

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

Peg Burnett
2 Ayers Street
Binghamton NY 13905

Eric Sullivan
42 Patricia Street
Binghamton NY 13905

Weather data is as recorded by the National Weather Service Station at Binghamton Regional Airport. December's average temperature was 29.6°F, 3.1° above normal. Precipitation of 1.65 inches was about half of normal. A total of 6.9 inches of snow fell by the end of the month. December was warmer than normal for the first three weeks, then from 23-28 Dec overnight lows dipped into single digits on four of these nights.

The monthly average for January temperatures was just under normal at 20.2°F. Snowfall amounted to 36.3 inches, with the greatest amount, 9.3 inches, falling on the 12-13 Jan. The new millennium entered with well above average temperatures. 1-4 Jan had temperatures above 45°F, with a high of 58° on the 4th. On three of these days, the temperatures were 23°F higher than normal! A cold spell hit and lasted from 13-30 Jan. Temperatures were in the single digits for ten days, and for six days were below 0°.

February's mild weather was welcomed, and the 26.9°F average was 4.2° higher than normal. A total of 21.4 inches of snow fell, with the greatest one-day amount of 6.8 inches on 18 Feb. There was a warming trend from 22-27 Feb. Six of these days were 11°F above average, and three days were at least 19° above average.

Waterfowl fared well overall this winter with mild temperatures and open water. Green-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks lingered into December at Upper Lisle. Other less common winter waterbirds included Horned Grebe, an American Wigeon at Cannonsville Reservoir in January, and Canvasbacks and Redheads in Broome County. Two unusual species seen were a Eurasian Wigeon in Binghamton and a Mandarin Duck, an obvious exotic, in Vestal. The Federation Waterfowl Count tallied 12 species. The Sherburne Christmas Bird Count added several new species to their count list including Horned Grebe, Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, and Common Goldeneye.

Bald Eagles were reported through the season, with most reports in December. Goshawk sightings are welcomed any time of year, but this winter produced four widespread reports. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce after December. A single Merlin showed up on Chenango County's Christmas Bird Count, and a Peregrine Falcon was seen on Owego's Christmas Bird Count. Andy Mason reported 60 American Coots at Otsego Lake during the waterfowl count, with "one being devoured by a Great Black-backed Gull". A Common Snipe was early at Boland Pond, Chenango Bridge on 29 February.

Six species of owls were reported. Most notable was a possible Long-eared Owl in Apalachin, Tioga County. It was seen perched in the daytime in a backyard. Short-eared Owls were reported from southern Broome County, and a N. Saw-whet Owl was seen January and February in Owego. A Red-headed Woodpecker was counted on Oneonta's Christmas Bird Count. Red-bellied Woodpeckers had good reports from Broome, Chenango, and Tioga counties.

Not surprising. Northern Shrikes were seen by many observers throughout the Region. One was spotted in Chenango County feasting on a chickadee.

In Norwich, an American Crow roost in a residential area prompted some homeowners to call for some remedial action from the town. However Don Windsor advises "the huge roosts of a few years ago of over 1000 have dwindled to about 500, and the flock in question is about 200 birds" He goes on to point out that this is a case of the media "hyping" the story.

Unlike last winter, irruptive species such as American Tree Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were frequently reported throughout the season, and crowds of Common Redpolls jostled resident birds for space at Regional feeders. Marie Petuh discovered two Bohemian Waxwings in Johnson City amid a flock of about 46 Cedar Waxwings that visited her backyard in January. The Bohemians considerably perched in a tree long enough for her to set up her spotting scope and get a really good look at their field marks.

A surprising variety of migrant sparrows was reported in December, and a Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow and a White-crowned Sparrow were reported on Christmas Bird Counts. Two Fox Sparrows apparently overwintered in a Vestal backyard. A Swamp Sparrow was reported from Broome County on 4 Dec.

Occasional Horned Larks were mixed in the large flocks of Snow Buntings reported by many observers throughout the season.

The crossbills were represented by a single Red Crossbill spotted at a feeder in the town of Chenango, Broome County in December, and two Pine Grosbeaks were reported from Pharsalia, Chenango County on 30 Jan.

A single Hermit Thrush was reported on 7 Feb in Broome County. Other thrushes, such as Eastern Bluebird and American Robin were reported intermittently throughout the season.

The editors want to wish Les Bemont a speedy recovery after surgery this winter.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Bailey, Jeanette & Cutler Baldwin, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Peg Burnett, Chenango Bird Club, MaryAnn Cuff, Marilyn Davis, Nick Donnelly, Sadie Dorber, Jean Dorman, Dolores Elliot, Finch Hollow Nature Center Staff, Martha Gregory, Robert Grosek, Glenn Hasbrouck, Elva Hawkins, Erin Hewett (EHw), Doug Kibbe, Sara Kinch, Barb Kirch, Gail Kirch, Gene Kirch (GeK), Diane Krein, Margaret Layton, Andy Mason, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Evelyn & George Meade, Susan Moran, Naturalists' Club of Broome County, Dan O'Neill, Bob & Rita Pantle, Marie Petuh, Tamra & Joe Sedlacek, Eric Sullivan, Tom & Norene Tasber, Betty Titus, Tioga Bird Club, Jan Trzeciak, Fred von Mechow, Dan Watkins (DWt), Jon and Joel Weeks, Anne Whitaker, Don Windsor, Colleen Wolpert, Irene Wright.

