

17 Jan. and four same place 7 Feb. Dark-eyed Junco: although not noted by BOS in their noteworthy records, the Southern Tier Cos., particularly the forested unglaciated part, experienced unprecedented numbers; flocks of 100 individuals are common on migration but these flocks were present through Dec. & Jan. and until a thaw in late Feb. They visited feeders after snows but took to the woods as winds blew down more hemlock seeds on snow surface; 512 along road berm in 26 km ASP 13 Jan. (TB); 100+ Ten Mile Rd., Catt. Co. (SE). Snow Bunting: 500 max Twn. Alabama 13 Jan. (Collins); 500 Fredonia 28 Jan. (BC); with these a few Lapland Longspurs. Red-winged Blackbird and other icterids, along with Eur. Starlings moved into the region following the thaw 23 Feb. Rusty Blackbird: some wintered on lake plain but 15 at feeder Burgeson Sanc. 12-14 Feb. (DD) probably very early migrants. Pine Grosbeak: two Alfred 15 Dec. (EB). Purple Finch: six SBCC 15 Dec.; 33 SCC 15 Dec.; 23 JCC 16 Dec.; four FCC 1 Jan. were numbers a little above normal. House Finch: 527 JCC 16 Dec. a max – still on increase. Red Crossbill: one ASP 13 Jan. (TB); four Alfred 22 Feb. a max (CK). White-winged Crossbill: one Alfred 1 Feb. (EB). Pine Siskin: 90+ Amity L. 4 Dec. (VP). Am. Goldfinch: 120 SCC 15 Dec.; 47 SBCC 15 Dec.; 143 JCC 16 Dec.; 9 FCC 1 Jan. Evening Grosbeak: one Alfred 15 Dec., three and two 18 & 26 Jan., 10 on 22 Feb. (CK); 32 ASP 30 Dec. (TB); one Wales 13, 15, 29 Jan. (OR); one-20 Amity L. 20-31 Jan., one-31 through Feb. (VP); one Ten Mile Rd., Catt. Co. 28 Jan. (SE); one Farmersville Sta. 8 Feb. (DC); seven Fentonville, Chaut. Co. 21 Feb. (JP); 65 Whitesville, All. Co. a max 17 Feb. (H. Ward).

Ten Mile Rd., Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It appeared as though winter was going to bypass us this year. December's average temperature was a sultry 35.9°. That was a staggering 6.9° above average. Precipitation was only .72" above normal, but warm temperatures provided spring-like conditions for the Christmas Bird Counts. Just when it appeared as though winter might not arrive, reality set in and it began to snow, and snow, and snow. Not a day went by in January without some snowfall. The average temperature was 21.9°, and the measurable precipitation was 2.49". The persistent snow made birding difficult and uncomfortable. The snow continued into February but subsided by the end of the month as quite often is the case. The monthly average temperature was 25.6°, and the precipitation amounted to 1.78". Both figures were slightly above normal.

The season featured some interesting highlights and noteworthy observations. The warm spell produced some surprisingly late individuals and may have contributed to some of the ones that wintered here. One of the most fascinating wintering birds was the immature Black-crowned Night-Heron. The warm waters from a power station provided an ideal wintering spot. Wintering waterfowl species were generally typical with good numbers of Oldsquaw. Great Black-backed Gulls continued their mercurial rise with good numbers everywhere along the lakeshore. Once again Snowy Owls were predictable with at least three separate birds frequenting traditional haunts. There were also numerous reports of other individuals. N. Saw-whet Owl reports seemed up with a report from a known nesting area. The return of Red-headed Woodpeckers was most

refreshing. Any season that Boreal Chickadee is reported is a plus. The mildness may have accounted for the good numbers of kinglets and creepers that inhabited numerous locales. The wintering robin population was one of the highest in years. Of great significance were the warbler reports from the Christmas Counts. Some surprising finds were noted. The winter sparrow population was good with substantial numbers of White-throats and American Trees.

On the other hand, some species didn't enjoy such an eventful season. Rough-legged Hawk reports were meager at best. Ring-necked Pheasants struggled through another winter. Cedar Waxwings, while by no means in a desperate situation, appeared in somewhat smaller numbers. This was in direct contrast to the high robin count. Both species often feast together on winter fruit. The Bohemian Waxwing was nonexistent, which is a change from recent winters. The wild fruit and cone crop must have been just as good elsewhere. What was anticipated as a possible "finch winter" never really materialized. The cone crop was staggering in proportion to recent years. Finch reports were consistent but mediocre in total numbers. A big push just didn't happen. Purple Finches were low as were both crossbills. Pine Grosbeaks were way down, and Evening Grosbeaks exhibited a miniscule population. Thus, a reverse of high expectations was experienced.

Rarities: Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Boreal Chickadee, Cape May Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: A-Avon, B-Braddock Bay, BS-Bergen Swamp, C-Charlotte, CL-Conesus Lake, D-Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent Lake Ontario waters, EL-East Lakeshore, G-Greece, H-Hamlin, HL-Hemlock Lake, I-Irondequoit Bay, K-Kendall, LSCBC-Letchworth-Silver Lake Christmas Bird Count, LLCBC-Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count, L-Livonia, M-Mendon, P-Point Breeze, R-Rochester, RCBC-Rochester Christmas Bird Count, RS-Russell Station, S-Sodus Bay, W-Webster, & WL-West Lakeshore.

