 records, avg 1 each. 2/10 Ferncliff FT; 2/21 Buttercup West AMP.

WRENS to KINGLETS - House Wren, Carolina Wren, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – normal

**Winter Wren:** 5 records. 3/6 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 3/12 Deep Hollow Rd SJ, LM, BMa; 3/24 Tamarack Prsv FT.

**Marsh Wren:** 10 records, avg 4 each. First 1/3 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd SR; Most 15/17 Bard Campus AG; 1/20 Buttercup West DK; 6/21 Vanderburgh Cove CP, HT; Rest of reports are from Tivoli Bays.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 24 records, avg 2 each. Last 1/11 Tivoli Bays SR; Most 6/2 Tivoli Bays Kidd Ln ESh; 6/4 Buttercup East JAIL.

THRUSHES to WAXWINGS – normal: American Robin, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird

**Eastern Bluebird:** 180 records, avg 2 each. Most 12/12 Southlands JClo; 8/20 Southlands MP. Young in boxes noted.

**Veery:** Well reported. Most 30/15 Crown Maple farm TW; 16/21 Washington, Deep Hollow Rd CP, HT; 16/24 Tamarack Prsv FT.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 31 records, avg 2 each. First 1/3 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; Last 1/28 Guski Rd Red Hook BMa; 1/28 Peach Hill AL; Most - 3/17 Nuclear Lk FT; 3/21 Peach Hill MR; 3/21 Reese Sanctuary KH.

**Hermit Thrush:** 8 records, avg 2 each. Most 5/28 Montgomery PI PSt; Plus reports from Ferncliff, Buttercup, Peach Hill, CIES, Cruger Isl Rd.

**Brown Thrasher:** 74 records, avg 2 each. Most - 5/3 Peach Hill JA; 5/14 Peach Hill BMa, LM;

**Cedar Waxwing:** 87 records, avg 8 each. Most - 50/28 Montgomery PI PSt; 40/6 Peach Hill JCo.

**WARBLERS** --- Many arrived before May. For those, no First report is noted.

The MIGRANTS -- The highlights of our May birding.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 30 records, avg 2 each. Last 1/26 CIES Lowlands DK; Most 5/21 Peach Hill MR.

**Nashville Warbler:** 32 records, avg 2 each. Last 1/20 Peach Hill BMa, SJ; Most 4/3 Peach Hill FT; 3/4 Buttercup East JAIL; 3/10 Ferncliff BMa.

**Mourning Warbler:** 8 records, avg 1 each. First 1/4 Bedell Meadow CF; 1/4 Stony Kill only heard KH; 1/16-21 Peach Hill; Most 2/18 Peach Hill CP; 1/19 Buttercup East CP.

**Cape May Warbler:** 10 records, avg 1 each. First 2/3 Peach Hill FT; Last 1/24 Peach Hill BMa; Other locations -- 1/4 Stony Kill KH; 2/17 Nuclear Lk FT; 1/16 1m Wapp yd AJM.

**Northern Parula:** 60 recds, avg 2 each. Last 1/31 Thompson Pd FT; Most 6/3 Peach Hill BMa; 5/10 Ferncliff BMa.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 41 records, avg 2 each. First 1/2 Peach Hill GZ, BMa; Most 5/4 Peach Hill CF; Last 1/28 Guski Rd Red Hook CP, HT, BMa; 1/28 Peach Hill AL.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 12 records, avg 1 each. First 1/4 Peach Hill MK; 1/4 Stony Kill KH; The rest of the reports were from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Last 1/22 Peach Hill CF, CP; Most 2/17 Nuclear Lk FT; Peach Hill (2/19 BMa, DK; 2/20 JA).

**Blackpoll Warbler** – Arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, last date 28<sup>th</sup>. Wide spread reports. At Peach Hill from the 19<sup>th</sup> thru the 24<sup>th</sup> several observers who reported 12-22 birds each made comments like “in every tree”, “they were everywhere”. JA reported 40/20 saying “This is a conservative count! A large area of the southeast side of the orchard where the red and white trails intersect is infested with ‘inch worms’. Warblers were highly concentrated in this area.”

**Palm Warbler:** 11 records, avg 1 each. Most 2 ea at HVRT Sharon Sta & Peach Hill; Last 1/18 DRT Titusville - Rt55 Sl.

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**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 88 records, avg 4 each. Last 1/21 Buttercup BCA; Most 45/3 Peach Hill JA; 15/10 Ferncliff FT. Numbers declined after the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 1/3 CIES Lowlands JCLi (only record).

The SUMMER RESIDENTS -- Most breed here, some in very small numbers. Ovenbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler normal..

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 36 records, avg 3 each. Most 17/6 7/28 Berkshire Rd Dover walking the road for 2 miles JA; 5/10 Pawling Nature Rsv KH.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 52 records, avg 2 each. Most 8/24 Tamarack Prsv FT; 6/6 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 2/10 territorial squabbling W Clove Mountain Rd UnionVale DK; 6/12 Deep Hollow Rd - 3.7 Miles LM, SJ, BMA; 6/12 Tower Hill Rd Millbrook SJ, LM, BMA.

**Northern Waterthrush:** 24 records, avg 1 each. Last 1/23 Nuclear Lk BMA; Most 2 ea at HVRT Sharon Stn, CIES Lowlands, Crown Maple farm; 1/2 Heard and seen Valkill DH.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1/4 Peach Hill DK (only record).

**Brewster's Warbler** (hybrid): 14 records, avg 1 each. All reports but one are from Peach Hill - First 1/3 BMA, DK, CP, ESh; Last 1/28 MR, AL; The other place - 1/19 Hopeland ML.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 154 records, avg 2 each. Most 10/12 Deep Hollow Rd LM, BMA, SJ; 8/3 Peach Hill FT; 2/8 pair, female nest material in bill Slocum-Mostachetti Prsv BB.

**Hooded Warbler:** 20 records, avg 5 each. Most 23/6 12/28 Berkshire Rd Dover JA; 10/12 Berkshire Rd Dover HT, CP; Other locations -- 1/7 Buttercup West JA; 1/17 Hudson Highlands SP (Breakneck Ridge) MB; 2/18 W Clove Mountain Rd, Union Vale DK; 1/27 Stormville, AT, Rt 52 to I-84 KR.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 14 records, avg 1 each. Most 4/12 CP, HT, 2/6 JA, Last 2/19 MR, all at SE Mountain Rd Wingdale; Other locations -- 1/10 Pawling Nature Rsv KH; 1/16 Crown Maple farm TW; 1/17 Breakneck Ridge MB.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 29 records, avg 1 each. First 2/2 Tivoli Bays Kidd Ln ESh; Most 4/16 Crown Maple farm TW; 2/24 Tamarack Prsv Observed together in same tree. FT.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 90 records, avg 3 each. 6/10 Buttercup East territorial battles! DK; Most 11/12 Deep Hollow Rd - 3.7 Miles SJ, BMA, LM; 11/19 Buttercup East CP.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 66 records, avg 2 each. Most 7/10 Ferncliff FT; 7/11 Peach Hill CP; 5/16 Crown Maple farm TW; Last 1/28 Pawling, AT, west of Swamp River KR.

**Pine Warbler:** 14 records, avg 1 each. 2/6 SE Mountain Rd Wingdale JA; 2/7 CIES FT; 2/17 CIES BMA. They arrive in April and nest in white pines here.

**Prairie Warbler:** 59 records, avg 2 each. Most 6/20 Silver Lake Rd power line cut MR; 5/27 Nellie Hill DW; 5/27 Roger Perry Prsv TV.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 89 records, avg 2 each. Last 1/29 Deep Hollow Rd, Millbrook DK; Most 12/12 Deep Hollow Rd - 3.7 Miles SJ, BMA, LM; 9/4 Stony Kill KH.

**Canada Warbler:** 11 records, avg 1 each. First 1/4 Peach Hill MK; Last 1/24 Tamarack Prsv FT; Most 3/20 Peach Hill JA; They formerly nested in places like Nuclear Lake and Deep Hollow. Since 2005 (the last Breeding Bird Atlas) we've had very few June or July reports. Have they become migrants? Or just scarcer?

### THE SPECIAL CASES

**Kentucky Warbler:** 1/20 Buttercup West BMA (only record).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Persisted from April. Reported thru the 15<sup>th</sup>, mostly heard, but with a few sightings 2/1 CIES Lowlands CS; Last 1/15 CIES Lowlands DK.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1/22 Peach Hill CF, CP Bird was heard, recorded and seen. Singing loudly at northern edge of the first orchard (near the parking lot, east of the row of spruce trees), then flew to eastern edge and continued singing there.

SPARROWS --- Chipping, Field, Song, Swamp Sparrows as usual

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 3/10 Greig Fm SR; 2/27 Rockefeller Ln BMA; 1/28 Greig Fm MR.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 2/10 Thompson Pd EC; 1/12 Southlands JClo only reports.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 24 records, avg 2 each. Last 1/21 yd Salt Pt LM; Most 5/7 Peach Hill JA.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 97 records, avg 6 each. Last 1/24 Peach Hill RE; Most 41/8 Peach Hill counted streaming across path DK. All counts after the 9<sup>th</sup> were less than 10.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2/10 SR; 2/28 MR Greig Fm; only reports.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 16 records, avg 4 each. Most 20/10 Rockefeller Ln CP, CF; 14/12 Southlands JClo.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 1/9 Wappingers yd MeF; 1/11 Buttercup East JCo; 1/20 Peach Hill JA. 1/30 Peach Hill CF.

**Eastern Towhee:** Widespread, heard often. Highest numbers at Peach Hill and Buttercup East.

GROSBEAKS -- **Northern Cardinal** as usual.

**Scarlet Tanager:** Well reported. Most 11/12 Deep Hollow Rd SJ, BMA, LM; 4/31 Thompson Pd One adult male witnessed feeding young fledgling. FT.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Normal numbers in the usual places. BUT a contributor to the Hudson River Almanac reported a surprise at her feeder in the Town of Poughkeepsie. See separate article in this issue of Wings.

**Indigo Bunting:** 111 records, avg 2 each. 6/17 Hudson Highlands SP (Breakneck Ridge) MB; 10/19 & 21 Peach Hill MR. Here all month, but numbers increased after the 11th.

BLACKBIRDS -- Red-winged, Grackles, Cowbirds, and Baltimore Orioles as usual.

**Bobolink:** 56 records, avg 5 each. many/1 Pine Plains yd, Schultz Hill Rd JW; 50/10 at Rockefeller Ln CP, CF; up to 16 at Southlands MP, JClo and 10-17 at Burger Hill with nesting noted FM, LW.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 8 records, avg 1 each. 2/7 Strever Fm SR; 2/12 North Ave Salt Pt LM, BMA, SJ; 1/12 Southlands JClo; 1/12 Deep Hollow Rd - 3.7 Miles SJ, LM, BMA; 1/14 North Mabbettsville Rd CP. 1/20 Berkshire Rd Dover JA.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 1/4 Fran Mark Rec Pk Salt Pt BMA.

**Orchard Oriole:** 47 records, avg 2 each. Most 6/3 Peach Hill FT; 4/16 CIES Lowlands One first year male BMA; 3/21 Dutch's Spirits imm male mating w/ female MFr; 4/24 Hopeland PST.

FINCHES -- House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow as usual.

**Purple Finch:** 22 records, avg 2 each. 3/5 & 21 Purgatory Hill Pawling TV; 4/13 Spencer Drive BM; 4/27 Cobb Ridge, Red Hook SR; 3/27 Verbank yd BB.

**Pine Siskin:** 1/20 Mt Beacon JKu (only record).

OBSERVERS -- Janet Allison (JALL); John Askildsen (JA); Bob & Cyd Averill (BCA); Gail Benson (GB); Michael Bochnik (MB);

## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

Renee Burgevin (RB); Barbara Butler (BB); Sean Carroll (SC); Ed Chubb (EC); Jim Clinton (JCl); Jim Closs (JClo); Jamie Collins (JCo); Angela Dimmitt (AD); John & Abby Dux (JAD); Michael Fargione (MF); Claudius Feger (CF); Billy Fetzner (BF); Melissa Fischer (MeF); Dot Fleury (DF); Michael Fraatz (MFr); Eamon Freiburger (EF); Jane Graves (JG); David Grover (DG); Richard Guthrie (RG); Ken Harris (KH); David Hayes (DH); Erich & Janice Hetzel (EJH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Maha Katnani (MK); Jeffrey Kimball (JK); Aija Konrad (AK); Deborah Kral (DK); Justine Kupferman (JKu); Aimee Labarr (AL); Maury Lacher (ML); Scott Lenhart (SL); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Bill Maple (BM); Frank Margiotta (FM); Liz Martens (LM); Vincent Meyer (VM); Allan Michelin (AJM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Mona Payton (MP); Maryanne Pitts (MaP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Susan Rogers (SR); Jane Rossman (JR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Elisa Shaw (ESh); Paul Silverstein (PS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Clay Spencer (CS); Katie Zvokel Stewart (KS); Peter Stewart (PSt); Eileen Stickle (ESSt); Beverly Sullivan (BS); Sherman Suter (SS); Nancy Swanson (NS); Herb Thompson (HT); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Alison Van Keuren (AV); Tricia van Oers (TV); Chet Vincent (CV); Jane Waters (JW); Todd Watkins (TW); Laura Weir (LW); Ernie Welch (EW); Deborah Weltsch (DW); Gary Zylkuski (GZ)

Editor – Barbara Butler

### Entry from **Hudson River Almanac**

5/20 – Hopewell Junction, HRM 67: I was at the Hopewell Reformed Church in Hopewell Junction this morning when a **swallow-tailed kite** flew in and circled two large sycamore trees in the parking lot for a minute or two. I had great views of it but wished I had my camera. It was kite-size, white and black, with a forked tail. It appeared to be catching insects from the tree leaves and branches. This is a life bird for me and I know it is rare to be this far north but I don't know what else it could have been. - Jeff Gerlach

## JUNE 2017 RECORDS

June is the month that migrant birds start building nest, laying eggs and feeding their young. Goldfinch do not start nesting until August.

The month started out in the low to mid 70's with hot and humid weather by mid-month and through most of the month. We started our June field trips at 7:30am again this year and glad to finish by mid-morning on many trips.

**Waterfowl** - There were no reports of young for **Canada Geese or Mallards** this year. Young were reported for **Wood Ducks**.

**\*\*Brant:** 1/29 Poughkeepsie town-N Water St DW (only record).

**Mute Swan:** 3 records - 7/8 Twin Island Lk, 7/11 & 15 Tamarack Lk DK..

**\*\*Hooded Merganser:** 7/7 CIES Lowlands (2 family groups 1 hen/1 yg- 1 hen/4 yg) DK (only record).

**Common Merganser:** 2 records - 12/2 CIES Lowlands DK; 11/6 CIES Lowlands SC.

**Wild Turkey:** 24 records incl. 18/30 incl 15 poults yd Rhinebeck MP; 10/20: hen & 9 poults crossed road Verbank yd. BB.

**Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron & Green Heron:** Good numbers reported with at least 2 Great Blue Heron heronries in the county. **NOTABLE for Great Blue Heron** - 12/17 Old Rt 55 & Rt 292, Pawling (4 nests, all occupied by 2-4 birds ea.) BB; 7/25 Twin Island Lk (3 nests, 6 yg.) HT,CP.

**\*\*Least Bittern:** 1/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd PSt (only record). Heard. Soft coo-hoo-hoo-hoo roughly twice a minute for a few minutes.

**\*\*Great Egret:** 1/23 The Fly DK (only record).

**Hawks – Both Vultures, Bald Eagle (8 reports), Sharp-shinned (1 report), Cooper's (5 reports), Red-shouldered (28 reports) and Red-tailed Hawk** were well reported. **Bald Eagle:** no nest with young this year along the river were reported and **Red-shouldered Hawk** 3/3 Pond Gut prob. nesting JA.

**\*\*Osprey:** 6 records with 3 reports away from the Hudson River - 1/5 Long Dock Pk Beacon AL; 1/7 Pleasant Valley yd soaring overhead to or from Wapp. Creek SC; 1/11 Tamarack Lk DK; 1/14 DRT Rt 55 FT; 1/29 Tivoli Bays LQ.

**\*\*Broad-winged Hawk:** 6 records, avg. 1 ea. Max: 2/10 circling Red Hook Golf Club MP.

**Marsh birds - Virginia Rail:** 1/18 Buttercup West MR (only record).

**\*\*Common Gallinule:** 2/27 Sharon Stn Rd (marsh), Amenia DK (only record).

**Shorebirds - Killdeer:** 12 records, avg 2 ea. 2/3 f/on stone nest & 5/16-23 Red Hook Golf Club MP.

**\*\*Spotted Sandpiper:** 2 records - 1/4 Kidd Ln, Red Hook TL, JM, DW; 1/4 Madam Brett Pk JM, TL, DW.

**\*\*American Woodcock:** 3/1 Stony Kill KH (only record).

**Cuckoos - Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 16 records, avg 1 ea. Max: 2/3 Pond Gut JA; 2/7 Rockefeller Research Ctr FT.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 4 records -1/3 yd Stanfordville DK; 2/4 CIES FT; LAST: 1/28 CIES KH.

**Owls - Great Horned Owl:** 1/8 Verbank yd found a secondary feather in yd BB (only record).

**Barred Owl:** 8 records – incl. 1/2 Purgatory Hill Pawling TV; 1/22 yd Stanfordville DK; MAX: 2/7 yd Salt Pt BMA.

**Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird & Belted Kingfisher (9 reports):** Good numbers reported by most observers.

**Woodpeckers** -All are well reported with young being fed by **Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy, Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flicker** by most observers. **Pileated Woodpecker** good numbers by most observers.

**\*\*Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd PSt (only record).

**Falcons - American Kestrel:** 4 records, 1-2 ea. incl. 1/4 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; LAST: 2/28 CIES KH.

**\*\*Peregrine Falcon:** 3 records, avg 1 ea. FIRST 1/2 Kingston Bridge JP; LAST: 2/28 Hudson River near Rhinebeck PC.

**Flycatchers - Eastern Wood-Pewee Least (9 reports), Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested and Eastern Kingbird were well reported with Phoebe** noted with young & Adult fed cowbird/7 FT.

**\*\*Acadian Flycatcher:** 3 records - 3/3 Pond Gut JA; 1/21 Pond Gut AL; 2/25 Deep Hollow Rd, Wassaic CP.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 6 records, avg 1 ea. - 2/1 Peach Hill CP; 1/6 CIES Lowlands SC; 1/11 Salisbury Tpk, Milan MR; LAST 1/21 Pond Gut AL.

**Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher):** 1/2 CIES Lowlands DK (only record).

**\*\*Willow Flycatcher:** 14 records, avg 2 ea. incl. 2/2 Hopeland Area JP; 2/15 Allen Rd Salt Pt BMA: LAST 2/25 Woodward Hill Rd HT, CP; MAX 6/6 CIES Lowlands SC.

**Empidonax sp.:** 1/8 Buttercup East DK (only record).

**Vireos - Yellow-throated, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos** were well reported.

**\*\*White-eyed Vireo:** 3 records - 1/8 & 25 Buttercup East DK; 1/11 Buttercup West NC.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 2/3 Pond Gut JA (only record).

**American Crow:** well reported throughout the county.

**Fish Crow:** 12 records, avg. 2 ea. incl. - 1/1 Stony Kill KH; LAST 1/29 Tivoli Bays LQ; MAX 3/3 South Hills Mall KH; Increasing thru county and found at malls and plazas along with American Crows.

**Common Raven:** 9 records, avg. 2 ea. FIRST 1/3 yd Stanfordville DK; LAST 4/24 Poet's Walk Pk BMA; MAX 6/10 Buttercup West SC.

**Swallows – Tree and Barn** were well reported with nesting noted.



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**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 3 records - 4/1 Millbrook-Fowler Rd JPS; 3/2 Jobsen Swamp JP; 4/4 Madam Brett Pk DW, JM, TL.

**\*\*Bank Swallow:** 3 records, avg 2 ea. incl. 2/2 Jobsen Swamp JP; 1/4 Madam Brett Pk JM, TL, DW

**\*\*Cliff Swallow:** 3 records, 7/4 & 6 nest in use/24 Southlands flying up into eaves on north side of old dairy barn MP & FT; 5/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd PSt.

**Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wrens, House Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were well reported. **House Wren** nesting with young Bluebird Trail BJM

**\*\*Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1/1 Millbrook-Fowler Rd JPS (only record).

**Brown Creeper:** 3/3 Pond Gut JA (only record).

**Winter Wren:** 1/9 Deep Hollow Rd, Millbrook DK (only record).

**Marsh Wren:** 3 records - 5/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd PSt; 24/9 Tivoli Bays, Canoeing north bay. Marsh wrens sitting on nests everywhere SC; 10/29 Tivoli Bays LQ.

**Thrushes - Good numbers for Eastern Bluebird- 8 BBT monitors reports nest & young** (BBT- some doing good but many trail monitors are having problems with House Sparrows again this year] **Veery, Wood Thrush, Robin, Catbird and Northern Mockingbird** by many observers.

**\*\*Hermit Thrush:** 4 records - 2/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd PSt; 1/9 Tivoli Bays SC; 1/15 Dover Stone Church KH; 1/26 Hopeland Area PSt.

**Brown Thrasher:** 20 records, avg 2 ea. incl. 2/1 Peach Hill AL; 3/8 Allen Rd BMA; 1/23 The Fly DK; LAST 4/27 Hopeland KH.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Well reported - 81 records, avg. 5 ea. incl. 2/19 yd Stanfordville DK; 2/28 yd Fishkill ES; LAST 4/30 Stony Kill AL; MAX 30/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd PSt.

**Warblers – Ovenbird, Blue-winged, Black and White, Yellow, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Redstart, Prairie and Common Yellowthroat** were well reported. Warblers that breed here that were missed this June were Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Canada Warbler.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 8 records, avg 1 ea. MAX: 2/3 & 4 CIES MF, AP, FT; 2/15 Dover Stone Church KH; LAST 1/21 Pond Gut AL.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Good numbers - 18 records, avg 2 ea. MAX 3/5 Deep Hollow Rd, Wassaic CP, HT.

**\*\*Northern Waterthrush:** 2 records, 1/17 App Trl Pawling BB; 1/30 Stony Kill AL.

**\*\*Brewster's Warbler (hybrid):** 1/1 Peach Hill AL (only record).

**\*\*Hooded Warbler:** 1/7 Rockefeller Research Ctr MPh, JClo, FT, DK (only record).

**\*\*Magnolia Warbler:** 1/8 Buttercup East DK (only record).

**\*\*Blackburnian Warbler:** 1/3 Pond Gut JA (only record).

**\*\*Pine Warbler:** X/4 Rhinebeck BBS Survey route WY (only record).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 records, avg 3 ea. 4/3, 1/9, 2/27 Deep Hollow Rd, Millbrook DK; 2/15 Dover Stone Church KH; Max: 5/25 Deep Hollow Rd, Wassaic HT, CP.

**\*\*Yellow-breasted Chat:** 2 records, 1/17 Hopeland JS; 1/26 Hopeland Area PSt;

**Sparrows - Good numbers for Eastern Towhee, Chipping, Song & Field Sparrows - no young noted.**

**\*\*Savannah Sparrow:** X/4 Rhinebeck BBS route WY (only record).

**\*\*Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1/23 Schultz Hill Rd Pine Plains JW (only record).

**Swamp Sparrow:** 14 records, avg 3 ea. 2/1 CIES Lowlands DK; LAST 1/29 Tivoli Bays LQ; MAX: 12/17 App Trl Pawling BB.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 1/28 Appalachian Trl, Pawling NR (only record).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 1/26 Buttercup East LW (only record).

**Grosbeaks - Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting** were well reported. **Northern Cardinal** high numbers with young noted and NOTABLES: 13/18 June Count, Pawling/Beekman AMP; 13/21 Hopeland Area 2 pair. One bird observed going in and out of a nest. FT.

**Blackbirds – Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle** were in good numbers and feeding young noted. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were well reported.

**\*\*Bobolink:** 10 records, avg 6 ea. 10/3 Southlands MP; MAX: 12/11 Allen Rd from Hollow Rd to Clinton Hollow Rd, Salt Pt BMA; 12/25 Pine Plains, Schultz Hill Rd HT, CP.

**\*\*Orchard Oriole:** 13 records, avg 1 ea. 1/1 Peach Hill AL; 1/24 Poet's Walk Pk BMA; LAST: 2/27 Hopeland KH.

**Baltimore Oriole:** 71 records, avg 2 ea. MAX 8/7 Rockefeller Research Ctr MPh, FT, JClo, DK.

**Finch – House Finch and American Goldfinch** were well reported with young **House Finch** noted.

**Purple Finch:** 8 records, avg 2 ea. 2/1 Millbrook- Fowler Rd JPS; LAST 1/18 yd Salt Pt BMA; MAX 3/2 Purgatory Hill Pawling TV.

**Abbreviations:** BBT – Bluebird Trail, CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystems Studies, PNR – Pawling Nature Resv, RHGC – Red Hook Golf Course, TSF – The Southlands Farm

**Field Trips:** 6/4 - Cary/IES, 6/7 - Rockefeller Univ. Field Research Sta., 6/14 - DRT/Titusville Rd., 6/21 - Hopeland Sanctuary, 6/24 - Southland Farms, 6/28 - Orvis

**Additional info on some locations ---**

"June Count"-- The June Count is conducted the weekend of June 17-18 in the Pawling Christmas Bird Count circle.

Adrienne Popko covered parts of Nuclear Lake, Pleasant Ridge Road, Gardner Hollow Road plus nearby roads and West Mountain State Forest.

"Rhinebeck BBS route" -- BBS is the Breeding Bird Survey, a roadside protocol for monitoring breeding birds that covers routes with 25 stops of 3 minutes a half mile apart. Rhinebeck BBS route goes across northern Dutchess from Rhinebeck through Pine Plains. The observer reported the species, but not the counts.

**51 OBSERVERS:** John Askildsen (JA); Renee Burgevin (RB); Barbara Butler (BB); Sean Carroll (SC); George Chrisman (GC); Jim Closs (JClo); Jamie Collins (JCo); Nicholas Comparato (NC); A Downing (AD); Michael Fargione (MF); David Grover (DG); Ken Harris (KH); David Hayes (DH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Kyle Kassmann (KK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Tim

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Lenz (TL); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Liz Martens (LM); Jay McGowan (JM); Vincent Meyer (VM); Allan Michelin (AJM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Annie Novak (AN); Mona Payton (MP); Margaret Phillips (MPh); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Jay Powell (JP); Loren Quinby (LQ); Elizabeth Radley (ER); Jayne Rhynard (JR); Nick Russo (NR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); John Paul Schmidt (JPS); Justin Schmidt (JS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Peter Stewart (PSt); Herb Thompson (HT); Tricia van Oers (TV); Jane Waters (JW); Drew Weber (DW); Laura Weir (LW); Ernie Welch (EW); Deborah Weltsch (DW); Will Yandik (WY)  
Waterman Bird Club (FT)

## JULY 2017 RECORDS

By July the birds are well into their breeding season with many young fledglings out and about.

Weather – In July we had about 3/4 the normal rainfall. Rain mostly came in thunderstorms with widely varying amounts across the county. It was cooler than usual. There was a hot spell the 3<sup>rd</sup> week and then an overnight low of 46 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. When the weather is mentioned with the bird record reports, the source is usually the Cary IES weather station – you’ve seen it on top of the hill between the Fern Glen and Fowler Road. Their data can be viewed at the CIES website --- <http://www.caryinstitute.org/science-program/research-projects/environmental-monitoring-program>

About 3 or 4 years ago beavers built a new dam along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail near the Sharon Station Road (south) crossing. That flooded the land west of the Rail Trail over to Sharon Station Road creating great habitat for marsh birds. Since then we’ve found families of Common Gallinules each year. Both Bitterns (American and Least) have been heard and sometimes seen. The Virginia Rails that had inhabited the pond on the east side all along, flourished as well. Sometime before July 25<sup>th</sup>, the new beaver dam went out and the west pond drained, leaving only a few pools. The east pond remains full as its water level is maintained by a beaver dam under the trail at the bridge. The gallinules are still around. We’ll see how they and the others fare over the next few years.

The **Birds of the Month** are the 5 juvenile **White Ibises**, adding a new species to the Dutchess County list. Unfortunately they were at a location where access for birders was not possible. Five were also seen in Orange County July 13-17 and then two on Cape Cod from July 28 to Aug 17, and one near Saratoga August 22, all juveniles. Unknown if the same individuals appeared in more than one place. Like other herons, White Ibis wander after breeding. While most White Ibis are found in Florida and into South America, they have very slowly expanded to the north, to South Carolina in 1922, North Carolina in 1950, and Virginia in 1977. New York is about as far north as they regularly wander with most sightings being juveniles along the coast. While it is normal to see Ibises in flocks, some in the hundreds, sightings in the Northeast are generally of one individual. (Thanks to Stan DeOrsey for the above context about White ibis.)

I have been more selective than usual about the specific birds mentioned in this month’s report. There were 131 species reported for July. I have included details of only the more significant ones.

Notation: “count/day” For example 1/3 means that 1 bird was found on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July. This is followed by the location and the initials of the observer(s). See the list of observers at the end for the full name(s).

**Brant:** 1/3 Kaal Rock Pk AU (only record). (One reported in late June only a few miles north on the Hudson.)

**Least Bittern:** 1/25 HVRT Sharon Stn KS, MM, MS, LMc (only record).

**Great Egret:** 7 records. Singles seen various place thru the month; Most 14/25 Dennings Pt AL.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 2/25 Bowdoin Pk DK; 1/25 Dennings Pt AL; 1/26 Bowdoin Pk CF, CP.

**White Ibis:** 5 juveniles from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, then 2/29, last reported on Aug 1. At a private location in Mid-Dutchess where access was only possible for obtaining documentation. AMP,BB.

