

State Forest 7 Dec (EB); one over Allegany 13 Feb, attacked by pair of crows, circled up and flew S (SE). Am. Robin: max 125 Porter Twn 12 Jan; nine other reports from Region (BOS). Cedar Waxwing: 66 FCBC 21 Dec; 24 Lake Erie SP 15 Jan; three Amity L 28 Feb. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: two Porter Twn 1 Dec (Collins), an uncommon winter visitor seen also 27 Nov. N. Shrike: reported from 12 locations in Region during period, a flight year.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 24 Portland Twn 15 Jan, in two flocks of 10 and 14; one Amity L 6 Jan, unusual away from lake plain in winter; six Portland Twn 16 Feb may have overwintered successfully.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 275 JCBC (9.2/person); 68 FCBC (4.8/person); 27 SBCBC (2.7/person); 87 SCBC (2.7/person), illustrates influence of lake plain and large residential areas on presence. Chipping Sparrow: one Pomfret Twn 5 Dec (T & JM) late. Field Sparrow: one Darien 14 Dec to 12 Jan, at feeder; one Belmont 7-25 Feb (D & LB), becoming regular regional winter visitor. Lapland Longspur: max four Pomfret Twn 16 Feb, four other reports from lake plain. Snow Bunting: max 500 Kiantone 14 Feb; 300 Pomfret Twn 16 Feb; 50 Amity Twn 7 Feb; 50 Alfred 8 Feb; many flocks elsewhere, a good flight year. N. Oriole: one Stowe to 13 Dec, at feeder. Pine Grosbeak: max ten Alfred 4 Dec; five other smaller flocks reported in Region during period. House Finch: max 767 JCBC 22 Dec (527 in 1985); 245 FCBC 21 Dec; 33 SBCBC 21 Dec; 225 SCBC, still on increase. Com. Redpoll: max 159 Pomfret Twn 15 Feb, counted with telescope top of large willows (DG, TM); 13 other scattered reports, a fair flight year. Am. Goldfinch: max 55 Lewiston feeder Jan, scarcer than in 1984 and 1985. Evening Grosbeak: 11 reports Feb, 13 reports Jan and seven reports Feb (BOS noteworthy records); 472 JCBC 22 Dec; 145 FCBC 21 Dec; 44 SBCBC, 359 SCBC, most common S of Buffalo.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

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This winter had a mixed bag of credentials. Weather systems and patterns were not typical and provided some interesting conditions. December blasted us with cold air. The average temperature was 24°, a full 4° below normal. There was snow of course, but the total precipitation was 1.13" below normal at 1.46". January, in contrast, proved to be warmer than usual, with an average temperature of 25°, 1.4° above the norm. Precipitation amounted to 1.63", 0.67" less than the average. Thus continued the dry weather. February's average temperature was very near normal at 24.5°, but precipitation reversed the earlier trend. It measured 2.46", 1.4" above the normal.

The impact of the weather on birding was noticeable in a number of cases. The early cold produced frozen lakes in the southern parts of the Region. This caused waterfowl to concentrate in areas of open water. Overall, the snowfall was insignificant enough to leave feeding areas open and free of deep snow. This may have contributed to the mediocrity which was experienced at feeders. The January and February thaw further contributed to the reduction of ground cover, and also to the opening of water areas late in the season. Lake Ontario had no major ice concentrations along its shore and waterfowl remained spread out along the shore. Only during cold snaps did concentrations occur. A good portion of the Genesee River mouth was open and provided refuge for many ducks and other water birds. Interestingly enough, the weather systems brought us some northern species but deprived us of others.

Ornithologically it was an average winter. Numbers were fairly traditional with no glaring pluses or minuses. Fluctuations from the norm existed, but none seemed to be of overwhelming magnitude. The wild food crop was good. In fact, the lack of significant snow cover along the lakeshore left ample fields with waste grains and weed seeds. Here observers found some concentrations of sparrows and redpolls.

High points of the season include an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron reported in December. This meant that this species was reported during every month of 1985! Wood Duck is not a common species in winter, but this season they were found regularly in Penfield and Webster, with an unprecedented maximum of 24 on 15 Feb. Numbers continually averaged around a dozen. A female King Eider was reported along the East Lakeshore throughout the season. Turkey Vultures put on a winter show with one at Letchworth State Park on 25 Jan and two more reported there on 17 Feb. All three Accipiters were found frequently, and there were over a dozen reports of Northern Goshawk. A half dozen sightings of Merlin included one that wintered in the same location in Livonia. More Little Gulls than usual in winter were along the lakeshore this season. Reports came from all three months, with a maximum of 25 in January and February.

Noteworthy reports of land birds included two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers from Genesee Valley Park and one from Irondequoit. Brown Creeper reports came from numerous locations, and the wintering population seemed to be up a bit. Although its name might imply that it should be present at this time of the year, Winter Wren is an uncommon winter visitor to this Region. It was by no means common this year, but there were fairly many sightings, including two of the three local Christmas Bird Counts. Northern Mockingbird continued to show a rise in population, and multiple sightings were common. Bohemian Waxwings put on an impressive show. All three monthly tallies featured this species, with a maximum of twenty-two along the West Lakeshore. Northern Shrike numbers appeared to be good. They were reported from many locations with sightings of numerous individuals. A phenomenon that repeated again this year was the concentration of Yellow-rumped Warblers in Spencerport. Over 30 were reported from this location. Two real questions remain. On what are they feeding, and why do they concentrate in this one location? Finding the species elsewhere in the Region was a difficult task. Some winter finches appeared in good numbers.

Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were reported from a number of locations. A staggering total of over 1100 redpolls was reported from Kendall on 7 Dec.

There also were some lows for the season. Although most waterfowl species were present, total numbers generally were low. American Wigeon was noteworthy for its scarcity, and scoters and Oldsquaw were reported in somewhat reduced numbers. Two species that usually winter along the lake shore—Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl—were down in number. Snowy Owl reports were few and far between, and most of these were second hand. Carolina Wren seems to be a puzzler. Totals seemed to be down, but late season reports may prove to be the contrary. Is this due to the increase in activity and singing as spring approaches? In a year when some winter finches were quite numerous, there seemed to be some discrepancies. Pine Siskins were down and both crossbills were in short supply.

There were a few rarities for the season that warrant mention. The immature Great Cormorant that first appeared this fall was again sighted at Charlotte and Irondequoit Bay in Dec, and at Charlotte on 1 Feb. A male Barrow's Goldeneye, along with two females and a probable immature male, was located on the Genesee River at Charlotte on 4 Jan, and several remained through 11 Jan. An immature Red-shouldered Hawk was sighted by Elizabeth Brooks and Jeff Bouton in Retsof on 21 Jan. Winter reports of this species are very unusual. Robert Spahn's report of a Parasitic Jaeger at Braddock Bay on 22 Dec was a first for the Rochester Christmas Bird Count. An immature Common Black-headed Gull was observed flying along the lakeshore in Greece and two reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull, an adult seen in Kendall by T. Bartlett on 28 Dec, and another located on Conesus Lake on 29 Dec by Jeanne Skelly highlight the gull noteworthy reports. Few rare passerines were reported this winter. A Boreal Chickadee appeared in Greece for the Rochester Christmas Bird Count. An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird frequented the feeder of Bill Smith in Charlotte, and the same bird also was seen in two other locations in that area. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet feasted on suet in the town of Parma at the feeder of Patty Reister from 17 Feb to 28 Feb. It is a very rare winter visitant for this Region. Finally a Chipping Sparrow banded by Elizabeth Brooks in Pittsford on 6 Jan. Records of this species in winter are very unusual.

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Abbreviations: BB – Braddock Bay, CL – Conesus Lake, IB – Irondequoit Bay, LSP – Letchworth State Park, WL – West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: last one Sodus 12 Jan. Com. Loon: last one Pultneyville 18 Jan. Pied-billed Grebe: max three CL 3 Jan. Double-crested Cormorant: im Charlotte 3 Feb, reported at various times throughout the season. Tundra Swan: max 32 CL 3 Jan. Brant: last BB 11 Jan. Green-winged Teal: last Greece 15 Dec. Am. Wigeon: arr two BB 5 Feb. Surf Scoter: one WL 28 Dec, one Charlotte 5 Jan. Ruddy Duck: max three CL 3 Jan.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: ad Hamlin 1 Dec, im WL 7 Dec, ad CL 1 Jan, ad Rush 17 Jan, ad LSP 8 Feb, good number of sightings for the season. Wild Turkey: max 70 LSP 18 Jan, continuing to do well. Virginia Rail: one Greece 22 Dec (AS), one Covington 21 Dec (mobs). Killdeer: one BB 31 Dec; last two Brockport 12 Jan, arr Hamlin 22 Feb. Purple Sandpiper: last BB 1 Dec, last. Dunlin: last 7 BB 1 Dec. Com. Snipe: one Greece 22 Dec. Red Phalarope: last BB 1 Dec (JB, Mike Davids). Iceland Gull: one Webster 13 Dec, 2nd yr; one Charlotte 5, 11 Jan; one BB 11 Jan; im IB 22 Feb; one Sodus 22 Feb; good number for the season. Glaucous Gull: im Webster 12-14 Dec; two WL 12 Jan; one IB 31 Jan; ad Sodus 16 Feb; ad IB 22-23 Feb, about average for the season.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Long-eared Owl: one LSP 27 Feb (DB), first record for the park. Short-eared Owl: one Webster 22 Dec, unusual location; max 14 Retsof 26 Feb, a traditional location. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Penfield 31 Dec, seen only once, other reports of birds through the season.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Bluebird: max 14 Honeoye Lake 29 Dec. Hermit Thrush: one Sodus 12 Jan, one Greece 17 Jan, typical numbers if not a tad low. Gray Catbird: one Greece through the period, one Durand-Eastman Park 4 Dec, one Sodus 26 Jan, more than usual. N. Shrike: max six East Lakeshore 16 Feb.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Orange-crowned Warbler: one BB 1 Dec (JB), one Durand-Eastman Park 7 Dec (JD, RO), unusual species for the season. Yellow-rumped Warbler: singles Mendon 21 Dec, Hamlin 30 Dec, and Williamson 4 Jan, only reports away from Spencerport concentration.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Field Sparrow: one CL 26 Jan, uncommon winter bird. Swamp Sparrow: 22 CL 29 Dec (JB), excellent total for one area. White-crowned Sparrow: eight Hamlin 2 Jan, im Greece 18 & 23 Feb, continuing recent trend of winter reports. Lapland Longspur: max 35 Nations Rd, Avon, 15 Jan. Snow Bunting: max 3000 Kendall 23 Feb. Rusty Blackbird: arr 18 Greece 18 Feb, but a smaller group wintered at this location. Pine Grosbeak: max 35 from various locations. Red Crossbill: singles Durand-Eastman 27 Dec, and Greece 13 Jan, only reports. White-winged Crossbill: max eight Turning Point Pk 24 Dec, 8 Jan; one Webster 20 Feb.

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