



Happy New Year!

**MEETING NOTICE**

**Due to Covid-19, our 2021 meetings at the Freedom Plains Church Fellowship Hall have been cancelled until further notice.**

**The January virtual membership meeting will be Monday, January 25, 2021, at 7:30pm via Zoom. Claudius Feger will present a program on "Birds of Eastern Australia – An Annotated Trip Report." Further information to join this meeting will be sent via email to all club members in advance of the meeting. Please check your email and our website for any changes.**

From 8/22 to 9/18/2019, my wife and I travelled to the East coast of Australia for a birding trip, luckily just before the devastating fires that destroyed so much of Eastern Australia. We visited four areas: Southern and Northern Queensland, Victoria, and the Sydney area, including a pelagic trip.

My talk will first discuss how to self-organize and prepare for a birding trip to another country. I will then discuss Australia's endemic (only occurring there) bird families and mention some basics of bird evolution, since Australia's avifauna has several ancient species. I'll also give a quick overview about how songbirds, which evolved in Australia, moved from there to the rest of the world. The majority of the talk will focus on photos I took during our trip, mostly of endemic, Australian birds, but also of some of the other, fantastic Australian wildlife.

**Having trouble figuring out how to use Zoom? Try our ZOOM PRIMER for help. See the Meetings and Events page of our website at [watermanbirdclub.org](http://watermanbirdclub.org).**

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*Happy birder Claudius Feger*

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*The next Wings deadline is March 9, 2021. Please send articles to Barbara Michelin and copies to Janet Allison, Susan Joseph and Gina Palmer. Contact info on this page.*

**You can reach all the editors at once by email to [newsletter1@watermanbirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter1@watermanbirdclub.org).**

**WEDNESDAY FIELD TRIPS**

In light of the continuing restrictions on social gatherings, field trips will continue each Wednesday for members only and with a limit of 9 members + leader per walk. **You MUST wear a mask, practice social distancing, and MUST call leader for each walk.** If you have gone on a walk, please limit your attendance to every 2-3 weeks so all our members have a chance to attend the walks. Please monitor our website regularly for any changes to the schedule.

- Feb. 3** **Mills Mansion – Leader: Janet Allison (845-264-3222).** Meet at the Mansion parking lot, Staatsburg at **9:00am.**
- Feb. 10** **Dutchess Rail Trail/Hopewell Jct. – Leader: Barbara Michelin (845-242-2301)** Meet at Train Depot parking lot, Rt. 376, Hopewell Jct. at **9:00am.**
- Feb. 17** **Vanderbilt Mansion: Leader: Binnie Chase (845-724-5912).** Meet at the visitor parking lot (Rt.9, Hyde Park) at **9:00am.**
- Feb. 24** **Thompson Pond: Leader: Chet Vincent (845-264-2015).** Meet there (off Lake Rd., Pine Plains) at **9:00am.**
- Mar. 3** **Bowdoin Park: Leader: Barbara Michelin (845-242-2301.** Meet at the upper level parking area (off Sheafe Rd. Twn Wappingers) at **9:00am.**
- Mar. 10** **Norrie Point: Leader: Janet Allison (845-264-3222)** Meet at the Education Center parking lot (Staatsburg) at **9:00am.**
- Mar. 17** **Harlem Valley Rail Trail – Coleman Station Rd. (off Rt. 22/44 north of Amenia) Leader: Barbara Butler (914-474-5981).** Meet at parking lot at **9:00am.**
- Mar. 24** **Stony Kill Leader: Sue Infante (845-831-3494).** Meet at the Manor House parking lot Rt. 9D, Town of Wappingers) at **9:00am.**
- Mar. 31** **Buttercup West Leader: Chet Vincent (845-264-2015) -** Meet at parking lot (Stissing Mt. Ln. & right onto Mountain Rd., Stanfordsville-off Rt.82) at **9:00am**

Questions on field trips call Adrienne Popko @ 845-264-2015 or Barbara Michelin @ 845-242-2301.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year and hope this year will be better than last year. At this time I would like to recognize those who have made last year a bearable birding year. First, Susan Iannucci worked to set up the Zoom webinar that allowed us to have our board meetings and membership evening programs. Her efforts have allowed many members the opportunity to see and interact with each other. Field trips have been reactivated by Adrienne Popko, with limited numbers. Getting out and birding with some socializing has been a great benefit to many members.

Even though Susan Gilnack is not continuing in the hospitality position, we would like to thank her for all the goodies that have been served at past membership programs. Susan will still continue her amazing work on the Bluebird trail but will be adding new nest boxes for Kestrels. This will keep Susan busy over the winter preparing Kestrel boxes for the spring.

If you are on Facebook, Deb Tracy-Kral has done an amazing job of posting great information on both local birding happenings and current topics related to birds. The publication of *Wings* by Barbara Michelin, Janet Allison, Susan Joseph, and Gina Palmer has kept the membership up to date on all the club involvements. The club appreciates all the work by our board members and friends that have helped us continue our enjoyment of birds during this pandemic.

Stay Safe and Enjoy the Winter Birds

*David Grover*

## LIBRARY NEWS

We are very fortunate to again have received the benefit of a large donation of books from one of our members. Lucy Anich has been generously passing along boxes of books on birding in several international destinations as well as books that go into detailed information on specific types of birds such as seabirds, owls, and more. There are a few CDs covering bird songs in some of these foreign places as well.

We are making special arrangements for the exchange of books until we can safely resume our monthly meetings in person, so if a title interests you, please contact me and we can see what works on an individual basis.

So check out all the new additions at [LibraryThing.com/catalog/RTWBC](https://librarything.com/catalog/RTWBC) and a huge thank you to Lucy for this very generous donation!

*Shelly Redl, Library Chair*  
[shellyredl@gmail.com](mailto:shellyredl@gmail.com)  
 (914) 489-1592

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A special Welcome to our Newest Members! Maggie Worden of Garrison joined our Club the last week of October, and Brian and Donna Hess of Poughkeepsie signed up in November 2020. In December, we welcomed new members Liselotte Vince of Verbank, Elizabeth Axley of Tivoli, Tony Avirgan & Martha Honey of Rhinebeck, and Madeleine George of Staatsburg. And Robert and Michela Nonis, former members, rejoined us in December.

We are glad for the opportunity to meet and greet you, and hope you will feel like old friends soon enough! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the Committee Chairs if you have any questions or concerns about how to get involved with any of our activities.

If you have accidentally let your membership expire, please remedy that by sending me your dues check for \$25 made payable to RTWBC today. Your January *Wings* label will say EXP. or you will have just received an email to that effect if that is the case!

Wishing all a very Happy New Year!

*Linda Kleinhenz*  
 845-297-1812

## Good News! Empire State Trail Completed

58 Projects Completed by State and Local Partners to Build Nation's Longest Multi-Use State Trail. Project Includes More Than 180 Miles of Newly Created Off-Road Trail.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced completion of the Empire State Trail, now the nation's longest multi-use state trail, which will be fully open on December 31. The trail spans 750-miles total, 75 percent of which is off-road trails ideal for cyclists, hikers, runners, cross-country skiers and snow-shoers. The new recreational trail, which runs from New York City through the Hudson and Champlain Valleys to Canada, and from Albany to Buffalo along the Erie Canal, will provide a safe and scenic pathway for New Yorkers and tourists to experience New York State's varied landscapes. The Empire State Trail is expected to draw 8.6 million residents and tourists annually.