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LOONS-DUCKS: It was a typical loon and grebe winter with the customary smattering of reports. December and January are traditional reporting months with a slackening in February. Red-throated Loon: two H 3 Jan. Com. Loon: one D 1 Jan. Pied-billed Grebe: one S 13 Jan. Horned Grebe: max three EL 13 Jan. Red-necked Grebe: two H 4 Jan. (WS). Double-crested Cormorant: max six S 1 Jan. The opportunity to report on herons during this season seldom arises, but this season breaks that tradition. Great Blue Heron: usual scattered singles. **CATTLE EGRET**: one Monroe Co. Airport 21 Dec. (MS), tremendous surprise for this time of the year. Green-backed Heron: one Salmon Creek 9 Dec. (B & JK), very late tarrying individual. **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**: one imm RS Dec.-Feb., sighted often, feeding along the edge of Slater Creek or perched in adjacent trees, seemed to gain strength as the season progressed. Waterfowl reports and concentrations were about normal with a variety of interesting reports. Tundra Swan: max 32 CL

26 Dec. Mute Swan: two S all Dec., one S Jan.-Feb. Snow Goose (blue morph): one LSCBC 15 Dec. Wood Duck: one Hollands Cove 3 Feb. N. Shoveler: one G 13 Dec. late. Ring-necked Duck: four S 26 Jan. Oldsquaw: large numbers along the lakeshore during the season. Hooded Merganser: max 140 LSCBC 15 Dec. Ruddy Duck: two Honeoye L 30 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr two G 28 Feb. Bald Eagle: two imm WL 1-31 Dec., one wing-tagged; one adult HL 30 Dec.; two imm WL 1-10 Jan.; one adult CL 6 Jan.; one adult HL 12 Jan.; last three birds most likely from pair that nested in that area. N. Goshawk: one R 16 Dec. (RCBC), three W 1-31 Dec., one Pultneyville 30 Jan. Rough-legged Hawk: one Ellison Park 10 Dec., scarce during season. Merlin: one W 17 Jan.; one G 28 Feb., imm. Wild Turkey: 20 Springwater 1-31 Jan. Virginia Rail: one Honeoye L. 30 Dec., not as prevalent as some years. Killdeer: one H 6 Jan., not as many as usual for the season. Dunlin: one C 6 Jan. (DS, TT), very late. Com. Snipe: arr four HL 17 Feb., quite possibly they wintered. Little Gull: max 22 D 1-31 Dec., nine D 1-14 Jan., typical numbers. Bonaparte's Gull: max 120 D 14 Jan., good total for Jan. Iceland Gull: one EL 1 Dec., 1st year; one H 3, 13 Jan., imm; one I 6 Jan., imm; three P 25 Jan., good total; one G 16 Feb., adult; one H 20 Feb., imm. Glaucous Gull: 12 P 25 Jan. (WL), super number; one RS 13 Jan., 2nd year; one I 10 Feb., adult; one I 24 Feb., improved after a slow start. Great Black-backed Gull: max 600 P 25 Jan., part of the excellent gull flight of the 25th.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: good tallies on the CBC's; 30 R 16 Dec. (RCBC); 41 LLCBC 30 Dec. Snowy Owl: reports of six different birds during most of the period. Short-eared Owl: good totals seen from Jan. thru the period with a max of 24 in Geneseo area. N. Saw-Whet Owl: one CL 30 Dec., one BE 19 Jan., one Helmer Nature Center 14 Feb., more reports than is customary for the season. Red-headed Woodpecker: population returned to an area from which they were absent last year, increased acorn production may be the cause. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: good seasonal reports, two R 16 Dec. (RCBC), two Letchworth 15 Dec. (LLCBC), one I 13 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: good numbers along lakeshore. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one Letchworth 15 Dec. (KB, LSCBC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: quite a few in region during the season. Winter Wren: one R 16 Dec. (RCBC), one CL 5 Jan. Golden-crowned Kinglet: excellent number of wintering birds. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three LLCBC 30 Dec., fairly high total for this uncommon winter species; one M 3 Jan. (EB, MR). Hermit Thrush: minimum of four wintering birds from various locations. Am. Robin: excellent totals of wintering birds. Gray Catbird: one W 16 Dec., one G 16 Dec. (RCBC), one H 27 Jan., two L 4 Feb., good total of hardy winterers. N. Shrike: max two R 10 Feb., meager totals.

VIREOS-WARBLED: **CAPE MAY WARBLER:** one Perinton 9 Dec. (TT), very late and unusual. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 31 Spencerport 19 Jan., traditional wintering area; one M 4 Feb., numbers very low at this locale. **PINE WARBLER:** one HL 30 Dec. (WLI, MAS, D & DT, LLCBC), most unusual find. Com. Yellowthroat: one CL 30 Dec. (MD), male.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one L 16 Feb. (HM), female. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Cobb's Hill thru Jan. Am. Tree Sparrow: good totals. Field Sparrow: one CL 30 Dec. (LLCBC). White-crowned Sparrow: one H 3 Feb., two H 10 Feb., uncommon winterer. Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon subspecies): one Lima 1-31 Dec. (A & JF). Lapland Longspur: max 350 H 8 Dec. Snow Bunting: max 5000 K 23 Feb. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one G 30 Jan. (ML), male at feeder, seen one day only. Rusty Blackbird: ten R 3 Jan., one Stafford 1 Feb. Pine Grosbeak: one H 3 Jan. (WS), paltry total. Red Crossbill: one D 8 Dec., male; one D 30 Dec.; one D 5 Jan.; one H 13 Jan., female; three Highland Park 1 Feb.; ten H 20 Feb. White-winged Crossbill: one D 4 Dec., one G 16 Dec., three D 21 Feb. Pine Siskin: two H 4 Jan., one I 20-21 Jan., 20 D 21 Feb.; max 150 H 21 Feb. Evening Grosbeak: numbers very low for season.

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