

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR WINTER MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

REGION 1 – WESTERN NEW YORK

Winter started out early and with a vengeance in this region. During the first week of November, we experienced a record breaking cold wave, sleet and heavy snow. The first snows, 12"-18" arrived north of Buffalo between November 2nd and 4th. However, up to 28" fell south of Buffalo on the 4th and 5th. The temperature dropped to 12° above on the 6th and 7th. December, the weather reversed itself, with the month's average temperature above normal. January continued the pace set the previous month, and practically duplicated the temperatures of a year ago. February and the first half of March were seasonable.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Holboell's Grebe – November and December records from Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Great Blue Heron was observed the first week in January (1-5th) between Grand Island and Niagara Falls. Whistling Swan seen on Chautauqua Lake until December 8th (Bursewicz, Jurkowski). Blue Goose, November 3rd – 1, Buckhorn Island, (Schaffner). Gadwall, November 18th – 1, Niagara Falls (Hall). Pintail – 5 were found on January 11th at Goat Island (Mitchell). Wood Duck – January 12th – 2, Frewsburg (Anderson, Roger Sundell).

Harlequin Duck, first observed on November 18th by Alice Ulrich and others at Niagara Falls. Has been observed since by many people. Scoters, all three species, observed throughout the winter, mainly on Niagara River.

HAWK – OWLS:

Turkey Vulture, one picked up dead in Buffalo's Forest Park on December 8th (Schaffner, Nathan). Rough-legged Hawk hit a low during the winter season. Bald Eagle, one early in January around Navy Island. During February, interest was shown in the nest on Navy Island. Virginia Rail, November 3rd, one late record at Burntship (Schaffner). Coot, a maximum of 1,000 on Chautauqua Lake till November 11th (Bursewicz). Black-bellied Plover, November 1st, late, Beaver Island Park, Grand Island (McCanns). Wilson's Snipe, January 5th, one at Frewsburg (Roger Sundell).

Red Phalarope, November 25th, one, Fort Niagara on a *Buffalo Ornithological Society* trip led by Wendling. White-winged gulls were here in sufficient numbers to guarantee daily observation. As many as eight Glaucous Gulls were observed by Mitchell, Nathan, and Schaffner on the Buffalo Waterfront on January 5th. It was possible to see an Iceland Gull from November 3rd on, at various points between the south of Buffalo city line and Niagara Falls. Bonaparte's Gulls were missing most of the winter, unusual for this region. One was seen on January 20th at Dunkirk Harbor by Bursewicz. On November 29th a Black-legged Kittiwake was spotted by Schaffner, Hall and Nathan from Buffalo's Bird Island Pier. A late Common Tern was found on Squaw Island (Buffalo) by Nathan & Schaffner on November 18th. Wintering Mourning Dove, one, near Avon, by Schaff-

ner, January 7th. One Snowy Owl lingered from December 1st to January 5th, on Buffalo's southern border, along Tift St.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Contrary to usual procedure Kingfisher's did not winter in the territory. Wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers and Flickers were reported with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker being observed on December 5th at Lackawanna (Brockner). Prairie horned Larks seemed to be down in numbers, none being found in November and December. Twenty were found at Frewsburg on January 4th (Folker). Brown-capped Chickadees hit a new high here. On November 24th, two were found in nearby Canada by Andrie and Gamble. The latter half of December one was under observation at Jamestown (Jurkowski, Bursewicz, R. Sundell et al). Orchard Park, Derby, Dunkirk also had records. Larkin reported Tufted Titmouse from Derby on Lake Erie Shore from November 5th-7th. Quite a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered. Brown Creepers were missed during most of the winter. Carolina Wrens are increasing. Robins definitely were not here in the numbers they were last year. Kinglets were also on the scarce list, one Ruby-crowned being found in Buffalo's Humboldt Park on November 9th (Hall, Mitchell). Two Pipits were late at Jamestown on November 11th (Bursewicz, Jurkowski). One Cedar Waxwing at Frewsburg, December 18th (R. Sundell) and again on January 26th by Folker. One Gray Shrike was found on January 12th on Grand Island (Thorpe, Pratt).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

An Eastern Meadowlark, January 12th, was found near E. Aurora (Mitchell, et al). Scattered Red-winged Blackbirds were reported in December and January. One Grackle was reported by R. Sundell on December 18th at Frewsburg. A few isolated records of Cowbirds. From October 11th on, it was possible to see Evening Grosbeaks (100 — November 25th, Niagara Frontier — Wendling et al) in good numbers at Hamburg, East Aurora, Niagara Falls, Batavia, Jamestown and Wellsville to name points of concentration. Old timers can't recall when Pine Grosbeaks were more in evidence. On November 4th, one was reported in Kenmore (North of Buffalo) by Beardslee. A Hoary Redpoll was reported at Braddock's Bay (Region 3) on January 27th (Braunberns et al). 80 Common Redpolls were seen on the same trip. A few Pine Siskins were found during the winter. Oddly enough, Goldfinches and Crossbills were not to be found. Two E. Towhees were seen on the Christmas Census on December 30th. The first Harris's Sparrow for the region was observed at Hamburg November 9-11 (Avery). A White-crowned Sparrow lingered at the same feeding station throughout January and February. Song Sparrows were scarce with no Lapland Longspurs. Snow Buntings reached their maximum on January 12, 500 at Holland (Creighton, Griffiths).

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