A map of the trail can be found at:

<https://empiretrail.ny.gov/>

*Sue Iannucci*

**Treasurer's Report for End of Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020**

	<b>INCOME</b>	
	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
Membership Dues 2020-2021	\$1,525.00	\$1,550.00
Contributions 2020 - 2021	\$745.00	
Membership Dues 2019-2020	\$5,175.00	\$4,900.00
Contributions 2019 - 2020	\$4,372.00	\$4,400.00
Sales	\$57.00	\$120.00
Annual Dinner	\$511.65	\$450.00
<b>Total YTD Income</b>	<b>\$10,115.65</b>	<b>\$9,870.00</b>

	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
<b>Committees</b>		
Bluebird Trail	\$35.74	\$75.00
Communications Support	\$144.06	\$160.00
Education: General Programs	\$0.00	\$190.00
Education: DEC Summer Camp	\$350.00	\$700.00
Education: H. Thompson Memorial Scholarship	\$250.00	\$250.00
Education: NYSYBC partner dues	\$75.00	\$75.00
Field Trips	\$0.00	\$75.00
Finance	\$51.64	\$50.00
Hospitality	\$3.00	\$10.00
Membership: Administration	\$0.00	\$50.00
Membership: holiday party venue	\$100.00	\$100.00
Newsletter	\$712.28	\$1,000.00
NYSOA Delegate	\$50.00	\$1,500.00
Program: Speaker fees & expenses	\$810.04	\$2,300.00
Program: Support	\$29.98	\$0.00
Program: Freedom Plains venue	\$200.00	\$700.00
Publicity	\$0.00	\$50.00
Sunshine	\$230.09	\$300.00
Website	\$1,813.38	\$1,400.00
Corresponding Secretary	\$86.98	\$100.00
ExComm: PO Box, Insurance, etc	\$466.00	\$420.00
ExComm: Donation Drive	\$0.00	\$300.00
Unbudgeted Contingencies	\$1,457.12	\$65.00
<b>Total Fiscal YTD Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,865.31</b>	<b>\$9,870.00</b>

Current Checking Account **\$10,839.86**

<b>CD Accounts</b>	Due Dates	YTD Balances	Interest/Year	% Yield
Book Sales Fund CD 8600002094	7/27/2020	\$6,131.64	\$142.15	0.65
Endowment Fund CD 8600001286	4/20/2020	\$4,971.25	\$105.92	1.39
Memorial Fund CD 8600000064	9/24/2020	\$3,004.18	\$55.54	1.72
General Fund CD 8600006970	11/27/2020	\$3,628.31	\$71.26	1.98
<b>Total Certificate of Deposit Assets</b>		<b>\$17,735.38</b>	<b>\$374.87</b>	

Total CD Assets **\$17,735.38**  
Ending Balance of Checking Account **\$10,839.86**  
**Balance of Total Assets \$28,575.24**

Respectfully submitted by Claudius Feger, Treasurer, on 11/2/2020.



## **NY Breeding Bird Atlas: An Opportunity to Enhance Birding Acumen**

Every year, American Robins nest under my deck, Chipping Sparrows in small shrubs in the yard and Red-tailed Hawks in the woods behind the house. I track their progress as the nests are built and the chicks raised. When I came to know about the need for volunteers for the third NY Breeding Bird Atlas, I signed up as an atlaser for the Hopewell Junction\_NW priority block, which covers my house and my favorite Lake Walton and Diddle Road sections of the Dutchess Rail Trail. My experience with a few species nesting around my house was too limited for this undertaking, but it presented an interesting opportunity to learn from other RTW Bird Club members and to make contributions to this important conservation planning effort.

The mixed habitat around my house attracts many bird species without the incentive of bird feeders. In early spring as I became more vigilant, I watched Mourning Doves, House Finches, American Robins and Chipping Sparrows collecting nesting materials and their first failed attempts to assemble the nests. The Red-tailed Hawk pair chose a site deeper in the woods and by early May there were two fluffy white chicks with beaks wide open.

Around this time, there were four nestlings in the robin's nest, the Chipping Sparrow and House Finch's nests were robbed, and the Mourning Doves moved away to some undisclosed location. The male Northern Cardinal began wooing his mate with small gifts and beak-to-beak contacts as did a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers. Many other birds were paired and appeared to have good intentions of preserving their species.

By early June, the summer migrants were busy nesting and I needed to scout the whole block. Walking the trails with Barbara M., learning bird calls, and finding chicks begging for food was exciting even when it was a male American Redstart feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird chick. Such is life in the wild!

It was difficult to locate the nests of most birds. Birds carrying food or feeding recently fledged young were easier to spot. In my yard, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, Song Sparrows, Northern flickers, Chipping Sparrows, Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins, House Wrens, Carolina Wrens and Northern Cardinals were all busy with young ones in July and August. A Baltimore Oriole chick, too small to fly, called incessantly for attention for several hours. I wondered if it survived. Then it was schooling time for the immature birds and heart-warming to see Northern Cardinals, Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Flickers, Red-bellied and Pileated woodpeckers patiently teaching their young to hunt for food.

I photographed many breeding species around my house, noting the changes in plumage and behavior over time as the fledglings matured. It takes a Northern Cardinal chick

about one month to get an orange-red beak, all immature Northern Flickers have a moustache characteristic of male flickers, young Eastern Kingbirds have no white tail-stripe, and so much more.

At the end of the season, my block had 50 confirmed species with many contributions from Barbara M., Sue I., Linda K., and other birders. It was an amazing and enriching experience, expanding my knowledge of bird behavior at all stages of their lives. I am now looking forward to the 2021 cycle and taking on the challenge of finding more nesting species in this block.

*Manjul Bhushan*



*A Baltimore Oriole chick calling for attention*



*A Northern Cardinal fledgling*

### **Get Involved!**

**The second year of the third New York Breeding Bird Atlas has begun! Find out how you can participate on the website at <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about>.**

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Wednesday, November 4, 2020: Bowdoin Park

On a clear, crisp, fall morning eight of us met with Barbara Butler at Bowdoin Park to walk two miles along the park trails. Walking along with us were two employees from Dutchess County Parks who were enthused to learn more about the club. Walking toward the eagle nest we observed 20 White-throated Sparrow, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Song Sparrow, 2 Northern Cardinal, 4 American Goldfinch, 6 House Sparrow, 2 American Robin, 3 Eastern Bluebird, 4 Northern Mockingbird, 5 European Starling, 4 Carolina Wren, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Tufted Titmouse, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 American Crow, 6 Blue Jay, 2 Northern Flicker, 6 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4 Brown Creeper.

Some highlights of this part of the walk included two Downy Woodpeckers displaying unusual non-aggressive behavior, following each other as they flew from branch to branch. We were also delighted to watch the Brown Creepers (two at a time at widely spaced locations) work their way up several trees. Also, one of the rather friendly Mockingbirds was willing to be photographed as we walked past him. We listened to the White-throated Sparrows and learned how to distinguish their call from other birds.

As we worked our way down to the cove we stopped at a pond and counted 7 Mallard. Closer to the cove we observed a Bald Eagle perched on a tree by the river and 2 Red-tailed hawks and two Turkey Vultures flying overhead.

At the cove with the help of Barbara Butler's scope we saw 10 Common Merganser and at first thought that they were females, but after looking through the scope we realized, after seeing the white wing patches, that they were males. A Ring-billed Gull flew over and 2 Belted Kingfishers were included in the count. On the way back up to the parking lot another Eagle flew overhead.

Another enjoyable morning and, as with every walk, we much appreciate the knowledge and patience of the expert birders in the club to help us identify birds by song and distinguishing characteristics.

*Jennifer Morton*

### Wednesday, November 18, 2020: Dutchess Rail Trail - Hopewell Junction to Lake Walton

On one of the coldest mornings of the season with 10 to 15 MPH winds, 6 members bundled up and met me at the parking lot. While waiting for everyone to arrive we heard 2 Common Ravens and Chet saw them overhead. Also a flock of about 40 blackbirds flew by but we were not sure if they were Cowbirds or Red-wings.

As we started north to Lake Walton we checked the stream before Rt. 376 and found 8 Mallards. In just a short distance, we had a pocket of birds at a feeder with 2 Tufted Titmice, 1 Red-bellied and a Downy Woodpecker, Chickadees and a White-breasted Nuthatch. Continuing

on, just after crossing Rt. 376 we found 7 House Sparrows, 2 House Finch, a few White-throated Sparrows and heard an American Crow in the backyards of Toll Brothers homes.

Continuing and sheltered from the winds we found another nice pocket of birds that included 12 White-throated Sparrows, 4 Juncos, Blue Jays, 2 Bluebirds, more Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatch plus a Carolina Wren, Hairy Woodpecker and Flicker were heard.

When we arrived at the lake we found 10 Ring-necked Ducks in the back cove near where the old campground was and 2 Black Duck. We used my scope with rifle mount to confirm the number of Ring-necks. Further along looking into the marsh area the beaver made, we found 2 more Black Ducks and 1 Mallard.

We decided to walk up as far as the power line but did not quite make it there as we found another pocket of birds along the small stream. There were more White-throats, Juncos, Chickadees and a Goldfinch. Then Chet found a Pileated Woodpecker that we all saw.

On our way back to the parking lot we added 3 Robins. It turned to be a nice morning walk for a cold day.