**Northern Harrier:** 1/21 Smithfield Valley Rd MY; 1/23 soaring low over interior cat-tail filled wetland FDRNHS PB. Unusual for July.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 10 records, avg 1 each. 2/3-4 Old Post Rd/Rt 9, Staatsburg - one perched, the other called from deep in the woods and the perched bird flew off in that direction DK; 2/16 Milan yard SJ. We usually have only 3 or fewer reports for July.

**Virginia Rail:** 2/20-1 Smithfield Valley Rd MY; 2/23 Buttercup MR.

**Common Gallinule:** 1/1 HVRT Sharon Stn SL; 3/2 HVRT Amenia DK; 7/7 HVRT Sharon Stn 3 ad 4 yg, 1 yg chased away by adult DF.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 5 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 3/5 Madam Brett Pk FT; LAST Date 26, 2 records.; 3/25 HVRT Sharon Stn MS, MM, LMc, KS; 1/26 Bowdoin Pk CP, CF; 2/26 Strever Fm CP.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 2/16 Strever Fm HT, CP; 1/26 Bowdoin Pk CP, CF; 1/27 Burger Hill LW. They don’t stick around through July every year – or they coming back early?

**Least Sandpiper:** 3/10 Millbrook School DK; 2/16 Strever Fm HT. Early migrants.

**Wilson's Snipe:** 1/9 Fish Woods Rd - Took flight from swamp near Taconic State Parkway and Ferris Lane intersection JM; 1/31 Buttercup West LW.

**American Woodcock:** 1/2 CIES Lowlands - Flushed from road edge west side of north bridge JA; 1/13 CIES Lowlands SL. They don’t display in July, but they are still around.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 12 records, avg 1 each. 1/4 Dennings Pt AL; 2/5 Madam Brett Pk FT; 2/18 at 2 different locations on Woodlea Rd Salt Pt BMA 1/25 Dennings Pt AL.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 11 records, avg 1 each. 2/25 HVRT Sharon Stn MM, MS, LMc, KS; found 3 times at Buttercup by MR; also at CIES, Bowdoin Pk, and 4 yards. Not reported every year for July.

**Great Horned Owl:** 1/28 CIES KH; 1/31 Rowe Rd MR.

**Barred Owl:** 9 records, avg 1 each. 1/3-24 Kral yd Stanfordville 23<sup>rd</sup> - hooting and psychotic monkey babbling in my yard! DK; 2/9 Depot Hill CP; 1/4 Dennings Pt Young heard begging AL; 1/12 Dennings Pt fledgling heard and seen SS. No reports of **Eastern Screech Owl**... but they don’t make themselves known every July.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 6 records. 2/2 Quaker Lake Rd HT, CP; 2/31 Nuclear Lk CP; 4/22 Tamarack Prsv FT; 3/8 Pond Gut FT. Found in all the usual places.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 1/2 CIES Lowlands JA; 1/4 CIES Lowlands JCo; 1/30 Shunpike (at the beaver dam) SJ. Uncommon here.

**White-eyed Vireo:** 1/2 Buttercup MR; 2/9 Peach Hill CF; 1/16 Buttercup East heard only- in area near red/white trail intersection still DK.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 2/8 Pond Gut FT; 3/22 Tamarack Prsv FT.

**Bank Swallow:** 4/1, 4/22 Red Hook Golf Club MP.

**Cliff Swallow:** 6/2 Hosner Mtn. Rd CP; 9/3, 2/23 Southlands MP – 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 nests occupied by cliff swallows. House sparrows

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have overrun a tenth nest. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6 nests, one overtaken by house sparrows, one occupied by cliff swallows, remaining look empty now.

**Brown Creeper:** 1/14 Buttercup East LW; 1/21 Amenia, west of Cascade Mtn MY; 1/23 Winnakee Nature Prsv FT. Hard to find in summer.

**Winter Wren:** 1/2 Quaker Lake Rd CP, HT; 1/8 Pond Gut FT; 4/22 Tamarack Prsv FT.

**Marsh Wren:** 8/12 Tivoli Bays heard on trail along edge of North Bay FT; 1/23 Buttercup MR; 4/25 HVRT Coleman Stn KS MS.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 22 records, avg 2 each. 3/9 Buttercup 1 fledgling MR; 4/16 Buttercup East family group of 3 DK.

**Eastern Bluebird:** 80 records, avg 3 each. Most 12/3 Southlands MP; 8 reports of young in and around nest boxes. Kudos to nest box monitors!

**Hermit Thrush:** 1/23 FDRNHS PB; 2/26 Pawling Nature Rsv FT.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1/14 Buttercup. In thicket behind birdhouses between trail and bridge- long look with binos. JM (only record). (Our records here are in the spring. This is our first breeding season record. Breeding range is mid-west south to Louisiana and the mid-Atlantic coast area. They regularly nest in the Montezuma area upstate.)

**Hooded Warbler:** 1/20 Butler yd Verbank BB; 1/26 Pawling Nature Rsv FT; 2/31 Buttercup East LW.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 1/4 Mills SP/Hopeland CW, TWi, NL (only record). We don't have confirmed breeding records for Dutchess, but have several July reports since 2000, mostly at Nellie Hill. Hopeland has some habitat similar to Nellie Hill.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1/22 Tamarack Prsv FT (only record). They have nested here, but we've not found them in July in some years.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1/16 Pine Plains, Schultz Hill Rd CP, HT; 3/27 Burger Hill LW.

**Bobolink:** 8 records, avg 9 each. 10/3 Southlands MP; Most 35/11 App Trl Pawling - At least as many inhabiting the farm field adjacent to the Pawling Nature Reserve NR; 6/16 Pine Plains, Schultz Hill Rd CP, HT; LAST 6/27 Burger Hill LW.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1/27 Burger Hill LW (only record).

**Orchard Oriole:** Three reports from Hopeland – 1/1 DK; 2/4 CW, NL, Twi; and 3/5 JClo; 1/1 Poets' Walk DK; 1/25 HVRT Sharon Stn LMc, MM. Numbers have increased over the past 5 years.

**Field Trips** – 2<sup>nd</sup> CIES, 5<sup>th</sup> Madam Brett, 8<sup>th</sup> Pond Gut, 12<sup>th</sup> Tivoli Bays Kidd Lane, 19<sup>th</sup> CIES, 22<sup>nd</sup> Tamarack Preserve, 26<sup>th</sup> Pawling Nature Reserve

**Abbreviations** – CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, FDRNHS – FDR National Historic Site, HVRT – Harlem Valley Rail Trail,

**OBSERVERS** -- John Askildsen (JA); Pauline Banducci (PB); Barbara Butler (BB); Jim Closs (JClo); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Jamie Collins (JCo); Michael Fargione (MF); Claudius Feger (CF); Dorothy Fleury (DF); Brendan Fogarty (BF); Ken Harris (KH); Barry Haydasz (BH); Steve Seymour Hra (SH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Naomi Lloyd (NL); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Frank Margiotta (FM); Liz Martens (LM); John McBride (JM); Leigh McBride (LMc); Mack McCormack (MM); Ken Oeser (KO); Mona Payton (MP);

Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Nick Russo (NR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Evelyn Stevenson (ESt); Anne Swaim (AS); Herb Thompson (HT); Anonymous User (AU); Tricia van Oers (TV); Debbie van Zyl (DV); Laura Weir (LW); Allan Welby (AW); Deborah Weltsch (DW); Colleen Williams (CW); Thomas Williams (TWi); Matthew Young (MY)  
**Editor** – Barbara Butler

## AUGUST 2017 RECORDS

Birds of the month were the Stilt Sandpipers. They attracted many birders plus 3 Peregrine Falcons and a Merlin.

Weather – August was cooler than normal, but with a wide range of highs (93 on the 22nd) and lows (43 on the 27th). Only one day was above 90. The last week was cool. Rainfall was less than usual with most falling during the first two weeks. Gary Lovett notes that it's been a productive season for all kinds of nuts, fruit, berries and seeds. Plenty of food for the birds preparing for migration.

### WATERFOWL

**Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard** – usual reports.

**Wood Duck:** 23 records, avg 11 each. Most 36/17 DRT Lk Walton CP; 35/6 Strauss Marsh BB; 30/15 Tamarack Lk SJ.

**American Black Duck:** 5 records, avg 4 each. Most 10/2 & 4/3 Long Dock Pk Beacon JF.

**Green-winged Teal:** 1/26 Strever Fm MR, DK, BMa, HT, CP (only record).

**Common Merganser:** 6/30 CIES Lowlands DK (only record).

A mystery "duck" was seen on the field trip to Bontecou Wetlands on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Candidates for its identity were a young Red-necked Grebe and Hooded and Common Merganser. After a lively discussion, no consensus was reached on the ID.

**Wild Turkey:** 24 records, avg 6 each. FIRST 5/1 Vanderbilt NHS SS; Most 38/4 River Rd, Rhinebeck village MP; 14/25 Ludlow Woods Rd DK.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 13 records, avg 2 each. 7/9 Vanderbilt NHS FT; 5/11 Long Dock Pk Beacon AL; 2/16 DRT - Van Wyck Ln FT, AMP.

### WADERS

**Great Blue Heron:** 65 records, avg 1 each. 1/1 Cedar Knolls (recent fledgling from Twin Island Lake) JM; 3/6 Vanderburgh Cove CP, HT; 3/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon MC, CP; 3/16 DRT - Van Wyck Ln AMP, FT.

**Great Egret:** 24 records, avg 5 each. Highest counts around Dennings Point area, 1s and 2s in many different places. FIRST 1/1 Woodward Hill Rd JM; 3/4 Verbank DK; 7/15 Creek Rd, Wappingers Falls DK; 21/22 Dennings Pt AL. 25/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon CP; LAST 1/27 Strever Fm LM.

**Snowy Egret:** 2/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon MC; 5/19 Long Dock Pk Beacon AL.

**Little Blue Heron:** 1/19 Dennings Pt AL (only record). Uncommon in Dutchess.

**Green Heron:** 26 records, avg 1 each. Most 4/31 Farm Pd Rt199 Pine Plains SJ; 3/17 DRT Lk Walton CP.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1/15 Bowdoin Pk DK; 1/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon MC.

### RAPTORS

**Vultures** – Turkey sightings five times the number of sightings of Blacks.

**Osprey:** 6 records, besides the Hudson River area, also found around Pine Plains and Burger Hill. FIRST 1/5 Burger Hill DC; LAST 1/29 Farm Pd Rt199 Pine Plains SJ; Most 3/9 Vanderbilt NHS FT.

**Sharp-shinned:** 5 reports.

**Cooper's:** 4 reports including this encounter --1/9 Kral yd Stanfordville mobbed by Blue Jays, Chickadee, and even the Rt Hummingbird! Biggest Coop I have ever seen, female? DK.

**Bald Eagle:** 15 reports. 3/9 Vanderbilt NHS FT; 2/12 Bruzgul Rd JB; 1/26 chased Osprey Strever Fm DK, BMa.

**Buteos** – in the usual proportions – Red-tailed the most, then Red-shouldered and Broad-wing.

### MARSH BIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** 1/30 Bontecou Wetlands FT (only record).

**Common Gallinule:** 2/5 Sharon Stn Marsh JR (only record).

**SHOREBIRDS** – The fall migration... Many other shorebirds found at Strever Farm pond by birders going for the Stilt Sandpipers.

**Killdeer:** 28 records, avg 6 each. Most 21/30 Strever Fm CF; 15/27 Route 82 Polo Field MR.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** At Strever Farm Rd pond 1-3/26-30 MR, CP, BMa and others. The smallest of the 3 was found on 8/26/17 by Matthew Rymkiewicz and was seen by many through the 28th. Then two larger birds were seen on 8/29. This was only our second record of this species in Dutchess County. The previous report was of three Stilt Sandpipers at Fallkill Lake Park, found by Alice Jones and seen by many observers between September 25 and October 13, 1968.

**Least Sandpiper:** 19 records, avg 5 each. Most 15/29 Strever Fm CP; 8/17 DRT Lk Walton CP; 6/28 HVRT Sharon Stn MS, KS; 6/30 Bontecou Wetlands FT; 6/30 Strever Fm CF.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 2/16 DRT Lk Walton FT, AMP; 1/26 Strever Fm DK, BMa, AMP, MR.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Most 10/16 DRT Lk Walton FT, AMP – an unusually large number for us; 2/26 Strever Fm MR, DK, BMa; 3/29 Strever Fm CP, SJ, BMa; 1/30 Bontecou Wetlands FT.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 8 records, 2/2 Tamarack Prsv JCl; 1/17 DRT Lk Walton CP; 3/30 Bontecou Wetlands FT.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 9 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/1 Woodward Hill Rd JM; LAST 1/27 Strever Fm MR; Most 3/13 Strever Fm HT, CP; 1/6 Thompson Pd SC; 1/26 Buttercup MR.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 8 records. 1-3/26-31 Strever Fm SJ, CP, AMP, HT, and others; 1/29 Farm Pd Rt199 Pine Plains SJ.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 16 records, avg 4 each. FIRST 2/10 Strever Fm CP; LAST 1/31 Strever Fm SJ; Most 12/29 Strever Fm CP; The only other place: 1/30 Bontecou Wetlands JClo, FT, AMP.

### GULLS to OWLS

**Ring-billed Gull:** 10 records, avg 12 each. 37/17 Beacon Waterfront Pk KH.

No one reported Herring Gull.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 3/3 Long Dock Pk Beacon JF; 5/17 Beacon Waterfront Pk KH. Not often found here in August.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1/5 Wingdale Route 22 BP; 1/20 Kral yd Stanfordville DK.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1/1 Madam Brett Pk CP; 1/5 Seen! Buttercup MR; 1/10 CIES MF, AMP; 1/11 CIES Lowlands JA.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 1/13 Payton yd Rhinebeck MP (only record).

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**Barred Owl:** 12 records, avg 1 each. 1/2 Tamarack Prsv JCLi; 2/20 Payton yd Rhinebeck MP; 2/24 hooting duet 8 pm Kral yd Stanfordville DK; 1/30 Buttercup West AL.  
No Great Horned Owls.

**Common Nighthawk:** 1/28 Roeliff Jansen Kill JM (only record).

**Chimney Swift:** 11 records, avg 3 each. 10/23 Pond Gut FT; 6/14 Town Washington Rec Pk FT.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 63 records, avg 2 each. 4/1 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM; 2/9 Chasing sparrows! Vassar Fm DW; 3/25 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 2/26 displaying - one spread her tail, showing 3 white spots on each side Butler yd Verbank BB.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 19 records, avg 1 each. 2/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 2/15 Tamarack Lk SJ.

### WOODPECKERS

Listed in order of abundance for the month – Downy, Red-bellied, Flicker, Pileated, Hairy, Sapsucker.

### FALCONS

**American Kestrel:** 15 records, avg 1 each. 1/4 divebombed by Eastern Kingbird and Barn Swallows Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 2/10 Kennels Rd Millbrook DK; 2/29 Flint Hill Rd. Amenia DK; 1/30 female hovering and hunting over newly mown big field Southlands MP.

**Merlin:** 1/30 Strever Fm CF (only record).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 5 records, avg 1 each. Most 3/26 Strever Fm DK: "Partypoopers - flushed the shorebirds and left!"

