

Pictorial Highlights



Hummingbirds are becoming an increasing presence on North American CBCs, and are almost expected in the southeast. However, this Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) (above) at Dublin, Georgia, present for most of the winter, was an extra special find. This was only the third CBC record for the species, and the first away from Texas. Photo/Rachel Cass

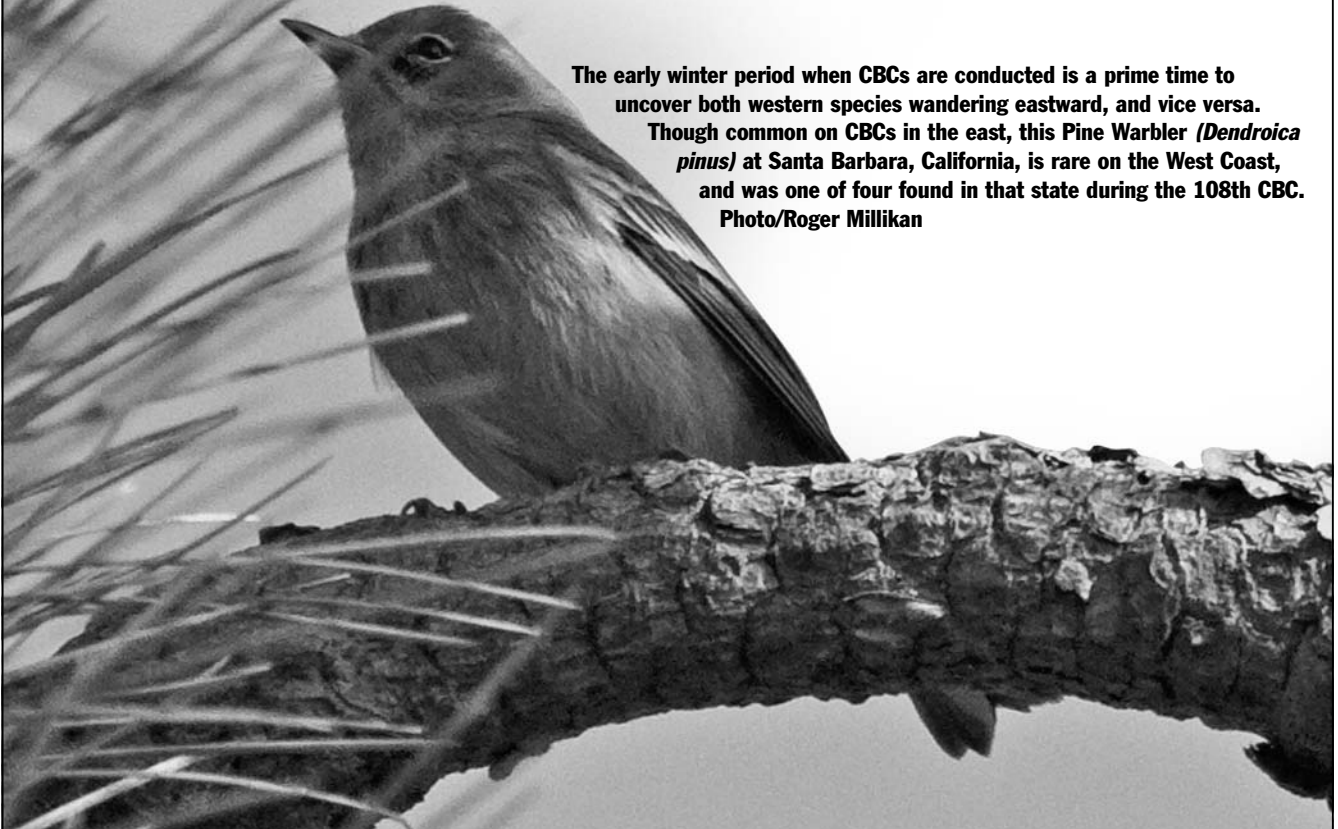
Pelagic species are challenging to view from land, but there are times when inclement weather may bring them closer to shore. The smallest, and therefore hardest to spot at sea, of the regularly occurring East Coast alcids, this Dovekie (*Alle alle*) (below) was beautifully photographed on New Jersey's Cape May CBC. Photo/Chris and Lee Hajduk



This was a big "winter finch" season in many regions of the continent, with significant movements of several species in many directions. This Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) (above) at Bonny Reservoir, Colorado, was a part of a major flight of that species southward through the Midwest and into Texas. Photo/Bill Schmoker

Avian Gems of all Descriptions

The early winter period when CBCs are conducted is a prime time to uncover both western species wandering eastward, and vice versa. Though common on CBCs in the east, this Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) at Santa Barbara, California, is rare on the West Coast, and was one of four found in that state during the 108th CBC. Photo/Roger Millikan





Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*) in general vacate the central and northern portions of the continent for their wintering range in the southeast by the Christmas Bird Count period. However, this lovely bird (left) was one of two Fox Sparrows lingering in the frozen center of the continent at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Photo/Terry Sohl



Out-of-range species are the spice of life for CBC participants. Fantastic and varied finds all were this (from left to right) Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) far north and east at Lewiston, Pennsylvania (Photo/Bob Moul); a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) startlingly far north at Thomaston-Rockland, Maine (Photo/Don Reimer); and a Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) likely on its way to the Caribbean or Latin America at Kendall Area, Florida (Photo/Mary Catherine Wheeler).

from the 108th Christmas Bird Count

One of the smallest of North America's vireos, the Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (below) can easily be passed over by observers in search of showier species. A species that normally winters south of the United States, this Bell's Vireo was a great find in Florida's Sarasota CBC circle. Photo/Lyn Atherton