*Barbara Michelin*

### Wednesday, December 9, 2020: Norrie Point

Jim Closs led this morning's bird walk starting at the Education Center of Norrie Point, on the edge of the Hudson River. Three Bald Eagles were quickly spotted by the earliest arrivals. Cloudy skies and cold temps accompanied all eight of us as we met mask-on the challenges created by our congenial chatter and exclamations of birds heard/seen, with consequent fogging of glasses and binoculars! In all, we spotted 26 species and 157 birds this morning, with the most numerous individuals being 35 Mallards, followed by many Dark-eyed Juncos, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, and White-throated Sparrows. We were pleased to see and hear Belted Kingfishers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Bluebirds, among others. On the walk back, steady snowflakes accompanied us as well. As the wind never whipped up, the conditions remained pleasant for our outing. We were all grateful for the opportunity to be outdoors enjoying the company of our fellow birders, new and old, and catching up on the delights offered by a new winter in our Hudson Valley.

*Jennifer Morton*

*Linda Kleinhenz*

### Wednesday, January 6, 2021: Baird Park

Our maximum allowed number of 10 birders met on a VERY blustery morning and in spite of some early scouting to see what we may encounter, there was not much going on except some catching up with one another in the parking lot, always an enjoyable session! We headed down hill toward the ponds to count the 313 Canada Geese and 61 Mallards joined by 4 Black Ducks. A couple of Red-tailed Hawks made repeated appearances

soaring back and forth, but the gusty winds brought no more hawks, vultures or eagles, making what we would expect to see but didn't the theme of the day. Several people commented on the lack of all Woodpeckers, the fact that we saw no Chickadees, and that a very abundant bird on the CBC, the Junco, was nowhere to be seen. I say they all had more sense than we did and were hunkered down in their roosts out of the wind.

We did get a Fish Crow, a couple of Titmice and Carolina Wrens were heard, and two Mockingbirds were seen. While watching the waterfowl, a pair of Cardinals struggled to maneuver their flight across the water and land safely in a bush on the opposite bank. The gusty wind made the flight seem almost comical, and I was definitely rooting for a safe landing, which they did accomplish. This makes me wonder if adult birds (fledglings don't count) ever crash land in high wind. I see a YouTube search in my future...

In spite of all the birds we expected but did not see, and the fact that at least one of us had to sporadically start jogging just to keep warm, our Wednesday walks are such a treat for so many of us and it is such a pleasure to see one another after so long, that it was all definitely worth any perceived shortcomings (and I had on new Christmas thermals and a very old Woolrich Macinaw that the wind couldn't touch!).

*Shelly Redl*

**DECEMBER 19, 2020:  
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT**  
[Summary Chart on next page]

Most people would believe that a global pandemic, a snowstorm that left over a foot of snow two days before the count and/or an arctic air mass moving through on count day would be more than enough reason to throw in the towel and cancel the CBC. Most people don't know how dedicated and resilient birders (particularly Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club birders) are!

On a cloudy Saturday morning that began with below zero temperatures, thirty-two field observers, diligently following NYS mandates regarding Covid-19, donned extra layers as well as masks and counted birds for the next several hours. By the time the skies turned sunny and temperatures had risen to 28 degrees, 71 species and 21,016 individual birds had been recorded. We can also thank three feeder watchers that participated in the count as well.

Now for the numbers. It is concerning that our overall numbers are down by 5,896 birds from last year and down 9,474 from 2018. The information also showed that we only had higher numbers with 24 species but lower numbers for 34 species from 2019. Is this the result of poor nesting success this spring, high mortality rate of birds this year in general, or the overall effect of climate

change (or a combination of all three)? Something to think about when we get the urge to get into our individual vehicles (pre- and post-pandemic, of course) to chase a bird halfway across the state or run to the market for something that could wait until the next big shopping day.

The species seen this year that were not counted last year were Common Goldeneye, Northern Harrier, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Rusty Blackbird and Baltimore Oriole. Missing this year from last were Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Greater Black-backed Gull, Osprey, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Field Sparrows, Eastern Towhee, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

There are some species that showed an all-time high: Black Vulture, Downy Woodpecker, Common Raven, Dark-eyed Junco and Red-winged Blackbird. Species that showed a significant decrease were Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Ring-billed Gull, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, House Finch, White-throated and Song Sparrow, and Common Grackle. Surprisingly, not a single Cedar Waxwing was observed during this year's count.

An enormous thank you to all participants. We would never have this valuable information without you! Janet Allison, Manjul Bhushan, Barbara Butler, Betsy Carswell, Binnie Chase, David Chernack, Jim Closs, Melissa Fischer, Stephen Fischer, Carol Fredericks, Ken Fredericks, Ken Harris, Barry Haydasz, Frances Iannucci, Susan Iannucci, Liz Jamison, Susan Joseph, Maha Katnani, Linda Kleinhenz, Debi Kral, Aimee LaBarr, Tom LaBarr, Barbara Mansell, Liz Martens, Ryan Maclean, Allan Michelin, Barbara Michelin, Krista Morris, Mona Payton, Maryanne Pitts, Carena Pooth, Shelly Redl, Debbie Van Zyl, Jacques Van Zyl and Chet Vincent. Stay safe, healthy and hopeful in this New Year.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Adrienne Popko, Compiler*



*This bright Scarlet Robin is another Australian bird seen by Claudius Feger on his 2020 trip. See his talk on Zoom January 25. Details on page 1.*



**Dutchess County Christmas Bird Count Summary - December 19, 2020**

SPECIES NAME	2020	# of yrs Found 1958-now	Avg. per yr when Found 58-now	Last Year Prev. Found 58-now	SPECIES NAME	2020	# of yrs Found 1958-now	Avg. per yr when Found 58-now	Last Year Prev. Found 58-now	SPECIES NAME	2020	# of yrs Found 1958-now	Avg. per yr when Found 58-now	Last Year Prev. Found 58-now
Snow Goose		18	60	2017	Double-crested Cormorant		6	1	2016	Winter Wren		41	2	2018
Greater White-fronted Goose		3	1	2003	Great Blue Heron	4	37	8	2019	Carolina Wren	117	47	28	2019
Brant		5	46	2017	Black-crowned Night-Heron		1	1	2000	European Starling	1959	63	2401	2019
Canada Goose	1087	50	2998	2019	Black Vulture	15 H	15	6	2019	Gray Catbird	1	24	2	2011
Mute Swan	20	41	39	2019	Turkey Vulture	5	16	5	2019	Brown Thrasher		2	1	2009
Tundra Swan		2	4	2017	Osprey		2	2	2019	Northern Mockingbird	28	60	52	2019
Wood Duck		27	3	2019	Golden Eagle		1	1	1980	Eastern Bluebird	100	60	60	2019
Blue-winged Teal		0		none	Northern Harrier	2	37	2	2018	Swainson's Thrush		1	1	2019
Northern Shoveler		4	2	2011	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	41	4	2019	Hermit Thrush	2	33	2	2019
Gadwall		9	3	2017	Cooper's Hawk	11	42	5	2019	American Robin	46	62	160	2019
American Wigeon		7	4	2015	Northern Goshawk		8	1	2018	Cedar Waxwing		57	108	2019
Mallard	320	63	411	2019	Bald Eagle	6	17	6	2019	House Sparrow	431	63	500	2019
American Black Duck	2	63	34	2019	Red-shouldered Hawk	10	29	4	2019	American Pipit		6	8	2008
Northern Pintail		18	2	2019	Broad-winged Hawk		0		none	Evening Grosbeak		30	63	1990
Green-winged Teal		7	2	2019	Red-tailed Hawk	68	63	52	2019	Pine Grosbeak		8	42	1992
Canvasback		17	48	2006	Rough-legged Hawk		25	2	2013	House Finch	124	56	251	2015
Redhead		6	3	2006	Eastern Screech-Owl	2	52	3	2019	Purple Finch	2	47	19	2015
Ring-necked Duck	29	41	58	2019	Great Horned Owl	1	57	3	2019	Common Redpoll	19	14	45	2012
Greater Scaup		8	3	2012	Snowy Owl		2	1	1996	Red Crossbill		4	3	2008
Lesser Scaup		4	15	2006	Barred Owl	1	43	2	2019	White-winged Crossbill		2	6	2008
White-winged Scoter		1	2	2010	Long-eared Owl		6	1	2004	Pine Siskin	24	31	22	2018
Long-tailed Duck		2	1	2016	Short-eared Owl		2	1	2014	American Goldfinch	127	63	147	2019
Bufflehead		10	3	2019	Northern Saw-whet Owl		4	1	2017	Lapland Longspur		5	2	1985
Common Goldeneye	1	12	4	2018	Belted Kingfisher	3	63	7	2019	Snow Bunting		23	48	2017
Hooded Merganser	46	24	22	2019	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	15	35	6	2019	Chipping Sparrow		3	1	2019
Common Merganser	32	44	34	2019	Red-headed Woodpecker		9	1	2019	Field Sparrow		43	5	2019
Red-breasted Merganser		3	4	2004	Red-bellied Woodpecker	97	49	43	2019	American Tree Sparrow	40	63	220	2019
Ruddy Duck	31	28	38	2019	Downy Woodpecker	159 H	63	95	2019	Fox Sparrow	1	38	2	2019
Northern Bobwhite		4	7	1975	Hairy Woodpecker	29	63	20	2019	Dark-eyed Junco	1478 H	63	503	2019
Ring-necked Pheasant		49	30	2016	Pileated Woodpecker	14	59	8	2019	White-crowned Sparrow		21	2	2016
Gray Partridge		0		none	Northern Flicker	11	60	19	2019	White-throated Sparrow	451	63	185	2019
Ruffed Grouse		36	5	1999	American Kestrel	cw	56	7	2019	Vesper Sparrow		9	3	1972
Wild Turkey	22	31	79	2019	Merlin	2	8	2	2019	Savannah Sparrow		25	2	2017
Pied-billed Grebe		18	3	2015	Peregrine Falcon		18	1	2019	Song Sparrow	130	63	52	2019
Horned Grebe		2	1	2002	Eastern Phoebe		5	1	2012	Lincoln's Sparrow		2	2	2013
Red-necked Grebe		0		none	Northern Shrike		14	1	2006	Swamp Sparrow	2	36	3	2019
Rock Pigeon	602	58	407	2019	Canada Jay		1	2	1975	Eastern Towhee		20	2	2019
Mourning Dove	302	63	359	2019	Blue Jay	222	63	238	2019	Eastern Meadowlark		27	53	2009
Common Gallinule		1	1	1974	American Crow	10514	63	5769	2019	Baltimore Oriole	1	6	1	1987
American Coot	15	40	49	2019	Fish Crow	128	37	253	2019	Red-winged Blackbird	897 H	46	91	2019
Killdeer		7	1	2014	Common Raven	10 H	19	5	2019	Brown-headed Cowbird	155	60	83	2019
American Woodcock		1	1	1997	Black-capped Chickadee	303	63	325	2019	Rusty Blackbird	7	17	4	2017
Wilson's Snipe		13	2	2005	Boreal Chickadee		2	4	1975	Common Grackle	103	46	31	2019
Bonaparte's Gull		1	2	1975	Tufted Titmouse	183	63	137	2019	Common Yellowthroat		1	1	2018
Ring-billed Gull	70	55	269	2019	Horned Lark	80	49	154	2019	Cape May Warbler		0		none
Herring Gull	4	63	32	2019	Golden-crowned Kinglet		58	11	2019	Palm Warbler		2	1	1991
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1	2	2007	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	34	2	2019	Yellow-rumped Warbler		31	5	2017
Great Black-backed Gull		46	6	2019	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	38	4	2016	Northern Cardinal	181	63	131	2019
gull sp.	1	2	501	2006	White-breasted Nuthatch	102	63	87	2019	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		2	1	2019
Common Loon		5	1	2011	Brown Creeper	4	62	5	2019	Dickcissel		1	2	1982
Great Cormorant		1	1	2006	House Wren		2	1	2007					