### FLYCATCHERS

8 reports of empidonax flycatchers (Alder, Willow) – difficult to distinguish in the fall. They had departed by the end of August, along with Least and Acadian.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 66 records, avg 2 each. 17/28 AT RT 55-I84 KH; 10/16 DRT - Van Wyck Ln FT; 9/23 Pond Gut FT.

**Least Flycatcher:** 1/9-10 Depot Hill CP; 1/9 Peach Hill CF, CP; LAST 1/11 CIES Lowlands JA.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 1/2 Tamarack Prsv heard FT (only record).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 21 records. 5/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; 2/30 Buttercup West AL.

**Eastern Kingbird:** 43 records. 8/5 Buttercup MR; 4/4 Ludlow Woods Rd DK. Here thru the month.

### VIREOS

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 11 records, avg 2 each. 4/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; 1/31 Buttercup JM.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 2/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 1/28 AT RT 55-I84 KH.

**Warbling Vireo:** 16 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 2/1 CIES Lowlands MF; LAST 1/30 Buttercup East AL; Most 6/10 Depot Hill CP.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 42 records, avg 4 each. 23/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 23/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS.

**CROWS, JAYS, and RAVENS** – In the usual numbers and places.

**SWALLOWS** --- Trees and Barns gathered in large flocks through the end of the month.

**Tree Swallow:** Most 200/11 Goose Chase Pond DK; 36/6 Thompson Pd SC.

**Barn Swallow:** Most 32/6 Southlands MP; 20/6 Tymor Pk BB; 20/12 Bruzugul Rd JB; 20/17 Beacon Waterfront Pk KH.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 5 records, avg 6 each. Most 12/5 Wapp Lk JCo; 8/5 Burger Hill DC; LAST 5/6 Tymor Pk BB.

**Bank Swallow:** 30/13 Wassaic Gravel Pit Rt 22 CP, HT; LAST 2/18 Red Hook Golf Club MP.

**Cliff Swallow:** 8/26 Route 82 Polo Field MR (only record).

**CHICKADEES to KINGLETS** --- good #s of **House** and **Carolina Wrens**. **Chickdees**, **Titmice**, and **WB Nuthatch** as usual.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1/26 Red Hook Golf Club MP (only record).

**Brown Creeper:** 1/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; 1/16 DRT - Van Wyck Ln FT.

**Winter Wren:** 4/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 1/23 Pond Gut FT.

**Marsh Wren:** 1/5 & 2/26 Buttercup MR; 3/13 App Trl boardwalk Pawling ES.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 14 records, avg 2 each. 4/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; 3/9 Peach Hill CF, CP.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 1/2 Tamarack Prsv FT (early); 1/16 DRT - Van Wyck Ln FT.

**THRUSHES to WAXWINGS** --- **Eastern Bluebird**, **Veery**, **Wood Thrush**, **Robin**, **Catbird** and **Mockingbird** as usual.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1/6 Stissing Mtn SC; 1/9 Bowdoin Pk KH.

**Brown Thrasher:** 1/5 Peach Hill MP; 2/9 Peach Hill CF, CP; 1/11 CIES Lowlands JA; 1/12 Red Hook Golf Club MP; 1/30 Andrew Haight Rd FT.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 73 records, avg 8 each. 34/30 Andrew Haight Rd FT; 30/13 Wapp Lk CP, HT; 30/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon CP; 32/30 Bontecou Wetlands FT.

### WARBLERS

... with only 1 or 2 reports....

**Magnolia Warbler:** 2/30 Buttercup East AL (only record).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1/1 Madam Brett Pk CP (only record).

**Pine Warbler:** 1/23 CIES BH; 1/23 Pond Gut FT.

**Prairie Warbler:** 3/10 Salisbury Tpk power line cut MR (only record).

**Canada Warbler:** 1/28 AT RT 55-I84 KH (only record).

...left by month end.....

**Ovenbird:** 6 records. 1/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; LAST 1/23 CIES BH; 1/23 Pond Gut FT.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1/1 Madam Brett Pk CP; 2/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 1/9 Depot Hill CP; 1/11 Dennings Pt AL.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 3/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 1/11 CIES KH; 1/11 CIES Lowlands JA

...still here.....

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 8 records, avg 3 each. LAST 1/30 Buttercup East AL; 5/9 Peach Hill CF; 4/14 Depot Hill CP.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 15 records, avg 2 each. LAST 1/30 Andrew Haight Rd FT; 3/2 Tamarack Prsv FT.

**Common Yellowthroat:** 23 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 5/1 CIES Lowlands MF; LAST 2/31 Buttercup JM; Most 9/9 Peach Hill CP.

**American Redstart:** 23 records, avg 2 each. LAST 3/31 Buttercup JM; Most 5/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 4/9 Depot Hill CP.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 2/9 Depot Hill CP; LAST 2/30 Willow Glen Rd JM; 1/14 Depot Hill CP.

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**Yellow Warbler:** 13 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/2 Tamarack Prsv JCli; LAST 1/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon MC; Most 6/9 Peach Hill CP.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 7 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; Most 4/9 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/30 Buttercup East AL; 1/30 Buttercup West AL.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 8 records, avg 2 each. Most 5/2 Tamarack Prsv FT; 2/30 Andrew Haight Rd FT.

**SPARROWS** – Grasshopper Sparrows left in July. The rest of our summer residents were still around at month's end.

**Chipping Sparrow:** 56 records, avg 3 each. Most 15/2 Tamarack Prsv JCli, AMP, JClo, FT, MM; 7/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS.

**Field Sparrow:** 27 records, avg 2 each. 7/9 Peach Hill CP; 7/27 Buttercup MR.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 3/3 Long Dock Pk Beacon JF; 1/26 Strever Fm MR; 8/30 Andrew Haight Rd FT.

**Song Sparrow:** 73 records, avg 3 each. Most 17/1 CIES Lowlands MF; 12/27 Buttercup MR.

**Eastern Towhee:** 31 records, avg 3 each. Most 11/9 Peach Hill CP 8/5 Peach Hill MP.

### TANAGERS to BUNTINGS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 23 records, avg 2 each. 3/1, 1/29 Roeliff Jansen Kill JM; Most 6/2 Tamarack Prsv FT.

**Northern Cardinal:** 81 records, avg 2 each. 8/2 Winnakee Nature Prsv SS; 8/11 Dennings Pt AL; 2/19 male with fledgling Winnakee Nature Prsv FT, BMa.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 20 records, avg 2 each. Most 15/11 CIES Lowlands JA; 4/9 Peach Hill CF.

**Indigo Bunting:** 19 records, Most 6/15 Klara Sauer Trl, Beacon MC; 5/1 Madam Brett Pk CP.

### BLACKBIRDS

**Bobolink:** 2/30 Buttercup AL.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1/5 Burger Hill DC (only record).

The rest of the blackbirds are forming flocks.....

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 300/6 Strauss Marsh BB; 70/1 CIES Lowlands MF; 60/26 Strever Fm BMa.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 20/11 Long Dock Pk Beacon AL.

**Common Grackle:** 60/26 Butler yd Verbank BB; 42/9 Martens yd Salt Pt LM; 40/10 Berkshire Rd Dover CP; 40/20 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM.

### FINCHES

**Purple Finch:** 1/9 Vanderbilt FT; 1/11 CIES Lowlands JA.

**American Goldfinch:** 125 records, avg 5 each. 27/9 Peach Hill CP; 25/11 CIES Lowlands JA.

Abbreviations ----

"AT RT 55-I84" is Appalachian Trail from Rt 55 near Nuclear Lake in Pawling to I-84 in East Fishkill.

### 45 OBSERVERS

John Askildsen (JA); Amy Beres (AB); James Boyce (JB); Barbara Butler (BB); Sean Camillieri (SC); Daniel Carola (DC); Michael Carozza (MC); Jim Clinton (JCli); Jim Closs (JClo); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Dan Coleman (DCo); Jamie Collins (JCo); John Fagan (JF); Michael Fargione (MF); Larry Federman (LF); Claudius Feger (CF); Russell Gerry (RG); Ken Harris (KH); Barry Haydasz (BH); David Hayes (DH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee

Labarr (AL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Liz Martens (LM); John McBride (JM); Leigh McBride (LMc); Mack McCormack (MM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Mona Payton (MP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Bill Purcell (BP); Jane Rossman (JR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Sherman Suter (SS); Herb Thompson (HT); Deborah Weltsch (DW); Michael Yuan (MY).  
Editor – Barbara Butler



## SEPTEMBER 2017 RECORDS

September started out with cooler than average daytime temperatures. By mid-month the trend had reversed itself and daytime temps averaged about 11 degrees warmer than normal. This number was partially skewed by some decidedly August-like days in the high eighties and low nineties during the last week of the month.

Nighttime temperatures followed a similar pattern, with quite a few nights early in the month seeing temps in the low forties before bouncing back to a more normal range in the high-50s/low 60s.

September broke the winning streak we've had of average to above-average rainfall over the past 5 months (thus our very lush late-summer/early-fall vegetation) by coming in at 1.75", only half the expected amount of precipitation for this month.

**NOTABLES:** Mona Payton hit the jackpot with her long-legged waders sightings this month. In her backyard no less, Mona reported two Black-crowned Night-Herons on the 17th and later, on the 22nd, a **Snowy Egret** at an unspecified location in New Hamburg. Also notable were the four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** seen at Dennings Point by Neill Cade and the two **Cliff Swallows** that Mark DeDea reported from Greig Farm. Another good find was two **Grasshopper Sparrows** reported by Susan Rogers mid-month in an unmowed field at Greig Farm in Red Hook, an historical but very occasional location for this extremely scarce species.

**Notation** - #/day, for example 3/10 means 3 birds were found on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### WATERFOWL

**Canada Goose:** 42 records, FIRST 22/1 Strever Fm SJ; LAST 11/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; MAX 170/20 Ryder Pd DK; NOTABLES: 60/16 Hudson River s of Marist DW; 100/28 Peach Hill "Very high! Estimate in two flocks" DW.

**Mute Swan:** 3 records 2/4 Twin Island Lk MR; 1/5 56 Memory Trl, LaGrange MK; 3/14 Wapp Lk KH.

**Muscovy Duck (Domestic type):** 1/21 Buttercup West DK (only record).

**Wood Duck:** 18 records, avg 4 each. FIRST 2/2 Spring Lake Rd JM, 8/2 BJM; LAST 4/28 Tivoli Bays SR; NOTABLES: 9/5 Woodward Hill Rd JM; 7/13 Stony Kill KH; 9/14 Wapp Lk KH; 7/18 Ryder Pd DK.

**Mallard:** 27 records, avg 9 each. FIRST 10/1 New Hamburg MP; LAST Date 28, 2 records.; MAX 100/10 Hudson River, Beacon DV, BL, AS.

**American Black Duck:** 3 records, 2/21 Buttercup West DK; MIN 1/21 Wappinger Crk Greenway Trl SC; 4/29 CIES CV.

**Green-winged Teal:** 1/21 Buttercup West DK (only record).

**Hooded Merganser:** 1/10 Kennels Rd Millbrook DK (only record).

**Ruffed Grouse:** 1/28 Stanfordville Wildlife Preserve, Salt Pt Tpk AP (only record).

**Wild Turkey:** 12 records, avg 7 each. FIRST Date 1, 2 records.; LAST 8/28 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; MAX 20/2 161 Morrison Rd, North East JW; MIN 1/5 56 Memory Trl, LaGrange MK.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 10 records, avg 4 each. FIRST 2/1 Wapp Crk JCo; LAST 2/28 Tivoli Bays SR; MAX 10/5 Hudson River, Fishkill KA; NOTABLES: 8/11 Dennings Pt NC.

### WADERS

**Great Blue Heron:** 36 records, avg 2 each. 4/1 New Hamburg MP; 4/22 New Hamburg MP; LAST Date 28, 2 records; MAX 7/11 Dennings Pt NC.

**Great Egret:** 5 records, avg 4 each. FIRST 2/1 New Hamburg MP; LAST 3/27 Wapp Crk DK; MAX 8/8 Dennings Pt AL; NOTABLES: 2/10 Long Dock Pk Beacon NC; 5/11 Dennings Pt NC.

**Snowy Egret:** 1/22 New Hamburg MP (only record).

**Green Heron:** 10 records. FIRST 1/2 CIES Lowlands MF; 4/2 BJM; 1/4 Twin Island Lk MR; LAST 1/24 Jamieson Hill Rd. DK; 1/24 Stony Kill AL. MAX 3/8 Dennings Pt AL;

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 2/17 Payton yd Rhinebeck MP (only record). See intro

### DIURNAL RAPTORS

**Black Vulture:** 13 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 4/1 Wappingers Falls - Big Lots KH; LAST 3/29 Stony Kill AL; MAX 9/26 Stony Kill SMi, PL.

**Turkey Vulture:** 56 records, avg 3 each. MAX 35/26 Stony Kill SMi, PL; NOTABLES: 12/21 Hunns Lk DK; 9/27 HVRT Coleman Stn AMP, JClo, FT, CV.

**Osprey:** 5 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 3/5 Hudson River, Fishkill KA; 3/8 Mills-Norrie SP--Norrie Pt TT; 2/10 Hudson River Beacon AS, DV, BL; 1/11 Dennings Pt NC; LAST 1/16 Hudson River south of Marist DW.

**Northern Harrier:** 2 records. 1/16 Greig Fm SR; 1/28 Shunpike DK.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 5 records. 1/9 Peach Hill MR; 1/24 Wurtemburg Rd WC; 1/28 CIES MS, WC; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West FT, CV.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 4 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/2 Greig Fm MDD, DK; LAST 1/28 Depot Hill CP.

**Bald Eagle:** 15 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/4 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; LAST 1/27 HVRT Sharon Stn MS; MAX 4/22 Stony Kill, "4 adults flew over together" AL.

BB- "9 reports along the Hudson, 6 'inland' "

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 13 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/1 Martens yd Salt Pt LM; LAST Date 29, 2 records.; MAX 2/22 Ludlow Woods Rd DK.

BB- "multiple reports from Ludlow Woods Rd and Buttercup"

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 8 records, avg 1 each. 2/2 CIES Lowlands MF; 3/19 Milan town hall FM; LAST 1/24 App Trl Pawling JG; MAX 40/16 Stony Kill KH.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 31 records, avg 1 each. MAX 3/28 CIES WC, MS KS.

**SHOREBIRDS-** Sandpipers made a good showing with 8 different species being reported, 5 of which could be found at Strever Farm in Pine Plains.

**Common Gallinule:** 2/2 Harlem Valley Rail Trl--Sharon Sta Rd BB; 1/16 HVRT Sharon Stn SL.

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**Killdeer:** 16 records, avg 4 each. MAX 9/2 Greig Fm DK; LAST 1/27 HVRT Coleman Stn JClo, AMP, CV, FT; NOTABLES: 7/2,4,17 all Strever Fm MR.

