

Romulus 26 Feb; +.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 62 ICBC; arr 25 Newtown Creek CHEM 24 Feb; -.

PINE GROSBEAK: 2 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 1 Dec

(MSa,MY,SUNYESF); max 41 ICBC (CaBC), high; 4 Dryden 20 Jan-26 Feb (BBOD,KR); +.

Purple Finch: max 10 Dryden 24 Jan; -.

House Finch: 56 Caro 4 Dec; max 620 ICBC; +.

Red Crossbill: Ithaca 1 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: max 35 Dryden 15 Feb (BBOD), high; +.

Com. Redpoll: max 300 CCBC (CVAS), high; 300 KH 17 Feb; +.

HOARY REDPOLL: Caro 8 Feb (StK, ph); only report.

Pine Siskin: max 33 Caro 1 Feb (BBOD), high; +.

Am. Goldfinch: max 490 ICBC (CaBC), high; 56 17 Jan; -.

Evening Grosbeak: max 118 ICBC; 101 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 14 Feb; +.

House Sparrow: max 2442 CCBC, high; 200 Canandaigua 15 Jan; +.

brown_creeper@sg23.com

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Tom Salo

5145 St Hwy 51, West Burlington NY 13482

The warmth of fall continued through the winter season. Cold fronts were few and, when they arrived, the cooler weather did not persist. As reported at Binghamton, December's mean temperature of 33.5°F was 7° higher than normal. January was 8.4° above normal. February was 6.5° above normal. Binghamton received slightly less than normal precipitation. Most of the Region was without significant snow cover throughout the period. Some "lake effect" snow did accumulate, starting in late December on higher elevations in the northern part of the Region. This snow covered a relatively small area in some of the coldest areas and had melted by mid-February.

The warm season, resultant open water and lack of snow kept birds that otherwise would have moved south or concentrated in a few areas spread throughout the Region. Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher and other birds associated with open water remained in areas where they are normally absent. Pied-billed and Horned grebes were seen, as they have been most recent winters. Such reports used to be rare. In light of historical records, the amount of open water at Otsego Lake was exceptional. Three Mute Swans, discovered there in January 2001, have been present for over a year and have raised concerns they may nest. Seventeen species of ducks were reported. Rarities included a Black Scoter found on 1 December at the Whitney Point Reservoir by Bob Grosek and a Gadwall recorded on the 23 December Cortland Christmas Bird Count.

Bald Eagle numbers were very high. Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch co-chair

Andrew Mason wrote: "The 19 Bald Eagles counted at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch in December and January added to a new seasonal high record at the site." Bald Eagles of various ages were regularly reported near open water in the eastern part of the Region. Adults were present at established nest sites in Deposit and Delancy during late winter. Adult and immature birds were regular at Otsego Lake and Oneonta. The congregation of eagles at Cannonsville Reservoir, where water levels were exceptionally low, was substantial. Thirteen immature and four adult birds were seen near the dam on 2 February by participants on a Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society trip. On 23 February at the dam, a lone coyote approached several eagles sitting on the ice. Apparently, the wild dog associates the birds with food. In an example of cooperative hunting, two adult eagles were observed in close pursuit of a single Snow Goose in Middlefield on 13 January by Patricia Thorpe and Gary Barnum.

Large numbers of our other eagle were also seen. Franklin Mountain's 43 Golden Eagles in December contributed to a new seasonal record at the site. The high came on 9 December when 28 Golden and two Bald eagles were recorded by Kay Crane, Fred Fries and Steve Hall in just over three hours. This count tied the site's one day record for Golden Eagle set one month earlier on 9 November. Away from Franklin Mountain, 11 widespread reports were received. The species was missed in Broome and Tioga counties and elsewhere from 6 January to 25 February.

Winter reports of Peregrine Falcons are usually rare. Julian Shepard noted the single bird he found on the Broome Christmas Bird Count spent the winter in downtown Binghamton. It may be one of the pair that has successfully nested in the city. A second Peregrine was seen by members of the Linnaean Society in the City of Cortland on 10 February.

As would be expected with the warmth and lack of snow, half-hardy species were found well spread across the Region. Some were present in areas and at elevations that are unprecedented. Eastern Bluebirds are expected in the warmer areas. They were there and also near Oneonta and Norwich, where they stayed at elevations up to 1600'. While a few American Robins are typical in the winter, the flock of 160 that resided in Cherry Valley all winter is certainly unusual. Dorian Huneke's sighting of a Northern Mockingbird in Treadwell on 16 December stands out as a rare winter report from Delaware County. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Chipping and Field sparrows are often missed, but this winter each was seen.

Finch reports were mixed. Small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks were found where food was available. Once the food source was depleted, the birds moved on. Purple Finches mostly vacated the Region in December, with the last report on 2 January. A few reports of single White-winged Crossbills and small groups of Pine Siskins were received. Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were regular visitors at area feeders.