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRDS:</b>	21017
<b>TOTAL SPECIES:</b>	72
<b>TOTAL Field Observers:</b>	32
<b>TOTAL Groups:</b>	7
<b>TOTAL Feeder Watchers:</b>	3

<< includes 1 count week species

H indicates new high count for species

Compiled by Adrienne Popko and Carena Pooth



## OCTOBER 2020 RECORDS

**eBirders: PLEASE (a) USE PRE-DEFINED HOTSPOTS WHEN POSSIBLE and (b) DO NOT USE LOCATION NAMES THAT ARE NON-SPECIFIC.** Instead of "Home" or "yard" use road names and towns, or something else that will allow others to know approximately where the bird occurred.

With the enthusiastic adoption of eBird by Dutchess birders over the past ten years, the amount of data to be compiled has mushroomed. Over 43,000 Dutchess sightings were submitted to eBird in May 2020, compared with just hundreds in the non-eBird world of the 20th century. Since 2016, we've been compiling and analyzing Dutchess records with the help of our own homegrown, computerized tools and processes.

In recent years, we've seen significant increases in sightings of many species year over year. It turns out that these increases are usually simply the result of a lot more people submitting their data to eBird. We clearly needed a metric more meaningful than just the number of sightings. So in June 2019 we added a function to our program to calculate the percentage of all checklists that reported each species. This metric should provide useful context for many year-to-year abundance changes, so I'm giving it a whirl this month. For some species, I've cited not only the total number of records but also the percentage of checklists reporting them for Oct 2020 vs Oct 2019. Check out the hawks section below and tell us what you think!

**OBSERVER & SPECIES TOTALS.** 109 observers (vs 92 last year) reported a combined total of 176 wild species (29 more species than in 2019 and 26 more than in 2018).

**WEATHER.** Temperatures averaged 54, ranging from 26 to 75, and total rainfall was 4.6 inches.

**BEST BIRDS:** There were no real rarities, but quite a few species uncommon for October, including **Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Common Nighthawk, Virginia Rail, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Orange-crowned Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler.**



Orange-crowned Warbler – photo by Steve Rappaport

**WATERFOWL.** Common year-round geese and ducks dabbled about in good numbers: **Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, and Mallard.** We did have some more unusual geese in October:

**Brant:** 12 records, avg 37 each. 190/23 Shadows Pok KB.

**Cackling Goose:** 2/17 Abel's Pd DvZ (only record).

**MIGRATING AND WINTER DUCKS:**

**Blue-winged Teal:** 4 records, avg 3 each.

**Northern Shoveler:** 1/4 The Fly Pine Plns CP (only record).

**Gadwall:** 9 records throughout month, avg 2 each.

**American Wigeon:** 4 records, avg 2 each.

**American Black Duck:** 45 records, 1-41 each, avg 9.

**Northern Pintail:** 16 records, avg 5 each. MAX 18/30 Pells Rd Rhinebeck SJ.

**Green-winged Teal:** 30 records, 1-41 each, avg 16.

**Canvasback:** 1/16 & 23 Abel's Pd DK, BMA, SJ, AM, CP, DvZ. First October sighting since 2004. Found by Deb Kral.

**Redhead:** 6 records, all Sylvan Lake 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 each.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 20 records, 1-138 each, avg 11.

**Greater Scaup:** 1/27&30 Sylvan Lk CP, DK.

**Lesser Scaup:** 1-2/27, 1/30 Sylvan Lk CP, DK.

**Black Scoter:** First October sightings since 2013. 7/26 Long Dock Pk Beacon AV, 1/31 Rhinecliff DC, 1/31 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd KB, MEp

**Bufflehead:** 18 records 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 1-18 each, avg 6.

**Common Goldeneye:** 6 records 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, all Sylvan Lk, 1-5 ea. Only 2 previous October reports since 1990 (1994, 2019).

**Hooded Merganser:** 9 records 20<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2-4 each.

**Common Merganser:** 23 records 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> 1-9 each.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 3/9 Dennings Pt SI; 1/31 Mills SP DC; 1/31 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Ruddy Duck:** 60 records 2<sup>nd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 1-117 each, avg 43.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS.** **Wild Turkey** was the only wild species observed. More were reported than last year (25 records vs 15) but they were on 3% of checklists both years.

**GREBES.** **Pied-billed Grebe:** 30 records, 1-3 each, avg 2.

**Horned Grebe:** No previous October sightings in Dutchess since at least 1990. 1/17 Sylvan Lk CP, LFa, BMA; 1/31 Rhinecliff KB, MEp; 1/31 Sylvan Lk ASw, DvZ.

**CUCKOOS.** **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 2/4 Stony Kill DvZ, DC; 1/7 Thompson Mazzarella Pk DC. Found only 5 previous Octobers since 1990.

**GOATSUCKERS.** **Common Nighthawk:** 2/3 Salt Pt DC (only record). First October report since 1994.

**SWIFTS.** **Chimney Swift:** 2/8 Peach Hill KB (only record).

**RAILS AND COOTS.**

**Virginia Rail:** 1/4 heard calling, The Fly JA. This species has been found in only 3 previous Octobers since 1990.

**Common Gallinule:** 1/4 foraging at marsh edge, The Fly Pine Plns JA. Reported every October except one since 2014, absent many years before that.

**American Coot:** First 1/9 HVRT Sharon Stn CV. 26 records 1-15 each, avg 7.

**SHOREBIRDS.** This was a good year for them.

**Killdeer:** 32 recs, avg 12. MAX 71/17 Strever LFa, BMA

**Dunlin:** 1/6 Strever Fm Rd found by CP, also seen by BMa, DC. Reported 4 previous Octobers since 1990, all after 2003.