**Least Sandpiper:** 4 records, avg 6 each. FIRST 1/1 SJ; LAST 5/4 MR; MAX 13/2 MR; all reported from Strever Farm.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** occasional visitor to the county – FIRST 1/1 SJ; LAST, 2/2 MR; both records from Strever Farm

**Wilson's Snipe:** 1/28 Tivoli Bays SR (only record).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 3 records; 1/8 Dennings Pt AL; 1/8 Long Dock Pk Beacon AL; 1/20 Nuclear Lk CP, FT.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 4/19 Jamieson Hill Rd. DK; 2/24 Jamieson Hill Rd. DK.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 records, all from Strever Fm. FIRST 2/1 SJ; 1/4 MR; 1/17 MR; 1/24 MR; LAST 2/28 CV.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 9 records, avg 2 each. FIRST: 3/1 Strever Fm pd AP; 1/8 Mills-Norrie SP--Norrie Pt TT; 3/17 Strever Fm MR; LAST 3/25 Strever Fm DK.

### GULLS, DOVES and CUCKOOS

**Ring-billed Gull:** 7 records, avg 20 each. FIRST 1/1 Wappingers Falls - Big Lots KH; LAST 6/28 Tivoli Bays SR; MAX 80/10 Hudson River, Beacon DV, AS, BL;

**Herring Gull:** 2/10 Long Dock Pk Beacon NC; 4/10 Hudson River, Beacon DV, BL, AS.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 2/10 Long Dock Pk Beacon NC ; 4/10 Hudson River, Beacon DV, BL, AS.

### OWLS to KINGFISHERS

**Great Horned Owl:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/7 Stanford EK; LAST 2/28 Clinton yd AP; NOTABLES: 1/13 Butler yd Verbank BB; 1/14 278 Fowler Rd, Washington VM.

**Barred Owl:** 10 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/1 Wapp Crk JCo; LAST Date 30, 2 records.

**Common Nighthawk:** FIRST 7/5 Woodward Hill Rd JM; LAST 2 records: 5/15 Red Hook Golf Club MP; 8/7/15 Cricket Hill, Dover SM.

**Chimney Swift:** 8 records LAST 1/28 Peach Hill DW; MAX 6/9 Peach Hill MR; NOTABLES: 3/7 Hyde Pk-Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site DH; 5/9 Stony kill LT.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 45 records, avg 2 each. LAST Date 15, 3 records of one each: Clinton Nature Trl BMa; Fischer yd Wapp MeF; Ludlow Woods Rd DK. MAX 4/9 Stony Kill LT

**Belted Kingfisher:** 23 records LAST 2/28 Tivoli Bays SR; MAX 2 on 3 records; MIN 1 on 20 records

### WOODPECKERS

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 86 records, avg 2 each. MAX 6/10 Peach Hill MR.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 21 records, avg 2 each. LAST 2/30 Buttercup West FT CV; MAX 7/24 Buttercup MR.

**Downy Woodpecker:** 89 records, avg 2 each. MAX 6/4 Buttercup MR.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** 27 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 2/1 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM; LAST 1/27 HVRT Coleman Stn AMP, CV, FT, JClo; NOTABLES: 2/22 Stony Kill AL.

**Northern Flicker:** 65 records, avg 2 each. MAX 7/16 Peach Hill SJ; NOTABLES: 2/1 Hi View Rd Wapp "all mo. at suet in yd" BAM.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 38 records, avg 1 each. LAST 1/29 Depot Hill CP; MAX 2 on 7 records NOTABLES: 1/5 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM.

### FALCONS

**American Kestrel:** 15 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/1 Waterbury Hill Rd BB; LAST 2/27 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; NOTABLES: 2/7 Ludlow Woods Rd "hunting from nesting box" DK; 7/27: "putting up the Starlings and Rock Pigeons"DK.

*BB -10 of the reports are from Ludlow Woods Rd*

**Peregrine Falcon:** 3 records. 1/2 Greig Fm MDD, DK; 1/2 Stony Kill TA; 1/24 Strever Fm MR.

### FLYCATCHERS

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 32 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 1/24 Spaeth yd Fishkill ES; MAX 5/10 Peach Hill MR.

**Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher):** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/4 Duell Rd Stanfordville DK; LAST 2/11 Dennings Pt NC.

**Least Flycatcher:** 3 records. 1/2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail Sharon Sta Rd BB; 1/11 Dennings Pt NC; 1/12 Peach Hill SC.

**Eastern Phoebe:** 88 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/1 Wapp Crk JCo; LAST Date 30, 2 records. MAX 8/10 CIES Lowlands "One singing at the north bridge! "HT, CP; NOTABLES: 7/11 Dennings Pt NC; 6/24 Buttercup MR.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 10 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/4 Depot Hill CP; LAST Date 2 records: 1/15 Fischer yd Wapp MeF; 1/15 Ludlow Woods Rd DK. NOTABLES 1/11 Depot Hill CP.

**Eastern Kingbird:** 2 records. 1/8 Dennings Pt AL; 2/11 Dennings Pt NC.

### VIREOS

**White-eyed Vireo:** 2 records. 1/10 Long Dock Pk Beacon NC; 1/21 Andrew Haight Rd DK.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 15 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 2/2 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/24 Wurtemberg Rd WC; MAX 3/12 Depot Hill CP.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 19 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/11 Depot Hill CP; LAST 2/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; MAX 7/24 Buttercup MR.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 4 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/4 Depot Hill CP; 1/12 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/26 Stony Kill SMi, PL; MAX 2/17 Payton yd Rhinebeck MP.

**Warbling Vireo:** 21 records, avg 1 each. FIRST Date 2, 4 records. LAST 2/26 Stony Kill SMi, PL; MAX 4/13 Stony Kill KH; NOTABLES: 3/2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail Sharon Sta Rd BB.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 47 records. FIRST 4/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 2/29 Depot Hill CP; MAX 12/4 Buttercup MR.

### CORVIDS

**Blue Jay:** 124 records, avg 5 each. MAX 25/13 Peach Hill AL;

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**American Crow:** 79 records, avg 4 each. LAST 4/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; MAX 30/24 Long Dock Pk ES.

**Fish Crow:** 5 records, avg 6 each. FIRST 20/1 Wappingers Falls - Big Lots KH; LAST 1/22 Stony Kill AL; 3/10 Long Dock Pk Beacon NC.

**Common Raven:** 27 records, avg 1 each. FIRST Date 2, 3 records; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; MAX 3/9 Depot Hill CP.

### SWALLOWS

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 4/11 Dennings Pt NC (only record).

**Tree Swallow:** 18 records, avg 13 each. FIRST Date 2, 4 records; LAST 4/28 Tivoli Bays SR; MAX 100/2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail Sharon Sta Rd "In a large flock flying over the pond and at times roosting in trees around the pond edge" BB; MIN 1/5 Peach Hill LW NOTABLES: 20/26 Ludlow Woods Rd.

"streaming very high overhead, binocular view, one chased a Monarch!" DK.

**Barn Swallow:** 5 records, avg 5 each. FIRST Date 2, 2 records.; LAST 6/10 DRT Rt 55 JG; MAX 10/5 Woodward Hill Rd JM; MIN 1/4 Harlem Valley-Wingdale Stn BF; NOTABLES: 2/2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail Sharon Sta Rd BB.

**Cliff Swallow:** 2/2 Greig Fm MDD (only record).

### CHICKADEES to CREEPERS

**Black-capped Chickadee:** 112 records, avg 4 each. MAX 20/10 Peach Hill MR.

**Tufted Titmouse:** 103 records, avg 3 each. MAX 15/4 Buttercup MR.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** 97 records, avg 2 each. MAX 6/23 Buttercup MN.

**Brown Creeper:** 4 records. 3/2 161 Morrison Rd, North East JW; 1/24 Buttercup MR; 1/24 Depot Hill Rd AL; LAST 1/29 Stony Kill AL.

### WRENS to KINGLETS

**House Wren:** 50 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 4/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST Date 29, 2 records.; MAX 8/4 Buttercup MR.

**Winter Wren:** 1/29 CIES CV. (only record)

**Marsh Wren:** 2 records. 2/2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail Sharon Sta Rd "I could hear the wrens calling and scolding very close in the cattails. I caught some glimpses of them, perhaps more than 2" BB; LAST 2/28 Tivoli Bays SR.

**Carolina Wren:** 41 records, avg 2 each; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; NOTABLES: 4/13 Fischer yd Wapp MeF; 4/13 Peach Hill FT.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 7 records, avg 2 each. 1/2 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/13 Stony Kill KH; MAX 3/8 Dennings Pt AL.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 4 records. FIRST 1/21 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/27 HVRT Coleman Stn FT, AMP, JClo, CV.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 19 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 1/9 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; MAX 9/23 Depot Hill CP; NOTABLES: 6/24 Buttercup MR.

### THRUSHES

**Eastern Bluebird:** 47 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 1/1 Duell Rd Stanfordville DK; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; MAX 12/7 Vassar Farm "Immature and adult -possibly more!" DW; NOTABLES: 7/16 Southlands MP.

**Veery:** 7 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 2/2 CIES Lowlands MF; LAST 1/25 Hi View Rd Wapp "bird bath- yard" BAM; NOTABLES: 2/2 CIES Lowlands MF; 2/3 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 2/5 Ludlow Woods Rd DK.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1/20 Nuclear Lk FT (only record).

**Swainson's Thrush:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 2/11 Dennings Pt NC; LAST 1/23 Depot Hill "Eye ring and pale supraloral easy to see" CP; NOTABLES: 1/17 Buttercup MR.

**Wood Thrush:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/3 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; NOTABLES: 1/10 Reese Sanctuary KH.

**American Robin:** 72 records, avg 8 each; MAX 60/16 Peach Hill MR.

### MIMICS

**Gray Catbird:** 98 records, avg 7 each. LAST 1/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; MAX 40/10 Peach Hill MR; 40/13 Peach Hill FT.

**Brown Thrasher:** 13 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 1/24 Wurtemburg Rd WC; MAX 4/16 Peach Hill CP.

**Northern Mockingbird:** 20 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 4/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 2/29 Stony Kill AL; MAX 4 on 3 records; NOTABLES: 4/13 Peach Hill FT.

**European Starling:** 42 records, avg 33 each; MAX 160/28 CIES MS, KS, WC;

**Cedar Waxwing:** 67 records, avg 12 each. LAST 2/28 CIES WC, KS, MS; MAX 50/10 Peach Hill MR; NOTABLES: 40/2 App Trl Pawling EH; 42/17 Milan yd SJ.

### WARBLERS

**Ovenbird:** 10 records, avg 1 each. LAST 1/25 Depot Hill CP; MAX 4/13 Stony Kill KH; NOTABLES: 2/15 West Mountain State Forest AL.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1/12 Depot Hill CP; 1/15 West Mountain State Forest AL.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 2 records, 1/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd DP; 1/9 Stony kill LT.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 17 records, avg 1 each. FIRST Date 2, 2 records.; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; 1/30 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; MAX 4/10 Peach Hill MR.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 22 records, avg 2 each. LAST 2/29 Depot Hill CP; MAX 11/9 Peach Hill MR.

**Nashville Warbler:** 14 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 2/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 1/24 Wurtemburg Rd WC; NOTABLES: 3/9 Peach Hill MR; 3/12 Depot Hill CP.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** 1/16 Peach Hill "Large olive warbler with full dull gray shield, complete white eye ring. FOY." MR (only record).

**Common Yellowthroat:** 43 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 4/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST Date 29, 2 records. MAX 10/4 Buttercup MR; NOTABLES: 7/10 Peach Hill MR.

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**American Redstart:** 27 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST Date 29, 2 records.; MAX 5/12 Peach Hill SC; NOTABLES: 4/22 Stony Kill AL.

**Cape May Warbler:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/8 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; LAST 1/22 Depot Hill CP; MAX 2/10 Peach Hill MR; NOTABLES: 1/17 Milan yd SJ.

**Northern Parula:** 21 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/7 Buttercup East AL; LAST 1/24 Buttercup MR, 2/24 Reese park KH; MAX 5/9 Stony Kill LT; NOTABLES: 4/12 Depot Hill CP.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 31 records, avg 2 each. 1/2 Depot Hill CP +one more record; LAST 1/23 Depot Hill CP; MAX 7/9 Peach Hill MR; NOTABLES: 6/4 Buttercup MR.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 3 records. 1/4 Pawling Nature Rsv BF; 1/11 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/28 Depot Hill CP.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/8 Mills Norrie SP TT; LAST 1/14 Fischer yd Wapp MeF; MAX 2/9 Stony kill LT; NOTABLES: 1/10 Peach Hill MR.

**Yellow Warbler:** 1/9 Stony Kill LT (only record).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 17 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 2/2 Depot Hill CP; LAST Date 24, 2 records.; MAX 5/4 Buttercup MR; NOTABLES: 4/10 Peach Hill MR; 1/24 Stony Kill AL.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 6 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/4 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/28 Depot Hill CP; NOTABLES: 2/9 Stony Kill LT, 1/9 Peach Hill DK.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 12 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/2 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/30 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; NOTABLES: 2/21 Depot Hill CP; 2/28 Depot Hill CP.

**Palm Warbler:** 7 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/8 Vassar Fm DW; LAST 2/29 Stony Kill AL; MAX 3/22 Stony Kill AL.

**Pine Warbler:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/9 Peach Hill MR; LAST 1/29 CIES CV. NOTABLES: 1/10 Peach Hill MR; 1/23 Depot Hill CP.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 records. 4/9 Red Hook Golf Club MP; 1/16 Peach Hill SJ.

**Prairie Warbler:** 3 records. 2/9 Stony Kill LT; 1/26 Stony Kill SMi, PL; 1/29 Overlook Park CV.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 40 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 2/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 2/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; NOTABLES: 6/9 Peach Hill MR; 5/9 Stony kill LT; 6/17 Buttercup MR.

**Canada Warbler:** 4 records. FIRST 1/7 Buttercup East AL; LAST 1/13 Peach Hill AL; MAX 2/8 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd DP; 1/11 Depot Hill CP.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 3 records. FIRST 1/9 Buttercup MN; 1/9 Peach Hill MR; LAST 1/11 Depot Hill CP.

### SPARROWS

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** *records are scarce after the summer months:* 2/16 Greig Fm SR (only record).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 42 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 3/1 Hi View Rd Wapp BAM; LAST 2/29 Stony Kill AL; MAX 8 on 2 records; NOTABLES: 8/10 CIES Lowlands HT, CP; 8/22 Stony Kill AL.

**Field Sparrow:** 27 records, avg 3 each. FIRST Date 2, 4 records.; LAST Date 29, 2 records.; MAX 9/9 Peach Hill MR; NOTABLES: 7/13 Peach Hill FT; 5/23 Buttercup MN.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 1/29 Depot Hill CP (only record).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** *early, usually arrives in October (BB):* 1/21 Depot Hill, "After seeing my first 3 White-throated Sparrows of the season, I was surprised to see this immature White-crowned Sparrow pop up just a few feet away from

them. It had a bright pink bill, a thick reddish-brown stripe on each side of its crown [...]" CP (only record).

