

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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As in many recent years, December started things off with the first three weeks of the month very mild, changed dramatically for about a week, and then back to mild. The result was a 3°F above average temperature of 32.2°F. Precipitation was just over 2" and 0.67" below normal. Snowfall was at 19.1", but most fell on the 14th, 26th, and 27th. Still, the total was only a few inches below normal. These conditions resulted in some open water, generally bare ground, and easy travel for the Christmas Bird Counts.

One weather forecaster called January a "Jekyll and Hyde" month. The first half was for the most part mild and dry with little snowfall. The second half was cold and snowy. The first 12 days of the month averaged 13° above normal. The rest of the month was a frigid 10° below normal. Only two of the last 19 days of the month were above the freezing mark. The monthly average was 23.2°F, which was 0.4° below normal. The precipitation total of 2.98" was 0.9" above normal. The real story though was the 42" of snow. This was the 7th snowiest January in the last 100 years. The vast majority fell during the last two weeks. No one worked on big January lists this year, so reports were down, particularly for half-hardies, but the species total was about average at 111.

February's average temperature was 5.6° above normal at 30.2°F. Precipitation totaled 0.13" below the norm of 1.97". Snowfall was down from January to a modest 25.7". The first three-fourths of the month was cold, but a stretch of warm temperatures at the end of the month brought a "burst of migrants" as Bob Spahn put it. There were some record early arrivals.

Water birds were, for the most part, quite good this year. Once again the Lakewatch at Hamlin Beach provided some consistent coverage and decent totals. Canada Geese and the divers were on the plus side. A count of 100+ Horned Grebes in January was a very good total. The Federation Waterfowl Count netted above average numbers and a good variety in the Region. After the cold spell, counts of individuals dropped considerably. Pack ice formed along the shoreline which made looking for loons, grebes, and waterfowl difficult.

Rough-legged Hawk reports were on the up side early in the season but declined towards the middle. The usual accipiters were reported working the backyard feeders.

Gull numbers were only mediocre this year. Some of the usual large concentrations were lacking. As the season wore on things picked up a little bit with, Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous being reported. It was a poor season for Little and Bonaparte's gulls.

Snowy Owl reports were few and far between with only two sightings. Short-eared Owls were found at their usual haunts.

Passerines were generally good with the Christmas Bird Counts turning up a decent variety. After the counts things tailed off a little and some traditional species were tougher to locate. Northern Shrikes were relatively easy to locate early in the season, but numbers dropped off towards the end. A surprisingly high count of 13 Hermit Thrushes was found in Webster Park on 2 January. This deviated significantly from other reports during the season. These birds were obviously moving around as they were not located on subsequent visits to the location. Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird seemed to be holding their own despite the cold spells. The anticipated winter finch movement never really materialized, although all expected species were reported. Common Redpolls were the only consistent representative of the group. A scattering of Hoary Redpolls accompanied them.

The three local CBC's did fairly well this year. The Letchworth-Silver Lake Count reached 76 species, just 1 short of the 1984 high. Two new species, American Pipit and Chipping Sparrow, were located. Ten species set new highs, with Mourning Dove doubling its previous high at 1244. The 96th Rochester CBC totaled 92 species. No new species were added, but Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Rock Dove, and Pileated Woodpecker established new highs. The Little Lakes Count was a record breaker with 95 species. Peregrine Falcon new for the count. Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot were recorded in "appreciably higher" numbers than usual.

Dave Tetlow's quest for 300 species came down to the last day of the year. He spent the day watching the lake from Hamlin Beach State Park. He started the day at 299 and finished at 301. Pacific Loon and Ivory Gull pushed him over the top. It was a very successful year for Dave. His persistence and hard work paid off. Dave's efforts raised money that was donated to the Nature Conservancy. Congratulations on a job well done, Dave!

The three-month species total was 149. There were many good records for the season including Eared Grebe, King Eider, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, Barn Owl, and a brief appearance by an Ovenbird. True rarities included Pacific Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Ivory Gull, with the latter being the bird of the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, CL - Crusoe Lake (Wayne Co), CO - Conesus Lake, DE - Durand-Eastman Park, G - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach, HL - Honeoye Lake, HP - Hogan Point (Greece), IB - Irondequoit Bay, M - Manitou, P - Penfield, PE - Perinton, SB - Sodus Bay, SC - Salmon Creek (Greece), SP - Sodus Point, WP - Webster Park.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 464 HB 2 Dec;
11 HB 1 Jan.

PACIFIC LOON: HB 31 Dec (DT).

Horned Grebe: max 100+ M 8 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 23 HB 15 Dec;
HB 1,3,8 Jan; arr 3 HB 2 Feb.

EARED GREBE: CO 26 Dec (SSk, DD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: IB 1,9 Jan
(CC,SSk).

Glossy Ibis: SB (South) 4 Dec (DT).

Turkey Vulture: G 8 Jan; 5 Bergen 12 Jan;
G 15 Jan; 6 BB 27 Feb, normally rare in
winter.

Snow Goose: SP 3 Feb.