**Least Sandpiper:** 2/3 The Fly Pine Plns CV (only record).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1/17 Strever Fm Rd BMa, LFa.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1/31 Strever Fm Rd CV. Since 1990, found in Oct only in 2010, 2013, 2017, 2020.

**American Woodcock:** 2/19 Thompson Pd Ann Derry.

**Wilson's Snipe:** 2/28 Overlook Pk KB (only record).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 4 records, 1-2 each.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 2/3 The Fly CV; 1/19 Hillside Lk MK.

**Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** each had 5-6 records between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**GULLS.** The 3 usual suspects plus:

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1/28 Sylvan Lk MK. Found only 4 previous Octobers since 1990.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1/23 Long Dock Pk Beacon BN. First October sighting since at least 1990.

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS, HERONS.**

**Common Loon:** 5 records 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> 1-2 each. Since 1990, previously found in October only in 2002, 2015-2018,

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 94 records (vs 46 last year, but they were on 10% of checklists this year vs 9% last), avg 12 each, MAX 400/23 Long Dock Pk Beacon BN.

**Great Blue Heron:** 68 records, avg 2, MAX 8.

**American Bittern:** 1/22 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd KB. Only 3 previous October sightings since at least 1990.

**Great Blue Heron:** 146 records, 1-8 each, avg 2.

**Great Egret:** 31 records, 1-8 each, avg 2.

**Green Heron:** found almost every October, **conspicuously absent** this year.

**VULTURES and OSPREY.** Normal numbers of **Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, and Osprey.**

**HAWKS, EAGLES.** Numbers were up significantly from last year, but only because more a lot more checklists were submitted. Compare total records and % of checklists reporting them (to nearest %) this October vs last:

	Recs 2020	Recs 2019	Freq 2020	Freq 2019
Golden Eagle	2	0	0+%	0%
Northern Harrier	29	15	3%	3%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	21	11	2%	2%
Cooper's Hawk	75	31	8%	6%
Northern Goshawk	3	1	0%	0%
Bald Eagle	70	54	8%	11%
Red-shouldered Hawk	63	34	7%	7%
Broad-winged Hawk	5	2	1%	0%
Red-tailed Hawk	171	104	19%	20%

**OWLS.** **Eastern Screech-Owl:** 3 records 3<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Horned Owl:** 5 records 2<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Barred Owl:** 20 records (vs 14 last year, but % of checklists is down from 3% to 2%).

**KINGFISHER.** **Belted Kingfisher:** 105 records vs 61 last yr, but both years this species was on 12% of checklists.

**WOODPECKERS.** **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (85 records); **Red-bellied** (362 recs); **Downy** (404 recs); **Hairy** (131 recs); **Pileated** (100 recs); **Northern Flicker** (187 recs). Only one **Red-headed** record vs 6 last yr: 1/8 Vanderbilt, Todd Russo.

**FALCONS.**

**American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon** were reported with the same frequency as last year – 2% of checklists for Kestrel and Merlin; 1% for Peregrine.

**FLYCATCHERS.**

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 13 records of 1 each.

**Least Flycatcher:** 1/4 Dennings Pt AV, MK; 1/12 Anthony Dr Pok CC. Reported only 3 previous Octobers since 1990.

**Eastern Phoebe**s were still here in good numbers – there were 145 records, the last record on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**VIREOS.**

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 60 records (7% vs 6% '19) thru the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 3 records avg 1 each, last one 11<sup>th</sup>.

Reported only 4 previous Octobers since 1990.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 21 records 1<sup>st</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CORVIDS.** **Blue Jay:** 59% of checklists vs 52% last year.

**American Crow** (344 recs), and **Common Raven** (123 recs) frequencies were steady. **Fish Crow** listing frequency was up from 0+% to 1%, with 11 records this year.

**LARKS.** **Horned Lark:** 2/17 Stony Kill CC, MCh; 3/31 Rockefeller Ln KB, MEp; 1/31 Cruger Island Rd KB, MEp.

**SWALLOWS.** **Tree Swallow:** 3 records 1-3 each, LAST 10<sup>th</sup>. **Barn Swallow**, found only 5 previous Octobers since 1990, had 2 records of one each, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CHICKADEES, TITMICE, NUTHATCHES.**

The "triumvirate" showed significant increases from last year:

**Black-capped Chickadee** was up to 59% of checklists from 31% last year (535 records vs 160). **Tufted Titmouse** was up to 46% from 27% last year (422 records vs 138), and **White-breasted Nuthatch** was up to 44% from 34% last year (402 vs 172 records).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**, conspicuously absent last year, was back in force this irruption year, with 213 records throughout the month (23% of checklists).

**CREEPERS and WRENS.** **Brown Creeper:** 22 records.

**House Wren:** 33 records 1-5 each through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Winter Wrens** breed in a few places in Dutchess, but most of them go further north to nest, passing through here during migration. There were 13 records through the 30<sup>th</sup>. **Carolina Wrens** stay year-round; there were 364 records (40%) of Carolinas throughout the month vs 158 records on 31% of checklists last year-- and only 42 records in 2017.

**KINGLETS.** Many **Golden-crowned Kinglets** migrate through Dutchess, but some can be found here throughout the winter. This year there were 42 records (5% of checklists vs 3% last year). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** also migrate through each year in good numbers – this year there were 213 records (23% of checklists vs 25% last year)

**GNATCATCHERS.** **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1/2 Crown Hts CC; 1/9 Dennings Pt Sl. Found only 2 previous Octobers since 1990 (2002 and 2017).

**THRUSHES AND MIMICS.**

**Veery:** 2/6 Hopeland JClo; LAST 1/14 Boice Rd Rhinebeck SJ. Found only 6 previous Octobers since 1990.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1/6 Depot Hill CP (only record). Found only 4 previous Octobers since 1990.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 12 records 1-2 each, 1<sup>st</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

**Hermit Thrush:** 26 records (3% of checklists vs 6% last yr).

**Wood Thrush,** absent last year, had 3 records, last on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray Catbirds:** 189 recs 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> (21% of lists vs 12% last yr)

**Brown Thrasher:** 1/3 Greig Fm Red Hook MR; 1/14 Peach Hill DW

Others in the Thrushes & Mimics group are found throughout the winter every year: **Eastern Bluebird, American Robin,** and **Northern Mockingbird.** Bluebirds and robins flock together as they feed on ripe berries in bushes and trees. Their numbers were normal this October.

**WAXWINGS AND PIPITS. Cedar Waxwing:** 113 records, 1-150 ea. **American Pipit:** 44 records, 5% of lists, vs 1% last yr.



Pine Siskin – photo by Carena Pooth

**FINCHES.** Some irruptives began showing up:

**Evening Grosbeak:** 7 records 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> avg 8 each.

**Pine Siskin:** 157 records on 17% of checklists. None last yr.

**Purple Finch:** 233 records on 26% of checklists (vs 3 recs on 1% of checklists last year).

**NON-IRRUPTIVES: House Finch:** 35% of checklists vs 19% last year. **American Goldfinch:** 40% of lists vs 25% 2019.

**SPARROWS.**

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1/12 Tanglewood Dr Wapp DvZ.

Found only 5 previous Octobers since 1990. Other migrating sparrows were **Vesper** (7 recs, 1% of lists) and **Lincoln's** (37 recs, 4% of lists), expected numbers.

**WINTER SPARROWS:** 6 records (1%) of **American Tree Sparrow,** FIRST 1/13 Hyde Pk DC. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were here all month, 166 recs on 18% of lists (vs 29 recs on 6% of lists last yr). **White-throated Sparrows** were everywhere all

month in good numbers. **Fox Sparrow:** 1/25 Lower Sharon Stn Rd CV; 1/27 Tanglewood Dr Wapp DvZ.

**ICTERIDS/BLACKBIRDS. Bobolink:** 4/4 Greig Fm Red Hook MR; 1/4 The Fly Pine Plns JA

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1% of lists, 9 recs avg 2 ea 6<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.

**Baltimore Oriole:** One laggard! 1/9 Stony Kill DvZ. Only 3 previous October records since 1990 (1996, 2015, 2018).

The largest flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** was 1300/31 Cruger Island Rd MEp (vs 300 last yr), while **Brown-headed Cowbirds** maxed out at 87 (vs a whopping 2500 last yr).

**Common Grackles,** with 87 records, topped out at 700/22 Cruger Island Rd KB. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported on 18 records (2%) of 1-15 each, avg 4. (8 recs, 2% last yr).