**White-throated Sparrow:** 17 records, avg 6 each. FIRST Date 21, 2 records; LAST 3/29 Depot Hill CP; MAX 30/24 Buttercup MR; NOTABLES: 2/21 Buttercup West DK; 8/21 Depot Hill CP.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 records. 1/5 Woodward Hill Rd, "associating with Chipping Sparrows alongside of the road-pale belly, lightly streaked- larger than Chipping- misidentified as Song Sparrow until I saw the white outer tail feathers as bird took flight to nearby tree" JM; 1/9 Stony Kill LT;

**Savannah Sparrow:** 5 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 3/2 Greig Fm MDD; LAST 3/29 Stony Kill AL; NOTABLES: 1/16 Southlands MP.

**Song Sparrow:** 48 records, avg 3 each. FIRST 3/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 2/29 Stony Kill AL NOTABLES: 12/4 Buttercup MR; 12/26 Stony Kill SMi, PL.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 6 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 1/4 Depot Hill CP; LAST 1/29 Stony Kill AL; MAX 5/26 Stony Kill, "large number- three widely spaced singles and two near each other at the same time in a fourth widely spaced site- neatly patterned sparrows fully as attractive as SWSP and almost rivaling SOSP in terms of beauty- very similar to SWSP in size, shape [...]" SMi, PL

**Swamp Sparrow:** 8 records, avg 2 each. FIRST 2/9 Buttercup MN; LAST 2/28 Tivoli Bays SR; NOTABLES: 2/27 HVRT Coleman Stn CV, JClo, FT, AMP.

**Lincoln's/Swamp Sparrow:** 1/9 Stony kill LT (only record).

**Eastern Towhee:** 47 records, avg 4 each. FIRST 3/1 Peach Hill CP; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; MAX 13/13 Peach Hill AL; NOTABLES: 12/10 Peach Hill MR; 1/23 Depot Hill, "Female, hatch year immature as suggested by slight gape flange." CP.

### TANAGERS, CARDINALS & ALLIES

**Scarlet Tanager:** 30 records, avg 1 each. FIRST Date 2, 2 records. LAST 1/28 Depot Hill CP; MAX 4/4 Buttercup MR; NOTABLES: 3/13 CIES Lowlands, "in road/grass associating together, yellow-olive body/black wings" DK

**Northern Cardinal:** 66 records, avg 3 each. MAX 10/16 Peach Hill MR.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 31 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/2 CIES Lowlands MF; LAST 1/30 Buttercup West CV, FT; NOTABLES: 4/4 Buttercup MR; 4/6 CIES Lowlands DK.

**Indigo Bunting:** 5 records. FIRST 1/2 Greig Fm MDD; LAST 1/23 Depot Hill CP; NOTABLES: 2/8 Long Dock Pk Beacon AL; 2/9 Stony kill LT; 1/11 Dennings Pt NC.

**Bobolink:** 3 records. FIRST 2/2 (+ one other record) Greig Fm, "flock well-hidden in the grass put up by a Cooper's Hawk but I did not get a count" DK; LAST 16th Greig Fm SR, MDD.

**Baltimore Oriole:** 5 records, avg 1 each. FIRST 1/2 161 Morrison Rd, North East JW; LAST 2/10 Peach Hill MR.

### BLACKBIRDS

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 10 records, avg 15 each. FIRST 1/1 Martens yd Salt Pt LM; LAST 32/30 Buttercup West FT, CV; MAX 50/28 Shunpike, "heading to night roost - tall pines" DK; NOTABLES: 30/28 Tivoli Bays SR.

## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 7 records. FIRST Date 7, 2 records.; LAST 1/26 Stony Kill PL, SMi; MAX 30/24 Stony Kill AL; NOTABLES: 8/7 Martens yd Salt Pt LM.

**Common Grackle:** 7 records. FIRST 1/5 Spaeth yd Fishkill ES; LAST 10/27 Wapp Crk DK; MAX 400/24 Pok Rural Cem CP; NOTABLES: 50/13 CIES Lowlands DK.

### FINCHES

**House Finch:** 44 records, avg 4 each. LAST 4/30 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; NOTABLES: 11/2 Wappinger yd Ln SI; 11/9 Stony Kill LT.

**American Goldfinch:** 107 records. MAX 40/10 Peach Hill MR; NOTABLES: 30/17 Buttercup MR.

### OLD WORLD SPARROWS

**House Sparrow:** 21 records. NOTABLES: 50/24 Stony Kill AL.

### 54 OBSERVERS

Tina Alleva (TA); Kathleen Ashman (KA); Barbara Butler (BB); Neill Cade (NC); Sean Carroll (SC); Jim Closs (JClo); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Jamie Collins (JCo); William Cook (WC); Mark DeDea (MDD); Michael Fargione (MF); Melissa Fischer (MeF); Brendan Fogarty (BF); John Garesche (JG); Jimmy Gondek (JGo); Ken Harris (KH); Barry Haydasz (BH); David Hayes (DH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Edward Kemnitzer (EK); Mimi Kim-Miks (MK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Susan Levangia (SL); Patricia Lindsay (PL); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Frank Margiotta (FM); Liz Martens (LM); Sariena Masiero (SM); John McBride (JM); Vincent Meyer (VM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Shai Mitra (SMi); Michael Nicosia (MN); Mona Payton (MP); Alan & Jan Peterson (AP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Dave Powell (DP); Susan Rogers (SR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Anne Swaim (AS); Herb Thompson (HT); Larry Trachtenberg (LT); The Tufflis (TT); Debbie van Zyl (DV); Chet Vincent (CV); Deborah Weltsch (DW); James Wilson (JW)

## OCTOBER 2017 RECORDS

**Request to eBirders: PLEASE USE HOTSPOTS.** When you enter your sightings, before using a personal location of your own, please check for an established eBird hotspot that works.

41 observers reported a combined total of 130 wild species. Last October, 145 species were reported.

**BEST BIRDS** this month were **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush**.

**WEATHER.** We had almost 4 inches of rain, but half of it fell on the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and the rest on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures ranged from 30 to 80, dipping below freezing on only one night.

### FINCH FORECAST PREDICTS THEY'LL STAY UP NORTH

This year's Winter Finch Forecast by Ron Pittaway of Ontario Field Ornithologists notes abundant cone crops up north. That's good news for the birds but Dutchess birders are not likely to see many of those northern breeders this winter. There were **only 3 Purple Finch** reports in October, and **NO Red-breasted Nuthatches or Pine Siskins** were seen.

**WATERFOWL.** Migration is underway, although there were no **scoters** or **Buffleheads** yet (just like last year). Common year-round geese and ducks dabbled about in good numbers: **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, **Wood Duck**, and **Mallard**.

Large waterfowl included some interesting ones:

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1/3 Ryder Pd DK; 1/6 Ryder Pd AL; 1/7 Ryder Pd JM.

**Snow Goose:** There were 7 records of 1 each at 5 locations.

**Brant:** 1/15 Casperkill Golf Club JG; 2/28 Thompson Pd AMP

**Cackling Goose:** 1/22 Round Pd Amenia CP

Among the migrating ducks were good numbers of **American Black Duck** (39 records, avg 13 each), **Green-winged Teal** (18 records, avg 8 each), and **Ring-necked Duck** (18 records, avg 8 each). **Ruddy Ducks** showed up in small groups until mid-month, and then built up into big flocks, especially at Sylvan Lake and Round Pond (max 98/27 Sylvan Lk CP). Other migrants:

**Blue-winged Teal:** 1/12 Tivoli Bays South Bay SR; 1/15 The Fly HT, CP

**Northern Shoveler:** 2/26 Buttercup West WC, MS, MN.

**Gadwall:** 1-2/15-26 at The Fly, seen by 11 people.

**Northern Pintail:** 1-16/7-26 mostly The Fly, also Strever Pond, Traver Pond.

**Red-breasted Merganser**, photo by Deb Kral



**Lesser Scaup:** 3/17 Round Pd, found by CP and SJ, also seen by DK. They stayed there into November.

**Hooded Merganser:** 1/17 Round Pd Amenia DK, CP; 3/26 Buttercup West WC, MS, MN

The most unusual duck seen was a **Red-breasted Merganser** on Sylvan Lake, found by Deb Kral on the 16<sup>th</sup> (see photo). This was the first October record of this species in since 2012.

**Conspicuously absent** was **American Wigeon**.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS.** **Wild Turkey** was the only wild species observed. There were 11 records, averaging 7 each. The largest group had only 14 birds. They know how to hide.

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS, HERONS.** A **Common Loon** spent 3 weeks on Drake Lake. It was seen by 6 different people on 8 different days. Deb Kral reported 2 additional **Common Loon** sightings at Sylvan Lake and on Clove Road, both on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This is an unusual species for October (most recently October records in 2016, 2015, and 2002).

**Pied-billed Grebes** were plentiful, appearing in 24 records, avg 1 each. **Double-Crested Cormorants** were reported throughout the month, as were **Great Blue Herons**. **Great Egrets** appeared in 12 records averaging 3 each.

The BIG SURPRISE in this cohort was a **Snowy Egret**. Mona Payton saw two of them from the train at New Hamburg the evening of October 5<sup>th</sup>. The only other October Snowy Egret sighting since 1990 occurred in 1999.

The flip side: there were **NO Green Herons** reported.

**VULTURES, OSPREY.** **Black** and **Turkey Vultures** were as expected – 17 records of **Black** and 98 records of **Turkey Vulture**. **Osprey** reports were normal with 6 records averaging 1 each.

**HAWKS, EAGLES.** There were only 6 records of **Northern Harrier**, quite a drop from 18-24 the last 3 years. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** (our common accipiters) were seen in normal numbers, as were **Bald Eagle** and our common **buteos**, **Red-shouldered** and **Red-tailed Hawks**. **Conspicuously absent** was **Broad-winged Hawk**, which is seen almost every October.

**GALLINULES, COOTS.** **Common Gallinule** has been breeding in the Sharon Station Road area since 2014. One of this species was spotted on the 5<sup>th</sup> by Claudius Feger, on Round Pond. **American Coots** are returning from the north; there were 7 records averaging 3 each.

**SHOREBIRDS.** This was a good October for shorebirds. Although we didn't have any superstars like last year's Red Phalarope, we enjoyed 8 shorebird species, including the usual ubiquitous **Killdeer** (29 records, avg 3 each). Other shorebirds still passing through included:

**Least Sandpiper:** Strever Fm: 1/5 CF, CP; 3/10 CV; 1/14 MR

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 13 records, avg 2 each, mostly at Strever Fm. Also at Thompson Pd: 5/14 JH,DS; 1/20, 7/26 CV

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1/7 Strever Fm MR

**Wilson's Snipe:** 1/10 Strever CV; 1/14 Thompson Pd DS, JH

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 3/2 Thompson Pd SR

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 21 records, avg 4 each.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 20 records, avg 3 each.

**GULLS.** **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** were reported in normal numbers, and there was one report of **Great Black-backed Gull**



## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

(1/16 Long Dock BF). The BIG SURPRISE was a trio of **Bonaparte's Gulls**, found by Chet Vincent at Strauss Marsh on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In spite of Chet's diligent efforts to get the word out, no one else got there in time to see them.

**PIGEONS, DOVES, KINGFISHER.** Very good numbers.

**OWLS.** Although **NO Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported, our two big, common owls did not disappoint. The only report of **Great Horned Owl** was from Barbara Butler (1/1 off Kansas Rd, Clinton), but **Barred Owls** chimed in lustily, producing 11 records averaging 1 each from LM, MP, EC, DK, BAM, CP.

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS.** They cleared out in September!

**WOODPECKERS.** Kudos to Mona Payton and Deb Kral for spotting two different **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (1/1 Payton yd Rhinebeck MP, 1/30 CIES Lowlands DK). The only other October sightings of this species in Dutchess since 1990 occurred in 1990 and 2004. Our more common woodpeckers (**Red-bellied**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Downy**, **Hairy**, **Northern Flicker**, and **Pileated**) are doing great.

**FALCONS.** **American Kestrel** – 10 records, mostly single individuals. **Merlin:** This species seems to be on the increase. There were 9 records of 1 each. **Peregrine Falcon:** Also well reported with 5 records throughout the month of 1 each.

**PASSERINES.** The remaining birds in this report all belong to the largest order in the taxonomy of birds – *Passeriformes*. This order comprises more than half of all bird species. By contrast, all the birds reported above are distributed among a total of 15 different orders! Passerines are often called "Perching Birds." Their toes are arranged in a way that makes perching easy (three pointing forward and one pointing back).

**FLYCATCHERS.** Most flycatchers had already headed south by October. There was only one lingering **Eastern Wood-Pewee** reported (1/7 Buttercup MR). **Eastern Phoebe**s were still here in good numbers – there were 59 records, averaging 3 each, the latest on the 31<sup>st</sup>. This is as expected.

**VIREOS.** Two **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports came in (1/4 Thompson Pond FT; and 1/6 Buttercup East AL). It's time for those guys to have gone south! **Red-eyed Vireos**, seen in October every year, appeared on 7 records averaging 1 each. **Blue-headed Vireo** is a far more common fall migrant but a very beautiful one, always eyeing its surroundings through stylish white spectacles contrasting with its steel blue face. There were 16 records averaging 1 each, the last on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**CORVIDS, CHICKADEES, TITMICE, NUTHATCHES.** Most of these are very common species and they occurred in the usual numbers all over the county. Unlike last year (but just as in 2015), **Red-breasted Nuthatch was not reported**. This may be due to the bountiful cone crop up north. Among the not-so-common corvids, there were 3 records of **Fish Crow**, averaging 1 each. **Common Raven** brought in 38 records. It is also worth noting that there was again a huge number of records of **Blue Jay** (173 vs. 171 last year and 129 in 2015). **American Crow** records numbered 150, averaging 5 each.

**SWALLOWS.** Stragglers! **Tree Swallow:** 6 records, averaging 25 each, latest Sharon Stn Rd 25/22 CP, HT & 1/22 CV. **Barn Swallow:** 2/17 Drake Lk Barb Mansell.

**CREEPERS, WRENS.** **Brown Creeper** is always fun to see. There were 4 records averaging 1 each. There were still a few **House Wrens:** 6 reports of 1-2 each, from Stony Kill, Mills, Buttercup, and Vassar Fm. Another wren that needs to head south for the winter is **Marsh Wren**, of which there were two reports: 3/14 Buttercup MR, and 1/19 Stissing Pd JM. **Winter Wrens** breed in a few places in Dutchess, but most of them go further north to nest and pass through here during migration. There were 3 reports: 1/14 Thompson Pond DS, JH; 1/21 Pawling Nature Rsv KH; 1/22 Buttercup West BB. While the other wrens move out, **Carolina Wrens** stay and are now visiting feeders, singing loudly to brighten even the dreariest day. There were 46 records, averaging 1 each, of Carolinas throughout the month.

**GNATCATCHER, KINGLETS.** **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** normally leave by mid-September, but Brendan Fogarty found one on the 16<sup>th</sup> at Long Dock Park in Beacon. This highly unusual sighting is the only October record for Dutchess since 2002. Turning to our far more common fall treetop foragers, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** pass through the area each year in good numbers. There were 49 records of 1-12 each. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** migrate through here as well, but some can be found in Dutchess throughout the winter. There were 21 records of 1-7 Golden-crowned Kinglets, the first being 1/1 Willow Glen Rd JM.