Snow "Blue" Goose: CO 24 Dec; CO 1,9
Jan; H 26 Feb.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Lima 5-15
Dec (KF); CO 24 Dec (KF).

Trumpeter Swan: 1-2 IB 8-16 Jan, origin?

Tundra Swan: max 145 CO 26 Dec; arr 6
HB 22 Feb.

Wood Duck: Williamson 16 Jan, scarce;
arr 2 BB 22 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: max 6 CO 16 Jan; arr 4 HB
24 Feb.

Blue-winged Teal: last BB 2 Dec.

N. Shoveler: max 31 G, BB 19 Dec; arr 3
HB 27 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 4 G 5 Jan; arr 6 HB 23 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: Pultneyville 15 Jan;
P 16 Jan; arr 7 HB 27 Feb.

Redhead: max 4174 CO 16 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: max 219 HL 26 Dec.

Greater Scaup: max 7089 G 19 Dec (RCBC).

Lesser Scaup: max 1491 Irondequoit 19
Dec (RCBC)

King Eider: max 9 HB 2 Dec (WS, BE);
HB 15 Dec (BE, WS), imm/female; HB 18
Dec (BE, DT), imm/female; HB 30 Dec
(BE, DT), imm/female.

COMMON EIDER: SP 23 Jan (M&JT),
imm. male

Harlequin Duck: SP 16,30 Jan

(DT,DS,GC).

White-winged Scoter: max 5523 HB 1 Dec.

Oldsquaw: max 510 DE 19 Jan.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: SB 27 Dec

(DT), imm male.

Ruddy Duck: max 30 CO 24 Dec.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: BB 10 Jan, ad; BB 15 Jan, imm; SP 23 Jan, imm.

N. Harrier: max 23 BB 27 Feb.

N. Goshawk: Charlotte 31 Dec, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr M 27 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 128 BB 27 Feb, very high count.

Merlin: H 9 Dec; P 17 Feb; M 27 Feb, regular in winter in recent years.

Peregrine Falcon: CO 26 Dec; 2 IB 10 Jan.

Wild Turkey: max 61 CL 12 Feb.

Killdeer: G 2 Jan; arr 5 HB 22 Feb.

Greater Yellowlegs: last SC 2 Dec, late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last SC 2 Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 M 27 Feb, (DT,DN), record early.

Dunlin: last 2 SC 2 Dec.

Com. Snipe: 2 CO 1 Jan.

Am. Woodcock: arr HL 27 Feb.

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 juv HB 1 Dec; HB 12 Dec; HB 13 Dec; 1 juv HB 24 Dec.

Parasitic Jaeger: BB 19 Dec.

jaeger species: 1 HB 10 Dec.

Little Gull: arr G 9 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 3308 HB 1 Dec.

Thayer's Gull: P 1 1st winter 1 Jan (DS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 ad IB 1 Dec, (KD); HB 4 Dec (BE,WS); HB 24 Dec (BE); PE 8 Jan (sev), 3rd winter; 1 2nd

winter PE 15 Jan (sev); 1 1st winter PE 23 Jan (sev); 1 ad Charlotte 30 Jan (GC).

Iceland Gull: 7 individuals PE all Jan (DS).

Glaucous Gull: 1st winter PE 13-22 Jan (DS); ad PE 27 Jan (DS).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 imm HB 17 Dec (BE); 1 imm HB 18 Dec (WS).

IVORY GULL: HB 31 Dec (BE,DT), 3rd regional record.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: West Bloomfield 26 Dec (RS).

Snowy Owl: PB 30 Dec, scarce.

N. Saw-whet Owl: arr HP 17 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: E. Bloomfield 8 Jan (GC), scarce.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: arr M 27 Feb, early.

Com. Raven: 2 HL 26 Dec.

hummingbird species: W 20 Dec (LG).

swallow species: W 5 Dec (RS).

Hermit Thrush: max 13 W 2 Jan (DT, MD).

Am. Pipit: WYOM 18 Dec (HK), very late.

Bohemian Waxwing: DE 1,4 Jan (GC, R&SS); HP 3 Feb (DT).

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: HB 4 Dec.

Ovenbird: Irondequoit 15-16 Jan

(MM,DT), very rare in winter.

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 CO 26 Dec.

Yellow-breasted Chat: G 11 Dec (DT).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: CO 26 Dec.

Field Sparrow: 2 CO 26 Dec.

Song Sparrow: arr HP 17 Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 27

Avon/Retsoff 23 Jan.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: York 18 Jan (DT), male.

Rusty Blackbird: CO 1 Jan.

Com. Grackle: Brighton 3 Jan.

Purple Finch: arr DE 13 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 HB 1 Jan; 3 HB 3 Jan; HB 19 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: 130 HB 11 Dec; max 275-325 W 3 Jan.

Hoary Redpoll: HB 7 Dec (WS, BE); 2

Gaines 10 Dec (DT); HB 1 Jan (SSk);

Parma 26 Jan (BE); P 3 Feb (R&CMc); W 26-27 Feb (D&DT).

Evening Grosbeak: arr P 3 Feb.

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