**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!). This year there were 24 warbler species (vs 19 last yr).

**Ovenbird:** 1/22 Stringham Pk Joan Scheu; 1/24 Palen Rd Hopewell Jct DS. There were only 4 previous Oct records since 1990, all after 2009.

**Northern Waterthrush:** 1/9 Dennings Pt SI (only record).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 8 records 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 48 recs on 5% of lists, 1<sup>st</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Last year there were 5 records on 1% of lists.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 1/8-10 App Trl Pawling SRa, AM, CP, DK, BMa, DvZ, MK, DC; 1/10 Palen Rd Hopewell Jct DS. AppTrl bird was found by Steve Rappaport. Seen only 2 previous Octobers since 1990 (2011 and 2012).

**Nashville Warbler:** 25 records on 3% of lists, 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Last year there were 4 records on 1% of lists.

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1/7 Mills/Norrie SP KCF, JAll, BJM, FT, CV. Seen only 2 previous Oct recs since 1990.

**Common Yellowthroat:** 73 recs (14 last yr), thru 31<sup>st</sup>.

**American Redstart:** 4 records 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Cape May Warbler:** 1/3 Peel Ln Wapp SI; 1/5 Depot Hill CP; 1/5 Sand Dock Rd Trl CC.



Evening Grosbeak – photo by Debbie van Zyl



**Northern Parula:** 27 records of 1-5 each thru the 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 32 recs thru 20<sup>th</sup>. 4% vs 1% in 2019.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 2/1 Nuclear Lk Joe Danza.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 4 records, 1 each, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. Seen only 2 previous Octobers since 1990.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 4 records, avg 2 each, 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 4 records, avg 1 each, 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** 57 records (6% of lists) 1<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> (vs 6 records on 1% of lists last yr).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 19 recs (2% of lists) 1<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> (vs 9 recs on 2% of lists last yr).  
**Palm Warbler:** 106 records 1-50 ea thru 31<sup>st</sup>.  
**Pine Warbler:** 12 recs thru 23<sup>rd</sup> (vs 1 record last yr).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 273 records (30% of lists) of 1-42 each. Last year there were 105 recs on 21% of lists.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 2 rpts - 1/1 Dennings Pt AV; 1/14 Troutbeck Valerie Masten. Only 3 prior rpts since 1990.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 29 recs, 1-5 ea thru 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 1/1,3 Dennings Pt MK, AV.

#### TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, ALLIES.

**Scarlet Tanager:** 8 records thru 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 each.  
**Northern Cardinal:** 359 records (39% of lists vs 25% last yr).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 15 recs thru 10<sup>th</sup> vs 2 recs 2019.  
**Indigo Bunting:** 12 records thru 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 each.

#### 42 TOP OBSERVERS (of 109 total):

Janet Allison (JAII); John Askildsen (JA); Saw Mill River Audubon (SMRA); Kyle Bardwell (KB); Barbara Butler (BB); Chris Chappell (CC); Marie Chappell (MCh); David Chernack (DC); Jim Closs (JClo); Patrick Crumrine (PC); Max Epstein (MEp); Laura Facchin (LFa); Claudius Feger (CF); Ken & Carol Fredericks (KCF); Ken Harris (KH); Brian Hess (BrH); Sue Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Maha Katnani (MK); Linda Kleinhenz (LK); Chris Kostek (CK); Deb Kral (DK); Aimee LaBarr (AL); Anthony Macchiarola (AM); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Liz Martens (LM); Barb Michelin (BJM); Hannah Miller (HM); Jennifer Morton (JMo); Mona Payton (MP); Carena Pooth (CP); Steve Rappaport (SRa); RTWBC Field Trip (FT); Matthew Rymkiewicz (MR); Nicholas Schleissmann (NS); Derek Stoll (DS); Emily Stoll (ESto); Anne Swaim (ASw); Andrew Valley (AV); Debbie van Zyl (DvZ); Chet Vincent (CV); Deb Weltsch (DWe)

- Compiler/Editor: Carena Pooth



Ruddy Duck (photo by Anthony Macchiarola)

## NOVEMBER 2020 RECORDS

Temperatures were in the 30's up to 50's with rain on & off throughout the month. This is the year for winter finches – always a joy to see. Some notable finds this month were: Long-tailed Duck, Horned Grebe, Brown Thrasher, Lapland Longspur, and Nashville, Blackpoll & Pine Warblers. Some permanent species were omitted from this report. TOTAL SPECIES 125 (count does not include hybrid, domestic, or unspecified) - UNIQUE CHECKLISTS (eBird only): 810

**WATERFOWL: Mute Swans, Mallards and Black Ducks** were found on most lakes & ponds in good numbers.

**Cackling Goose:** 2 records, 1/25 HVRT Millerton MCh, LCh, CC; 1/28 Rudd Pd CC.

**Canada Geese** - MAX 3112/28 Rudd Pd CC and seen on most lakes and ponds in smaller numbers.

**Wood Ducks** 16 records, avg 5 ea down from 22 rec.in 2019; LAST 1/28 Baird Pk JA; MAX 28/2 Hillside Lk DK

**Northern Shoveler:** 6/1 Wapp Lk DK (only record).

**Gadwall:** 17 records, avg 3 ea. - 3 rec. in 2019; MAX 5/27 Wapp Lk CC, LCh, MCh.

**American Wigeon:** 7 records, avg 2 ea. - 6 rec. in 2019; LAST 2/28 Wapp Lk BJM.

**Northern Pintail:** 10 records, avg 2 ea. - 24 rec. in 2019; MAX 4/3 Jekoce/Greens Pd MK.

**Green-winged Teal:** 12 records, avg 12 ea. – 44 rec. in 2019; MAX 30/20 Tivoli Bays So. Bay CC.

**Canvasback:** 2/5 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd DC (only record).

**Redhead:** 3 records, 1/2 & 3 Sylvan Lk CP; MAX 4/5 Tivoli Bays Cruger Island Rd DC. Only 1 rec. in 2019.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 26 records, avg 15 ea. – 42 records 2019; MAX 69/26 Woodward Hill Rd Red Hook SJ.

**Greater Scaup:** 13 records, avg 7 ea. – 10 rec. in 2019; LAST/MAX 48/27 Tivoli Bays So. Bay CC, MCh.

**Lesser Scaup:** 7/20 Tivoli Bays So. Bay CC (only record) - 12 rec. in 2019.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 9/18 Hyde Pk Train Stn DC (only record).

**Bufflehead:** 11 records, avg 6 ea. – 14 rec. in 2019; MAX 18/3 Sylvan Lk SRa.

**Common Goldeneye:** 10 records, avg 3 ea. – 4 rec. in 2019; MAX 16/27 Tivoli Bays So. Bay CC, MCh.

**Hooded Merganser:** 46 records, avg 8 ea. – 38 rec. in 2019; MAX 36/2 Hillside Lk DK; 38/27 Rudd Pd DvZ, ASw.

**Common Merganser:** 50 records, avg 7 ea. – 55 rec. in 2019; MAX 15/1 Madam Brett Pk HM; 24/28 Norrie Pt CP.

**Ruddy Duck:** 44 records, avg 61 ea. – 46 rec. in 2019; 51/29 Sylvan Lk CP; MAX 135/6 Sylvan Lk CP.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS: Ring-necked Pheasant:** 8 records, avg 2 ea. 1/4 Northeast Mountain Rd DC; MAX 4 on 2 records.

**Wild Turkey:** 48 records, avg 8 ea. – up from 12 rec. in 2019; 10/2 Michelin yd Wapp BAM; MAX 20 on 2 records.

**GREBES: Pied-billed Grebe:** 13 records, avg 1 ea. – 12 rec. in 2019; MAX 6/10 Wapp Lk DvZ.

**Horned Grebe:** 1/27 Tivoli Bays So. Bay CC, MCh (only record).



**RAILS AND COOTS: American Coot:** 32 records, avg 20 ea. – 46 rec. in 2019; MAX 36/25 Sylvan Lk CP.

**Sandhill Crane:** 1/22 Wapp Crk Greenway Trl SC (only record) – 4 rec, in 2019.

**SHOREBIRDS: Killdeer:** 10 records, avg 3 ea. – 3 rec. in 2019; MAX 7/14 Strever Fm Rd CV.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1/1 The Fly Pine Plns DK (only record).

**GULLS: Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 4 records, avg 1 ea. 1/1 Beacon Waterfront Pk JAm, KB; LAST 1/11 Long Dock Pk Beacon CC; COMMENTS: JAm/1: Quite uncommon but regular enough; KB/1: Seen earlier in day by Julien A. Bird seen in close proximity to several ring billed gull. Larger and darker backed and larger dark Bill. Bird had relatively pale legs and is showing some darker adult feathers on the back.