Hermit Thrush, photo by Carena Pooth

**THRUSHES AND MIMICS.** This group is a mixed bag. Most are largely absent in winter, including **Gray-cheeked**, **Swainson's**, **Hermit**, and **Wood Thrush**; **Gray Catbird**; and **Brown Thrasher**. We were lucky (just as we were last year) and had the two least common birds on that list, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (1/26 Buttercup West WC) and **Swainson's Thrush** (1/11 Montgomery Place FT; 1/18 Tymor Pk FT). There were 9 records of **Hermit Thrush**, averaging 2 each. No one reported **Wood Thrush** or **Brown Thrasher**, so those must have left in September (as they should!). **Gray Catbirds** were reported through the 26<sup>th</sup>, which is normal.

Others in the Thrushes & Mimics group can be found throughout the winter: **Eastern Bluebird**, **American Robin**, and **Northern Mockingbird**. Bluebirds and robins flock together as they search for and consume ripe berries on bushes and trees. There were 84 records of **American Robin**, averaging 9 each (the biggest flock had 100 birds). **Eastern Bluebird** was on 75 records of 1 to 23 each. There were 25 records of **Northern Mockingbird**, 1 to 3 in each.



## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

**STARLINGS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS.** There were 80 records, of **European Starling**. Barb Mansell found 17 **American Pipits** at O'Leary Farm on Salt Point Turnpike on the 17<sup>th</sup>. They were seen there again on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and 75 were seen there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> by Carena Pooth and Herb Thompson. There were 40 records of **Cedar Waxwing**, 1-75 each.

**WARBLERS.** We must bid most of these beloved gems farewell for the winter. The ones we see in October are mostly wearing their drabber "confusing fall" plumage. Still, we love to see them (and most of us enjoy the ID challenge!).

**Common Yellowthroat:** 11 records, 1<sup>st</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**American Redstart:** 1/1 Stanford Wildlife Prsv DK; 1/4 CIES BH; 1/5 Buttercup East JAll.

**Northern Parula:** 1/1 Buttercup MR; 1/4 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 2/5 Buttercup East JAll.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 5 records in 5 locations, 1 each.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 4 records 1<sup>st</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1/1 Ludlow Woods Rd DK

**Palm Warbler:** 22, 1-12 each, through the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Pine Warbler:** 1/1 yd Wapp Eileen Stickle.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 59 records of 1-20 each.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 4 records, avg 6 each.

**SPARROWS.** The least common sparrows seen in October were **Vesper Sparrow** (1/2 Stony Kill MK; 1/21 App Trl Pawling KH) and **Lincoln's Sparrow** (8 records from MR, CP, DK, SR, KH, HT).

**American Tree Sparrow** was reported only once, by Eileen Stickle in her yard on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 38 records of **Chipping Sparrow** through the 26, the highest being 40 on 2 records. **Field Sparrow** occurred on 17 records through the 31<sup>st</sup>. **Dark-eyed Juncos** started showing up on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and the highest count was 20/7 Stony Kill KH. Our other backyard winter sparrow, **White-throated Sparrow**, was everywhere all month (78 records). There were 7 records of **White-crowned Sparrow**. **Song** (97 records), **Swamp** (13 records) and **Savannah** (15 records) were as expected.

**Eastern Towhee** numbers were normal too, with 20 records. One disappointment: There were **NO Fox Sparrows** reported.

**TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, ALLIES.** There were **NO Scarlet Tanagers**, **NO Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and **NO Indigo Buntings**! But **Northern Cardinals** were red & normal!

**ICTERIDS/BLACKBIRDS.** The largest flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** had a modest 200 birds each, while Matthew Rymkiewicz reported a bigger flock of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** (300/22 Mill Rd). **Common Grackles**, on 14 records, topped out at only 75/18 Tymor Pk CV.

Moving on to a species that is more likely to pique your interest, **Rusty Blackbird** was reported on only 3 records: 3/5 Ryder Pd CF; 24/15 Sharon Stn Rd, North East TS; 2/25 Allen Rd Salt Pt BMa

**FINCHES.** There were 56 records of **House Finch** (normal) but only 3 records of **Purple Finch** (way lower than normal – keep in mind that Winter Finch Forecast mentioned at the beginning of this report). **American Goldfinches** were plentiful as usual, appearing on 71 records averaging 11 each.

The much reviled **House Sparrow** frolicked in usual numbers.

### OBSERVERS:

Janet Allison (JAll); Barbara Butler (BB); Jim Closs (JClo); Waterman Bird Club (FT); William Cook (WC); Michael Fargione (MF); Claudius Feger (CF); Brendan Fogarty (BF); Jay Gamble (JG); David Grover (DG); Richard Guthrie (RG); Ken Harris (KH); Julie Hart (JH); Barry Haydasz (BH); David Hayes (DH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Maha Katnani (MK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); James Leone (JL); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Liz Martens (LM); John McBride (JM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Michael Nicosia (MN); Mona Payton (MP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Susan Rogers (SR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Tom Schaefer (TS); Daniel Schlaepfer (DS); Dominic Sherony (DS); Adrian Smith (AS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Eileen Stickle (ESTi); Herb Thompson (HT); Chet Vincent (CV); Eliza Wein (EW)

**Abbreviations:** CIES: Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

- Carena Pooth

**Please enter your records into eBird (ebird.org).**

Or e-mail records to [records1@watermanbirdclub.org](mailto:records1@watermanbirdclub.org)

Or send via US mail:

November records to Barbara Michelin, 23 Hi View Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

December records to Deborah Kral, 156 Ludlow Woods Rd, Stanfordville, NY 12581

## NOVEMBER 2017 RECORDS

Temperatures were an unusual 74 degrees on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 70 degrees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 40's to 60's for the rest of the month. We had frost with the low temperatures by the end of the month. Some notable finds this month were: Greater White-fronted Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Snowy Egret, American Woodcock and 3 Flycatchers. Some permanent species were omitted from this report.

**Waterfowl:** Mute Swans, Mallards and Black Ducks were found on most lakes & ponds in good numbers. **Canada Geese** - most: 4210/5 Tamarack Lk FT and were seen on most lakes and ponds in smaller numbers. **Wood Ducks** still reported in small numbers with most: 25/11 Wapp Lk ,FT. Migrants were slow to move south with open waters in the northern part of New York again this year.

**Snow Goose:** 11 records, FIRST 3/4 Round Pd Amenia CP; 3/20 Strauss Marsh CV; LAST 1/25 Hunns Lk JA, MR, JM; COMMENTS: CV/20: 2 blue phase and 1 white-all Baffin Island large subspecies in my opinion.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 3 records incl. 1/24 Hunns Lk VH & 2/26 Hunns Lk CP.

**Cackling Goose:** 4 records, incl. 1/3 Lavalley Rd Pd Amenia HT, CP; 4/5 Tamarack Lk FT; LAST 1/25 Hunns Lk DK, JA.

**Brant:** 7 records, incl. 1/2 Wapp Lk CP, HT; 1/4 Round Pd Amenia DK, CP; 1/5 Tamarack Lk FT; MAX 7/15 Chelsea Marina HRA; COMMENT: BB at Round Pond 4th-12th

**Gadwall:** 7 records, incl. 1/2 Thompson Pd AL; 2/7 The Fly MS; LAST 2/11 Wapp Lk KH; MAX 4/10 Silver Lk Clinton JM.

**American Wigeon:** 3 records, 1/4 Round Pd Amenia DK, CP; 4/14 Buttercup West LW; 1/21 Round Pd Amenia CP.

**Northern Shoveler:** 3 records, incl. 4/4 Buttercup & 2/5 Buttercup MR.

**Northern Pintail:** 21 records, incl. 3/1 The Fly DK; 10/5 Tamarack Lk FT; LAST 1/30 Traver Pd SC; MAX 17/3 The Fly CV.

**Green-winged Teal:** 28 records, incl. 24/1 The Fly DK, 25/4 Buttercup MR, LAST 3/28 The Fly DK; MAX 31/5 Tamarack Lk FT.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 21 records, avg 24 ea. MAX 226/30 Traver Pd SC -- Huge raft of ducks, about 1/3 were females. Species is common here, but these numbers were impressive.

**Canvasback:** 2 records, 1/23 Clinton Pt HRA; 1/25 Hudson River, Rhinebeck DH.

**Greater Scaup:** 2/21 Round Pd Amenia CP (only record).

**Lesser Scaup:** 6 records, incl. 3/3 Round Pd Amenia HT, CP; LAST 1/21 Sylvan Lk CP; MAX 5/6 Round Pd Amenia SJ; NOTABLES: 3/5 Tamarack Lk FT, AMP.

**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** 3/4 Round Pd Amenia DK (only record).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 3 records, 1/3 Sylvan Lk DK, CP; 4/6 Abel's Pd DK & 3/6 Abel's Pd BB, SJ.

**Bufflehead:** 16 records, incl. 8/7 The Fly MS; 7/10 Hunns Lk JM; 1/28 Whaley Lk CP; MAX 11/4 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Common Goldeneye:** 2 records 1/4 Sylvan Lk & 1/5 Sylvan Lk CP; COMMENTS: CP/5: Yesterday there was only a female Common Goldeneye at this location. Today she was gone but this male was there instead.

**Hooded Merganser:** good numb

ers thru mo. with 44 records, 1/1 Lk Weil Wingdale CP; LAST 1/29 Hunns Lk KS; MAX 46/11 Wapp Lk FT; NOTABLES: 23/15 Hillside Lk JM..

**Common Merganser:** good numbers with 52 records 2/2 Wapp Crk DK, 28/14 Wapp Lk JM; 25/23 Clinton Pt HRA; MAX 31/21 Round Pd Amenia CP; COMMENTS: HRA/23: "dozens" Lake - in Cobalt Lake on Casperkill betw Hudson R and Rt 9.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 records, 1 male/23 Clinton Pt HRA - in Cobalt Lake on Casperkill betw Hudson R and Rt 9; 1 female/26 Round Pd Amenia HT, CP Easy to compare with nearby, slightly larger Common Mergansers. This bird lacked the clear demarcation of brown and white on the neck, and lacked the clear white chin patch of the Commons.

**Ruddy Duck:** good numbers avg. 43 ea. incl. 110/3 Sylvan Lk CP; MAX 154/21 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 3 records, 1/2 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 3/5 Tamarack Lk FT; 1/9 TSP mm 71.2 LM.

**Wild Turkey:** 12 records, avg 12 ea. 15/2 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 1/3 Michelin yd Wapp BAM; MAX 50/22 E Fishkill yard HRA.

**Red-throated Loon:** 1/26 Sylvan Lk DK (only record).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 13 records, incl. 2/10 Silver Lk Clinton JM; 1/30 Traver Pd SC; MAX 5/5 Tamarack Lk FT; COMMENTS: DK/9: on small pond, continuing bird, softly vocalizing, observed catching small fish

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 5 records, LAST 3/11 Wapp Lk FT; MAX 16/4 Residence Inn, Poughkeepsie TF

**Great Blue Heron:** 43 records, incl. 3/2 Wapp Lk DK; LAST 1/30 Red Wing LaGrange DK; MAX 6/11 Wapp Lk FT.

**Snowy Egret:** 1/10 Rhinebeck Water Treatment Plant JM. (only record). Much smaller than nearby GBHE- bright yellow feet and black bill visible COMMENT: BB: late, unusual for Nov.

**Hawks:** Red-tailed Hawks were well reported throughout the county. **Cooper's Hawk:** 17 reports and **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 15 records.

**Black Vulture:** 15 records, avg 5 ea. 20/1 North Main Street, Pine Plains DK12/28 Ludlow Woods Rd DK.; LAST Date 30, 2 records.; MIN 1 on 3 records COMMENT BB: sightings are widespread

**Turkey Vulture:** 28 records, avg 2 ea. 4/1 North Main Street, Pine Plains DK; 4/2 Wapp Lk DK; LAST 9/30 Dennings Pt AL; MAX 9/30 Dennings Pt AL; MIN 1 on 15 records COMMENTS: DK/1: in Norway Spruce separate from BLVU

**Osprey:** 5 records, 1/4 Round Pd Amenia DK; LAST 1/25 Wapp Lk JCo; MAX/MIN 1 on 5 records.

**Northern Goshawk:** 1/12 Willow Glen Rd JM (only record). COMMENTS: JM/12: Large accipiter- slate gray back- darker head- chest appeared pure white- no evidence of barring- flew through understudy before diving at something on the forest floor, then flew away empty taloned

**Bald Eagle:** Good numbers of 1-2 reported near water - mostly Pine Plains & through county.

**Golden Eagle:** 3 records, 1/2 Clove Rd Union Vale DK; 1/5 Buttercup MR; 1/26 Rowe Rd MR.

**Northern Harrier:** 9 records, avg 1 ea. 1/3 Strauss Marsh HT, CP; 1/27 Peach Hill LM; LAST 1/29 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; MAX 3/16 Mashomack CV; MIN 1 on 7 records.

## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 56 records, avg 2 ea. incl. 7/21 Dover Plains DK; LAST 8/29 Nuclear Lk CP; MAX 8/29 Nuclear Lk CP; MIN 1 on 29 records.

**Shorebirds: American Coot:** 16 records, avg 11 ea. 3/2 Wapp Lk CP, HT, DK; 1/5 Sylvan Lk CP; 14/5 Tamarack Lk FT, AMP; 15/6 Round Pd Amenia SJ. LAST 20/28 Sylvan Lk CP; MAX 21/11 Wapp Lk FT.

**Killdeer:** 2 records, 13/2 Thompson Pd AL; 1/5 Tamarack Lk FT.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1/11 Thompson Pd RM (only record).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1/11 Thompson Pd RM (only record).

**American Woodcock:** 2/26 Tower Hill Rd JA (only record).  
COMMENTS: JA/26: Two different males flushed from dense underbrush in wet area. Saw birds in flight with binoculars, heard distinctive "wing whistling" as birds flew off.  
(A surprise sighting in November!)

**Gulls: Ring-billed Gull** seen throughout county by many observers **most:** 180/27 Sylvan Lk CP; 71/11 Wapp Lk FT; 64/19 McEnroe Compost DK; 100/26 Round Pd Amenia CP, HT.

**Herring Gull:** 8 records avg. 2 ea: **most:** 6/19 McEnroe Compost DK;

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 2 records, 2/2 Wapp Lk DK; 9/23 Beacon Waterfront Pk KH.

**gull sp.:** 2 records, 1/28 Stony Kill Fm, Sierra Trl AL; 12/30 Dennings Pt AL.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 7 records, avg 1 ea. incl. 2/14 Mashomack DK; 1/11-27 Strever Fm Rd, Pine Plains sev. observers; 1/25 Dailey Rd. LaGrange HT; LAST 1/29 Buttercup West MS.