ABBREVIATIONS

BUNP - Binghamton University Nature Preserve; BROO; BpD - Boland Pond, BROO; BCCC - Broome County Christmas Count, 27 Dec; BrPd - Brick Pond, TIOG; CL - Chenango Lake, CHEN; CBCCC - Chenango Bird Club Christmas Count, 18 Dec; CinL-Cincinnati Lake, CHEN-CORT; DOAS- Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary; FWC - Federation Waterfowl Count, 15-23 Jan; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; BROO; FMHW - Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, OTSE; HPd-Hawkins Pond, BROO; OCBC - Oneonta Christmas Bird Count, 18 Dec; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center, CHEN; OwCBC - Owego Christmas Count, 31 Dec; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; Ves - Vestal, BROO; WeB - West Burlington, OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

LOONS-DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Grippen Park, Endicott 31 Jan (JT), scarce.
Horned Grebe: 1 WPR 4 Dec (JW); 1 CCBC, first ever on count.
Great Blue Heron: 33 on 4 CBC's; good numbers thru.
Tundra Swan: 6 Susquehanna R. Sidney 29 Feb (AM); 1 OCBC.
Mute Swan: 6 BCCC; 2 BPD 7 Jan; 1 FWC.
Snow Goose: 150 UL 18 Dec (J&JW); 230 over Norwich 19 Dec (DW); 465 CCBC; 110 T Chenango BROO 27 Feb; TIOG Dec, Feb; high numbers.
Canada Goose: 4,281 FWC; 600 Sherburne 18 Dec.; 9,105 on 4 CBC's.
Wood Duck: 3 BCCC; 1 Endwell 2 Jan; 1 BROO FWC, uncommon.
Green-winged Teal: 3 UL 18 Dec (J&JW); 4 BCCC, unusual.
Am. Black Duck: 155 on 4 CBC's; 201 on FWC; few scattered reports.
Mallard: 2,129 on CBC's; 1,779 on FWC
N. Pintail: 6 on 2 CBC's.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 Chenango R near Otsiningo Park, Binghamton (GK, MP, DWt).
Am. Wigeon: 1 Cannonsville Reservoir Deposit 16 Jan (FWC).
Canvasback: 6 Chenango R Binghamton 16 Dec (DWt); 7 OCBC Endwell 2-4 Jan; 1 Unadilla area 16 Jan (FWC).
Redhead: 1 Chenango R Binghamton 6-22 Feb (J&JW).
Ring-necked Duck: 3 CBCCC, 12 OCBC; 1 TIOG FWC.
Com. Goldeneye: 4 on 2 on CBC's; 12 FWC 15-16 Jan; TIOG Dec, Jan;
Bufflehead: Endwell BROO 16 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: 5 BCCC; 10 FWC's; 2 Norwich 16-23 Jan, "first Jan sightings here" (DW).
Com. Merganser: 240 on 4 CBC's; 159 FWC.
Ruddy Duck: 1 UL 4 Dec (J&JW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 BCBC; 1 OwCBC; 2 rep Binghamton Dec; TIOG thru; 1 W. Branch Delaware R 19 Jan (SD); Endwell 22 Jan (J&JW); Susq. R Owego 5 Feb (SK, GK).
N. Harrier: 2 BROO reports Dec; 1 OCBC; 4 OwCBC; BROO and TIOG 27 Feb.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 on 2 CBC's; few scattered reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 9 on 3 CBC's; 1 Johnson City 3 Dec; 2 DELA 16 Jan.

N. Goshawk: ad Holtmart Rd, Willet CORT 12 Dec. (MP); OCBC and OwCBC;

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 ea OCBC and OwCBC; TIOG Dec, Feb (B&RP).

Red-tailed Hawk: 103 on CBC's.

Rough-legged Hawk: 17 on 3 CBC's; 6 other reports, last UL 27 Feb.

Am. Kestrel: 7 on 3 CBC's, missed OwCBC; T. Preston Dec, Jan; 1

Davenport 21 Dec; 2 DELA 16 Jan; BROO Dec, Jan; TIOG Jan, Feb.

Merlin: 1 SCBC, first ever on this count.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 OwCBC, near Lockheed Martin (C&JB), rare.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 OCBC and 2 SCBC, scarce.

Ruffed Grouse: 15 on CBC's; 1 Chenango Bridge 22 Jan.