**LOONS, CORMORANTS, HERONS: Red-throated Loon:** 1/5 Tivoli Bays Cruger Isl Rd DC (only record) - 2 rec.in 2019.

**Common Loon:** 2 records, 1/1 Rhinecliff CP; 1/25 Vanderbilt NHS MCh, CC, LCh.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 37 records, avg 2 ea. – 21 rec. 2019; MAX 11/3 Wapp Crk DvZ.

**American Bittern:** 3 records, avg 1 ea. 1/5 by DC, & 1/6 by SR (LAST/10) all Tivoli Bays Cruger Isl Rd DC.

**Great Blue Heron:** 67 records, avg 2 ea. – 56 rec. 2019; MAX 14/10 Tivoli Bays Cruger Isl Rd DC & on many reports thru Co.

**VULTURES & OSPREY: Black Vulture:** 37 records, avg 6 ea. – 26 rec. 2019; MAX 23/17 Millbrook School CV. **Turkey Vulture:** 99 records, avg 2 ea. – up from 49 rec. 2019; MAX 12/2 Hammond Blvd Arlington BrH. **Osprey:** 4 records, avg 1 ea. – 3 rec. 2019; LAST 1/11 Crk Dr Beacon AV.

**HAWKS AND EAGLES: Red-tailed Hawks** were well reported throughout the county. **Cooper's Hawk:** (68 rec) up from 17 rec. in 2019 and **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** (13 rec) up from 6 rec. in 2019.

**Golden Eagle:** 5 records, avg 1 ea. – 8 rec. 2019; 2/14 Clove Rd LaGrangeville JCli; LAST 1/25 HVRT Millerton CC, LCh, MCh.

**Northern Harrier:** 17 records, avg 1 ea. – same in 2019; LAST 1/29 Andrew Haight Rd JA; MAX 3/10 Mashomack (private) CV;

**Bald Eagle:** 90 records - Good numbers of 1-2 reported near water – mostly Hudson River, Pine Plains & through county. COMMENTS: DK/29: not a high count for this area during the winter months- a kettle of 6 were flying above the hills to the west of Rt 82, joined by 5 more- 2 engaged in aerial jousting- they drifted to the north and eventually 4 climbed out of sight. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 36 records, avg 1 ea. – 22 rec. 2019; LAST/MAX 2/30 Stoutenburgh Dr Hyde Pk DC; **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1/28 Rt 22 Millerton AM (only record).

**OWLS: Eastern Screech-Owl:** 4 records, (same as in 2019) avg 1 ea. FIRST/1 & LAST/15 Mashomack (private) DK.

**Great Horned Owl:** 4 records, (same as in 2019) avg 1 ea. 1/11 Martens yd Salt Pt LM; LAST 1/22 Wapp Crk Greenway Trl SC.

**Barred Owl:** 7 records, avg 1 ea. FIRST 1/3 Ludlow Woods Rd DK; LAST 1/27 Tivoli Bays WMA LCh, MCh. Up from last year's 2 rec. in November.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 83 records, avg 1 ea. – 57 rec. 2019; LAST 1/30 Sand Dock Rd Trl CC; MAX 2 on 7 records.

**WOODPECKERS:** All well reported with numbers up from 2019 and **no Redheaded Woodpecker** reports for November.

**FALCONS: American Kestrel:** 6 records, avg 1 ea. 1/2 Bruzugul Rd DK; LAST 1/29 Stony Kill AL. Up from 4 rec. in 2019.

**Merlin:** 13 records, avg 1 ea. FIRST Date 3<sup>rd</sup> & LAST Date 27<sup>th</sup>. Up from 4 rec. in 2019.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 6 records, avg 1 ea. FIRST 1/5 Reagan Rd Millerton CV; LAST 1/27 Rudd Pd DvZ, ASw. Same number rec. in 2019.

**FLYCATCHER: Eastern Phoebe:** 2 records, 1/1 Madam Brett Pk HM; 1/2 Daheim Rd Millbrook JA - 3 rec. in 2019.

**VIREO: Blue-headed Vireo:** 2 records (same as last year) 1/5 Mt Beacon Pk Beacon SI; LAST 1/6 Dennings Pt AL. Seems late migrating south.

**CORVIDS: Blue Jay** (400 rec), **Am. Crow** (316), **Fish Crow** (21), **Common Raven** (69 rec). Numbers have increased from 2019 records for all.

**LARKS: Horned Lark:** 4 records, avg 26 ea. – 5 rec. in 2019; FIRST 25/14 Perotti Rd Millerton CV; 6/17 Berkshire Rd Dover CV; MAX 45/25 Rockefeller Ln CC, MCh, LCh.

**KINGLETS: Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 28 records, avg 2 ea. 1/2 Hollow Rd Staatsburg GBi; LAST 3/29 Dennings Pt CK; MAX 5/10 Dennings Pt CK. Up from 15 rec. in 2019.

**Ruby-Crowned Kinglet:** 30 records, avg 1 ea. 1/2 Anthony Dr Pok CC; LAST 1/30 Sand Dock Rd Trl CC; MAX 2 on 8 records. Up from 20 rec. in 2019.

**CREEPERS AND WRENS: Brown Creeper:** 51 records, avg 2 ea. – 8 rec. 2019; 1/2 Anthony Dr Pok CC; LAST Date 29<sup>th</sup>, 4 records; MAX 5/17 Vanderbilt NHS KB, DvZ;

**Winter Wren:** 15 records, avg 1 ea. – 16 rec. 2019; 1/3 Anthony Dr Pok CC; LAST Date 29<sup>th</sup>; MAX 2 on 2 records.

**Carolina Wren:** 323 records, avg 2 ea. – up from 149 rec. 2019; MAX 16/27 Hopeland SI.

**THRUSHES AND MIMICS: American Robin (136 rec), Eastern Bluebird (153 rec) and Northern Mockingbird (96 rec)** 1-2 reported throughout Co.

**Hermit Thrush:** 11 records, avg 1 ea. – down from 14 rec. 2019; FIRST 1/3 Butler yd Verbank BB; LAST 1/28 Sunrise Ln Pok ND; MAX 2 on 2 records.

**Gray Catbird:** 5 records, avg 1 ea. – down from 13 rec. in 2019; FIRST 1/5 Reagan Rd Millerton CV; LAST 1/25 HVRT Millerton CC, LCh, MCh; MAX 2/6 HVRT Sharon Stn KCF.

**Brown Thrasher:** 1/14 Freedom Pk LaGrange JMo (only record). Seem late migrating south.

**WAXWINGS AND PIPITS: Cedar Waxwing:** 48 records, avg 14 ea. – up from 31 in 2019; FIRST Date 1st, LAST 2/29 Bowdoin Pk KH; MAX 61/11 Tanglewood Dr Wapp DvZ.

**American Pipit:** 10 records, avg 20 ea. – up from 1 rec. 2019; FIRST Date 5<sup>th</sup>, LAST 28/22 Stony Kill DvZ; MAX 48/9 Stringham Pk CV.

**FINCHES & CROSSBILLS:** Winter irruption has come south to Dutchess Co. this year for us to enjoy. **Purple Finch** (85 rec – 1 rec. in 2019),

**Evening Grosbeak:** 27 records, avg 3 ea. FIRST Date 1<sup>st</sup>; LAST 1/20 Tanglewood Dr Wapp DvZ; MAX 9/1 Bartlett Pk Pok DC.

**Common Redpoll:** 11 records, avg 13 ea. FIRST 1/10 Allen Rd Salt Pt BMa; LAST Date 28th; MAX 60/27 HVRT Millerton ASw, DvZ, CP.

**Red Crossbill:** 6 records, avg 6 ea. FIRST/MAX 13/19 Pok Rural Cemetery CC; LAST Date 28<sup>th</sup>

**White-winged Crossbill:** 2/15 Vanderbilt NHS CC, DC (only record).

**Pine Siskin:** 112 records, avg 5 ea. – 3 rec. 2019; FIRST Date 1st; LAST 16/30 Iannucci yd Wapp SI; MAX 31/24 Iannucci yd Wapp SI.

**LONGSPUR AND BUNTINGS:** **Lapland Longspur:** 3 records, avg 1 ea. FIRST 1/4 Overlook Pk CF, MK, CP, KB, SI, CF, DC, DvZ, AM, LK, CC, CV; LAST 1/25 Rockefeller Ln LCh, CC, MCh.

**Snow Bunting:** 7 records, avg 6 ea. – 1 rec. 2019; 3/3 Overlook Pk MK, KB, DvZ, DC, AM, DK, CC; LAST 2/25 Rockefeller Ln LCh, MCh, CC; MAX 24/6 Overlook Pk DC.