**Great Horned Owl:** 1/15 Ludlow Woods Rd DK (only record)..

**Barred Owl:** 5 records, avg 1 ea. incl. 1/21 Butler yd Verbank BB; 1/23 Reese Pk KH; 1/28 Stony Kill Fm, Sierra Trl AL; LAST 1/30 Ludlow Woods Rd DK.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 36 records, avg 1 ea. incl. 2/7 The Fly MS; LAST 1/30 Traver Pd SC; MAX 3/5 Tamarack Lk AMP, FT; MIN 1 on 34 records

**Woodpeckers: Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker** - good numbers reported of 1-2 by most observers.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 14 records, avg 2 ea. 1/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT, AMP, CV; LAST 1/30 Dennings Pt AL; MAX 4/15 FDRNHS FT; MIN 1 on 8 records

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 33 records, avg 1 ea. by most observers; MAX 3/20 Locust Grove KH; 4/28 Dennings Pt MC.

**American Kestrel:** 5 records, avg 1 ea. incl. 1/5 Strever Fm DK; 1/8 Vassar Fm DW; LAST 1/24 Bangall-Amenia Rd. DK; COMMENTS: DW/8: Watched it catch and eat 8 grasshoppers/large insects in 10 minutes. Super-efficient hunter. Characteristic balancing in the breeze on top of the fence posts with tail going up and down ....

**Merlin:** 5 records, avg 1 ea. incl. 1/6 Reagan Rd CV; 1/11 Wapp Lk, FT; LAST 1/20 Reagan Rd CV;

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 records, 1/4 Residence Inn, Poughkeepsie TF; 1/22 Round Pd Amenia DK.

**Flycatchers: Several late sightings.**

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 1/14 Strauss Marsh AMP (only record).

**Least Flycatcher:** 2 records, 1/29 Red Wing LaGrange FT; 1/30 Red Wing LaGrange DK; COMMENTS: MS/29: Small triangle behind eye. Small flycatcher. Quick chip notes. Very Pale lemon wash on belly. FT+AMP/29: notes from B Butler, will add notes from other observers. Photos to be added soon. Very late, normally departs Sept 3. General area - old gravel bank, now a park with sports fields. Some areas still mowed, most growing up to early - mid succession. [...] DK/30: Brief look, small, greenish, eye ring, called non-stop for several minutes, recorded via iPhone video

**Eastern Phoebe:** 2 records, 1/2 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 1/26 Rowe Rd MR.

**American Crow: most:** 2000/8 Downtown Poughkeepsie DW; 136/16 Martens yd Salt Pt LM. COMMENTS: DW/8: Low estimate. This time of year they gather by the thousands every night at dusk, and roost in trees near the Hudson River. It is astonishing to watch so many birds fly in all at once!! They should be here all winter. They stream in from all directions.

**Fish Crow:** most malls - 2 records, Residence Inn, Poughkeepsie TF; 1/21 Pawling village KH.

**Common Raven:** 29 records, avg 2 ea. 3/3 McEnroe Compost CP, HT; LAST 3/29 Nuclear Lk CP; MAX 5/21 37 Sleight-Plass Rd, Poughkeepsie SC; MIN 1 on 21 records.

**Brown Creeper:** 9 records, 1/4 Buttercup MR; 2/26 Rowe Rd MR; LAST 1/29 Vanderbilt NHS AL; MAX 4/15 FDRNHS FT; MIN 1 on 6 records.

**Winter Wren:** 5 records, 1/2 LaGrange CV; 1/23 Reese Sanctuary KH; LAST 1/24 Buttercup VH; MAX/MIN 1 on 5 records.

**Carolina Wren:** 34 records, incl. 3/15 FDRNHS FT; MAX 4/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; MIN 1 on 24 records.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 24 records, avg 2 ea. 3/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; 4/4 Lafayetteville MUA AB; 5/20 Locust Grove KH; LAST Date 30, 2 records.; MAX 6/2 Thompson Pd AL; MIN 1 on 8 records.

**Ruby-Crowned Kinglet:** 7 records, avg 2 ea. 1/15 FDRNHS MS; LAST 1/28 Dennings Pt MC; MAX 4/2 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; MIN 1 on 5 records.

**American Robin, Eastern Bluebird and Cedar Waxwing** well reported and **Northern Mockingbird 1-4 reported throughout Co.** CV noted Robins 100/4 HVRT/Sharon St. Rd., MR noted Eastern Bluebirds 20/6 Greig Fm. and CV noted Cedar Waxwings 75/4 HVRT/Coleman St.

**Hermit Thrush:** 6 records, avg 2 ea. incl. 1/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; 2/4 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; 2/23 Vassar Fm CV; LAST 2/30 Dennings Pt AL.

**Gray Catbird:** 3 records, 1/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; 2/8 Madame Brett Pk ES; 1/9 Mill Rd, Millerton CV.

**American Pipit:** 2 records, 15/5 Tamarack Lk FT; 10/9 Downey Rd, Millerton CV.

**Snow Bunting:** 3/17 Strauss Marsh CV (only record).

**Warblers: Palm Warbler:** 1/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 CV, AMP, FT (only record).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 10 records, avg 3 ea. incl. 10/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; LAST 2/24 Woodward Hill Rd JM; MIN 1 on 4 records.

## WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017

### **Sparrows: White-throated, Dark-eyed Junco and Song**

were well reported throughout county by most observers.

**Eastern Towhee:** 2 records, 1/1 Lk Weil Wingdale CP; 1/5 Greig Fm MR.

**American Tree Sparrow:** 7 records, avg 3 ea. incl. 1/2 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; LAST 4/30 Red Wing LaGrange DK; MAX 6/9 Mill Rd, Millerton CV.

**Chipping Sparrow:** 2/1 Ludlow Woods Rd DK (only record).

**Field Sparrow:** 7 records, avg 3 ea. incl. 4/5 Greig Fm MR; LAST 2/30 Red Wing LaGrange DK; MAX 8/23 Vassar Fm CV.

**Fox Sparrow:** 4 records, 1/4 Buttercup AL; 1/5 Greig Fm MR; 1/9 Mill Rd, Millerton CV; 1/14 Buttercup West LW.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 3 records, 1/17 Berkshire Rd Dover CV; 9/21 37 Sleight-Plass Rd, Poughkeepsie SC; 15/28 Dennings Pt MC.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 1/5 Greig Fm MR (only record).

**Swamp Sparrow:** 4 records, incl. 2/2 Thompson Pd AL; 1/2 Wapp Crk DK; 1/23 Vassar Fm CV.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 22 records, avg 27 each. Incl. 60/5 Buttercup MR; 75/16 Lake Rd, Pine Plains CV; LAST 10/26 Reagan Rd HT, CP; MAX 82/9 Strauss Marsh CV.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 10 records, incl. 15/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; 1/11 Michelin yd Wapp BAM; 110/5 Greig Fm MR; LAST 24/20 Reagan Rd CV; MAX 275/3 Hillside Lk BJM.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 3 records, 1/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; 16/2 Thompson Pd AL; 1/5 Buttercup MR.

**Common Grackle:** 6 records, incl. 1/4 Lafayetteville MUA AB; 25/4 FDR Fm Ln ES; LAST 75/26 Tower Hill Rd JA; MAX 75/26 Tower Hill Rd JA.

**Blackbird sp.:** 2 records, 10/1 DRT Titusville - Rt55 FT; 150/5 Mashomack DK.

**Finches: House Finch and American Goldfinch** well reported by most observers.

**Purple Finch:** 2 records, 1/16 Spaeth yd Fishkill ES; 2/24 Woodward Hill Rd JM.

### **44 OBSERVERS**

Hudson River Almanac (HRA); John Askildsen (JA); Andrew Block (AB); Barbara Butler (BB); Michael Carozza (MC); Sean Carroll (SC); Jim Clinton (JCLi); Waterman Bird Club (FT); Jamie Collins (JCo); William Cook (WC); Timothy Fennell (TF); David Grover (DG); Richard Guthrie (RG); Terry Hardy (TH); Ken Harris (KH); David Hayes (DH); Valerie Heemstra (VH); Susan Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Linda Kleinhenz (LK); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Barbara Mansell (BMA); Frank Margiotta (FM); Liz Martens (LM); John McBride (JM); Allan Michelin (AJM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); R Miller (RM); Mona Payton (MP); Todd Peterson (TP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Kriss Replogle (KR); Susan Rogers (SR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Herb Thompson (HT); Eliza Wein (EW); Laura Weir (LW); Deborah Weltsch (DW)

Editor – Barbara Michelin

## DECEMBER 2017 RECORDS

There were 2800 records for 105 species in December, most through eBird. Highlights of the Sharon CBC and Ulster/Dutchess CBC were added. (The part of the Sharon CBC in Dutchess is mostly in the Town of Northeast. The Dutchess part of the Ulster/Dutchess CBC is in the Towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck.) The full results of the Dutchess Christmas Bird Count held on the 16th were reported separately in the January Wings.

Weather was fairly warm until the 5.5 inch snow on the 9<sup>th</sup>, then mostly around freezing or below (except for the 19<sup>th</sup> in the 50s). Besides a few half-inches, the only other snow was 2 inches on Christmas Day.

We had a new addition to our Dutchess County list! – a King Eider at Norrie Point. Fortunately the observer was there with his camera when the bird flew in a loop past Norrie and kept going. Unfortunately no one else was able to see the bird. Following this report is the King Eider entry for the next update of the online *Birds of Dutchess County*.

Several species that are normally gone by December lingered, including our first December record for White-eyed Vireo. Only the highlights for December species are included here. Records for the rest are part of the club archives. They are accessible on eBird. You don't need an eBird userid to look at the data. Just go to eBird.org, select "Explore", then "Explore a Region". Type in "Dutchess", which brings you to a page about Dutchess County. Have fun exploring from there.

Cackling Goose: 1/2 Strauss Marsh CV; 1/17 Northeast Sharon CBC.

Gadwall: 2/10 Strauss Marsh CV; 1/29 Sylvan Lk CP.

Canvasback: 2/27 UD CBC Rhinebeck (Sector J) WT, DK (only record). Not seen most winters.

Greater Scaup: 2/27 UD CBC Rhinebeck (Sector J) DK, DH, WT (only record).

Lesser Scaup: 2/4 Rhinebeck Water Treatment Plant SS; 2/22 Round Pd Amenia CP.

**King Eider** -- New County Record – 1/18 Norrie Point Peter Stewart. He reported it on eBird with photos. His report said: "Noticed mid-sized duck flying southeast with a sense of urgency across from the pier. It passed the island, then u-turned to make a close pass of the pier and joined up with four common mergansers heading north towards the cabin area. Reddish brown coloring, normal sized head, slightly curved bill, silhouette, eye and bill features lead me to believe this to be a female adult king eider."

Common Loon: 1/4 Burger Hill SS; 2/18 Mills-Norrie SP--Norrie Pt PS.

Great Cormorant: 1/2 Dennings Pt AL (only record).

Osprey: 1/2 Wapp Lk JA (only record). Now that they nest in and around the county, they are found here later in the year as well.

Golden Eagle: Starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> they were found at HVRT Sharon Station, Stissing/Thompson Pond, and Tamarack Lake. A harbinger for more Golden's this winter?

Bald Eagle: 65 records, avg 2 each. 9/21 Dover Plains MS, KS; 6/28 Attlebury Hill Rd, Stanfordville dining on a deer carcass DK.

Rough-legged Hawk: reported from The Fly, Red Hook, Wappinger Lake, and Millerton.

Long-eared Owl: 1/27 Annandale UD CBC (only record). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1/27 Ryan Rd, Rhinebeck UD CBC (only record).

Eastern Phoebe: 1/11 Upton Lk Christian Church JCLI (only record). Quite unusual in winter.

Northern Shrike: 1/2 Lower Sharon Stn Rd CV (only record).

White-eyed Vireo: 1/4 Rhinebeck Water Treatment Plant SS. A first for December, a well-detailed report.

Gray Catbird: 1/17 Northeast Sharon CBC (only record). A half-hardy.

American Pipit: 4/17 Northeast Sharon CBC; 1/26 Taylor Rd DK; unusual in December.

Lapland Longspur: 2/27 UD CBC D Kerley Corners SR, PS (only record).

Chipping Sparrow: 2/27 UD CBC D Kerley Corners SR, PS - non breeding adult. dark lores, gray breast and nape. Rufous cap. Unusual in December.

White-crowned Sparrow: 3/17 Northeast Sharon CBC; 3/27 UD CBC D Kerley Corners SR, PS;

Savannah Sparrow: 3/16 Gretna & W Gretna Rd, PV LM, SJ, BMA; 1/17 Northeast Sharon CBC; 8/27 UD CBC D Kerley Corners SR, PS;

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1/27 UD CBC Rhinebeck (Sector J) DK, WT. Seen at Creed Ankony Farm in Rhinebeck. "From side viewed crisp fine streaks on sides, gray supercilium and nape."

We have very few winter records of Lincoln's Sparrows.

Eastern Meadowlark: 1/17 Flint Hill Rd, Smithfield JA (only record).

Rusty Blackbird: 8 records, avg 5 each. Most 14/3 Stissing Pd JM; 12/17 Downey Rd, Millerton DK.

Purple Finch: 1/18 Dupay Rd PIVAl SC; 1/27 UD CBC D Kerley Corners PS, SR; 1/28 Rowe Rd MR.

Observers -- Janet Allison (JAlI); John Askildsen (JA); Bob & Cyd Averill (BCA); Barbara Butler (BB); Sean Carroll (SC); Sharon CBC (Sharon CBC); Ulster/Dutchess CBC (UD CBC); Jim Clinton (JCLI); Jim Closs (JClo); Waterman Bird Club (FT); William Cook (WC); Claudius Feger (CF); Melissa Fischer (MeF); Dot Fleury (DF); Ken Harris (KH); David Hayes (DH); Susan Joseph (SJ); Deborah Kral (DK); Aimee Labarr (AL); Bill Lenhart (BL); Scott Lenhart (SL); Barbara Mansell (BMA); Liz Martens (LM); John McBride (JM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM); Mona Payton (MP); Alan Peterson (AP); Jan & Alan Peterson (JP); Bert Pooth (BP); Carena Pooth (CP); Adrienne Popko (AMP); Morgan Rich (MRi); Susan Rogers (SR); Jane Rossman (JR); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Kathryn Schneider (KS); Peter Schoenberger (PS); Dominic Sherony (DS); Marian Sole (MS); Edmond Spaeth (ES); Peter Stewart (PSt); Sherman Suter (SS); Wendy Tocci (WT); Tricia van Oers (TV); Chet Vincent (CV); Eliza Wein (EW)

Editor – Barbara Butler

Stan DeOrsey's addition to *Birds of Dutchess County* will be part of the next update to the online version.....

**King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*)

**Only Date:** *Accidental*

One female on Dec. 18, 2017 off Norrie Point, Hyde Park, found and photographed by Peter Stewart

**Status:** The King Eider is very uncommon inland although it is regularly found in winter off Long Island and near Lake Ontario. The eastern population breeds in the Canadian arctic, among the farthest north of any bird species, and normally winter

## **WATERMAN BIRD CLUB / COMPILED MONTHLY RECORDS / JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017**

south to New Jersey. First year birds tend to winter the farthest south. A true sea duck, most of their life is spent at sea. They are also found in arctic Europe and Asia.

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