Wild Turkey: 544 on CBC's; 75 Milford 7 Dec; 60 T Preston 22 Feb, flock thru.

Am. Coot: 1 BCCC; 60 Otsego L (FWC); 1 Endwell 2-5 Jan.

Killdeer: arr Endwell and REEC 27 Feb; Binghamton 29 Feb.

Com. Snipe: BPD 29 Feb (RG), early.

Am. Woodcock: TIOG Feb; 3 T.

Binghamton 27 Feb (RG).

Ring-billed Gull: 175 on CBC's.

Herring Gull: 90 on CBC's.

Great Black-backed Gull: 5 BCBC.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: 4581 on CBC's.

Mourning Dove: 2263 on CBC's.

E. Screech-Owl: 2 on 2 CBC's; Castle Creek BROO 16 Dec (RG); Norwich 4 Feb and N. Norwich 13 Feb (DW); 1 FHNC 16 Feb (TT)

Great Horned Owl: 7 on 3 CBC's; Maryland 8 Dec; 3 reports BROO Feb; 1 TIOG report Feb.

Barred Owl: 1 CBCCC; 1 Glen Aubrey 20 Feb (J&JW).

Long-eared Owl: 1 probable Highland Ave Apalachin TIOG 19 Feb (CB, SK).

Short-eared Owl: 1 S. Binghamton 22 Dec (ND); Conklin BROO 17 Jan (EHw).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Jan and Feb TIOG.

Belted Kingfisher: 20 on CBC's.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 OCBC.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 36 CBC's;
 BROO and CHEN reports thru;
 Apalachin 29 Dec.
Downy Woodpecker: 186 on CBC's.
Hairy Woodpecker: 70 on CBC's
N. Flicker: 22 on CBC's; 3 DELA and
 OTSE 16 Jan; Vestal thru Feb; TIOG Jan,
 high count.
Pileated Woodpecker: 20 on CBC's; a
 few scattered reports thru.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: frequent reports; max 4
 OBCCC.
Blue Jay: abundant; max 174 BCCC.
Am. Crow: abundant; max 2,131 BCCC.
Fish Crow: few reports; max 2 BROO 10
 Feb.
Com. Raven: 2 T. Candor and Owego
 Dec TIOG, "in area of suspected breed-
 ing" (JS).
Horned Lark: few reports; max 42
 CBCCC.
Black-capped Chickadee: abundant;
 max 720 BCCC.
Tufted Titmouse: abundant; max 103
 BCCC.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: frequent
 reports; max 16 BCCC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: common; max
 111 OwCBC.
Brown Creeper: few reports; max 24
 BCCC.
Carolina Wren: several reports; max 2
 Jan 14 BROO.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: few reports;
 max 3 CBCCC.
Eastern Bluebird: few reports, max 37
 BCCC.
Hermit Thrush: 1 BROO 7 Feb; overwin-
 tering.
Am. Robin: few reports; max 30 19 Jan -
 4 Feb REEC.
N. Mockingbird: few reports; max 2
 BCCC.
European Starling: abundant; max 2199
 OwCBC.
Am. Pipit: 1 BROO 16 Feb; only report.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 2 BROO 4 Jan

(MP).

Cedar Waxwing: several reports; max
 174 BCCC.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: frequent reports; max
 158 BCCC
Chipping Sparrow: 7 OwCBC, unusual.
Field Sparrow: 2 CBCCC; 1 BCCC
Fox Sparrow: 2 Ves thru.
Song Sparrow: several reports; max 9 BCCC.
Swamp Sparrow: 1 BROO 4 Dec.
White-throated Sparrow: few reports-,
 max 9 BCCC 26 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 OwCBC; 1
 Feb REEC.
Dark-eyed Junco: abundant; max 289
 BCCC.
Snow Bunting: several reports; max 556
 CBCCC.
N. Cardinal: max 69 Dec BCCC.
Red-winged Blackbird: few reports; max
 35 27 Feb WPR.
Rusty Blackbird: 1 Jan, Feb TIOG; sever-
 al TIOG 5 Feb.
Com. Grackle: few reports; max 3 22 Feb
 CHEN.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 CHEN 17
 Dec, only report.
Pine Grosbeak: 2 CHEN 30 Jan, only
 report.
Purple Finch: several reports, max 20
 CBCCC.
House Finch: frequent reports, max 453
 OwCBC.
Red Crossbill: 1 30 Dec BROO (GH),
 only report.
Com. Redpoll: abundant; max 772
 CBCCC.
Pine Siskin: several reports; max 21 BCCC.
Am. Goldfinch: max 160 CBCCC.
Evening Grosbeak: frequent reports;
 max 290 CBCCC.
House Sparrow: max 507 OwCBC.

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck: 1 Susquehanna R Vestal
 26 Dec-2 Jan (GK, SK, HM, RM).

E-mail (Eric Sullivan:
 oldcards@juno.com)