**SPARROWS:** Most of the sparrow's numbers have increased this year from 2019. **Song** (157 rec), **White-throated** (312 rec), **Junco** (348 rec), **Savannah** (7 rec), and **Swamp** (21 rec)

**Chipping Sparrow:** 13 records, avg 2 ea. – down from 22 rec. 2019; FIRST Date 3<sup>rd</sup>, LAST Date 21<sup>st</sup>; MAX 6/3 Lk Oniad MK.

**Field Sparrow:** 5 records, avg 1 ea. – down from 12 rec. 2019; FIRST 2/8 Stony Kill SI; LAST 1/29 Peach Hill JA.

**American Tree Sparrow:** 38 records, avg 5 ea. – up from 7 rec. 2019; FIRST 3/3 Lk Oniad SI; LAST 1/30 Sand Dock Rd Trl CC; MAX 34/25 HVRT Millerton LCh, MCh, CC.

**Fox Sparrow:** 29 records, avg 1 ea. – 13 rec. in 2019; 1/1 Mills/Norrie SP DL; LAST 1/28 Tinkertown Rd PI Valley JCo; MAX 6/11 Depot Hill / Grape Hollow CP.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 12 records, avg 3 ea. – up from 2 rec. in 2019; FIRST 1/3 Overlook Pk CC; LAST 1/29 Stony Kill AL; MAX 10/15 Stony Kill DvZ.

**Eastern Towhee:** 1/27 Stoutenburgh Dr Hyde Pk DC (only record). Down from 4 rec. in 2019.

**ICTERIDS/BLACKBIRDS:** Numbers were up this year. The largest flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** (82 rec.) was 500/3 Rockefeller Ln CP; **Brown-headed Cowbirds** (28 rec.) high was 515/7 Vanderbilt NHS DvZ; (only 7 rec. 2019) and **Common Grackle** (35 rec.) high was 3500/7 Vanderbilt NHS DvZ.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1/6 HVRT Sharon Stn KCF (only record). Not often seen this late.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 5 records, avg 4 ea. same rec. for 2019; FIRST 4/5 Tivoli Bays Cruger Isl Rd DC; LAST 1/25 HVRT Millerton MCh, LCh, CC; MAX 9/11 Tinkertown Rd PI Valley JCo.

**WARBLERS:** There were a few warblers still seen in November.



*Some of us have been lucky enough to see these little Common Redpolls this year. A winter irruptive species from the north woods, most years we don't get to see them. Photo by Elisa Shaw*

**Nashville Warbler:** 1/27 Long Dock Pk Beacon RBa (only record). Seems late migrating south.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 1/13 Stoutenburgh Dr Hyde Pk DC (only record). Seems late migrating south.

**Palm Warbler:** 2 records as in 2019 - 1/5 Stony Kill AL; 3/5 Stony Kill DvZ.

**Pine Warbler:** 1/6 Dennings Pt AL (only record). Seems late migrating south.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 16 records, avg 2 ea. – same as 2019; FIRST Date 2<sup>nd</sup>, LAST 3/13 White House Crossing Rd Millerton CB, MS; MAX 9/3 Lk Oniad SI.

**TANAGERS & CARDINALS & ALLIES: Dickcissel:** 3 records, 1/24 KCF; 1/25 JClo; 1/27 all Hopeland FM.

**Field Trips:** 4<sup>th</sup> - Bowdoin Park 11<sup>th</sup> - Thompson Pond, 18<sup>th</sup> - DRT/Hopewell Jct

### 38 OBSERVERS - (TOTAL WHO SUBMITTED SIGHTINGS TO eBird = 105)

Janet Allison (JAlI); John Askildsen (JA); Kyle Bardwell (KB); Glenn Biery (GBi); Ryan Bass (RBa); Barbara Butler (BB); Chris Chappell (CC); Marie Chappell (MCh); Larry Chen (LCh); David Chernack (DC); Jim Closs (JClo); Jamie Collins (JCo); Claudius Feger (CF); Ken & Carol Fredericks (KCF); Ken Harris (KH); Brian Hess (BrH); Sue Iannucci (SI); Susan Joseph (SJ); Maha Katnani (MK); Linda Kleinhenz (LK); Chris Kostek (CK); Deb Kral (DK); Aimee LaBarr (AL); Bill Lenhart (BL); Anthony Macchiarola (AM); Barbara Mansell (BMa); Liz Martens (LM); Barb & Allan Michelin (BAM), Barb Michelin (BJM); Hannah Miller (HM); Jennifer Morton (JMo); Carena Pooth (CP); RTWBC Field Trip (FT); Derek Stoll (DS); Emily Stoll (ESto); Anne Swaim (ASw); Debbie van Zyl (DvZ); Chet Vincent (CV); Deb Weltsch (DWe)

Compiler - Debbie van Zyl - Editor - Barbara Michelin

## NY Third Breeding Bird Atlas

The second field season has begun, with new guide for early nesting species!

If you focused on getting up to speed with atlasing last year, you may have missed out on some of the early breeders. To give you a jump start this year, we've put together a guide full of tips on how to find 30 early nesting species, from owls and corvids to cavity nesters and city slickers. Use this guide to learn what's breeding in the first few months of the year and see how many you can find!

Download the 40-page color guide at <https://ebird.org/atlasny/news/new-guide-to-early-nesters>

Tips are provided on the following species that lay eggs in January to early April:

- **Owls**
  - Barn Owl
  - Great Horned Owl
  - Barred Owl
  - Eastern Screech-Owl
- **Other Raptors**
  - Bald Eagle
  - Golden Eagle
  - Northern Goshawk
  - Peregrine Falcon
  - Red-tailed Hawk
- **Game Birds**
  - Ruffed Grouse
  - Spruce Grouse
  - American Woodcock
  - Wild Turkey
- **Corvids**
  - Canada Jay
  - Common Raven
  - American Crow
  - Fish Crow
- **Cavity Nesters**
  - Red-bellied Woodpecker
  - White-breasted Nuthatch
  - Red-breasted Nuthatch
  - Black-capped Chickadee
- **City Slickers**
  - Rock Pigeon
  - Mourning Dove

- House Sparrow
- European Starling
- Monk Parakeet
- **Misfits**
  - Horned Lark
  - Northern Cardinal
  - Red Crossbill
  - White-winged Crossbill

The breeding dates are taken from the [second Breeding Bird Atlas](#) so you may notice some dates for young that are *earlier* than egg dates. This is because of a lack of data and not an error. We will be updating these dates based on your observations in the current Atlas.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (*one per Individual or Family membership*):  
\_\_\_\_\_

1-yr. Individual or Family Membership - \$25.00

Tax Deductible Contribution (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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*In order to save trees and control costs, a printable, electronic version of our monthly newsletter, **Wings over Dutchess**, is sent to our members via email. An archive of past issues is on our website.*

I prefer that you mail me the paper version of the newsletter instead of electronic.

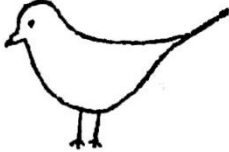
*Please tell us how you found out about our club:*  
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*Make check payable to: Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Send form and check to: Linda Kleinhenz, Membership Chair, 153 All Angels Hill Rd., Wappingers Falls., NY 12590*

*All dues and contributions to RTWBC are tax-deductible.*

**Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club**  
**153 All Angels Hill Rd.**  
**Wappingers Falls, NY 12590**

RALPH T. WATERMAN  
BIRD CLUB



DUTCHESS COUNTY

## FIRST CLASS

**Great Backyard  
Bird Count**

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Count birds in your  
backyard, local park,  
or wherever you spot a  
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observations online.  
[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)

Black-capped Chickadee. Photo: Jessica  
Ann McConahay/Great Backyard Bird Count

February 12-15, 2021  
Find out how to participate at  
[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)

## NY State Breeding Bird Atlas III Local Update - Thursday 1/21, 7PM on Zoom

Join Regional Coordinator Wendy Tocci for an update on the progress of the first year as well as to find out how you can get involved for the upcoming breeding season. Contact Wendy at (845)750-5409 or by email at [wtocci@gmail.com](mailto:wtocci@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need some pre-event technical support.

### Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82677060481?pwd=U0tQd0RqZkpCdUxuQkhxSU1pTjVzd09>

**Meeting ID:** 826 7706 0481

**Passcode:** 792513

If you are participating by phone dial +1 646 876 9923. When prompted use the meeting id and passcode above.

NOTE: This announcement is also posted under Latest News on the RTWBC website for access to the Zoom link and information.