Most regular species were well represented but Barred Owl was missed completely. Horned Lark numbers were low and reports were isolated.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elliott Adams, Mary Ashwood, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Gary Barnum, Les Bemont, Lois Bingley, Katie Boardman, Cindy Campbell, Lucille Courtney, Kay Crane, Larry Dake, John Davis, Marcelo DelPuerto, Erica & Jim Dennis, Bob Donnelly, Nick Donnelly, Jean Dorman, Janice Downie, Fred Fries, Margaret Gorton, Bob Grosek, Steve Hall, Doug & Jackie Hoag, Dorian & Eric Huneke, Fred & Nancy Johnson, Gail Kirch, Diane Krein, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Evelyn & George Mead, Bob Miller, Cliff Oakes, Rita & Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Jessie Ravage, George Richards, Jack Salo, Jo Ann & Tom Salo, John Salo, Julian Shepard, Sean Sine, Patricia Thorpe, Jan Trzeciak, Fred VonMechow, Don Weber, Sue & Tom Whitney, Don Windsor, Colleen Wolpert, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCBC – Broome CBC; ChCBC – Chenango CBC; CoCBC – Cortland CBC; DOAS – Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society; FMHW – Franklin Mt Hawk Watch; FWC – Federation Waterfowl Count; OCBC – Oneonta CBC; OtsL – Otsego L; TBC – Tioga Bird Club.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: max 3 OtsL 3 Feb; scattered reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 2 Boland Pd BROO 16 Dec; OtsL FWC 13 Jan; other Dec reports; more regular in recent winters.

Horned Grebe: OtsL 19 Dec; never common; seen most recent winters.

Double-crested Cormorant: ChCBC 15 Dec; Vestal 19 Feb (MP); rare in winter.

Great Blue Heron: max 8 Murphy's Sand Pit, Vestal 27 Dec; widespread, scattered reports thru.

Turkey Vulture: arr Bainbridge 26 Feb; Vestal 27 Feb.

Snow Goose: max 300 FMHW 9 Dec; last Edmeston 5 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 3069 BCBC 30 Dec.

Mute Swan: max 3 BCBC 30 Dec; 3 OtsL thru; regular in BROO.

Tundra Swan: 3 TIOG 30 Dec, rare in winter.

Wood Duck: max 5 BCBC 30 Dec; some other reports.

Gadwall: CoCBC 23 Dec, first winter

report since 1996.

Am. Wigeon: 2 Binghamton 28 Feb (GK, HM), unusual.

Green-winged Teal: ChCBC 15 Dec; Boland Pd BROO 26 Dec (MP); frequently missed.

Am. Black Duck: max 86 BCBC 30 Dec.

Mallard: max 1235 BCBC 30 Dec.

N. Pintail: ChCBC 15 Dec; 6 BCBC 30 Dec; max 22 Bolands Marsh BROO 28 Feb (GK, HM); missed some years.

Canvasback: 13 OCBC 15 Dec; only report.

Redhead: arr OtsL 3 Feb; regular visitor, always small numbers.

Ringed-neck Duck: ChCBC 15 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: OTSE FWC 13 Jan, unusual.

Black Scoter: Whitney Pt Res 1 Dec (BG), rare.

Bufflehead: max 15 CoCBC 23 Dec; never common.

Com. Goldeneye: max 14 CoCBC 23 Dec; 10 Susquehanna Ri BROO 6 Feb (MP); some other reports.

Hooded Merganser: max 6 BCBC 30

Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 60 both OCBC 15 Dec and BCBC 30 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CoCBC Skaneateles L 23 Dec; never common.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 24 DELA 20 Jan TBC trip; many reports; intro.

N. Harrier: max 2 Homer 1 Dec; 2 Owego 11 Jan.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 BCBC 30 Dec; regular at feeders.

Cooper's Hawk: max 6 BCBC 30 Dec; regular at feeders.

N. Goshawk: widespread reports of singles; several at feeders; made pass at cat at bird feeder 2 days TIOG (C&JB).
Red-shouldered Hawk: DELA 20 Jan TBC trip; 5 early season reports; good winter count.

Red-tailed Hawk: 74 FMHW 1 Dec-1 Jan; albino Walton 1-18 Dec (KC, LD).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 10 CoCBC 23 Dec; uneven distribution; feeding on carrion West Burlington Jan.

Golden Eagle: 43 FMHW Dec; 28 FMHW 9 Dec; intro.

Am. Kestrel: widespread thru; present where usually absent.

Peregrine Falcon: Cortland 10 Feb Linnaean Society trip; downtown Binghamton thru; rare; intro.

Ruffed Grouse: max 7 BCBC 30 Dec.

Wild Turkey: max 200 New Lisbon 10 Jan.

Am. Coot: max 76 OtsL thru.

Ring-billed Gull: max 343 BCBC 30 Dec; 300 Cannonsville Res Dec.

Herring Gull: max 54 BCBC 30 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 7 BCBC 30 Dec.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 1015 BCBC 30 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 377 BCBC 30 Dec.

E. Screech-Owl: max 2 CoCBC 23 Dec; TIOG Feb, residing in nest box (CW).

Great Horned Owl: max 3 BCBC 30 Dec; Homer 18 Feb incubating eggs (MY).

Barred Owl: missed.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 TIOG 30 Dec; regular TIOG Dec & Jan; regular Arnold Rd Lisle Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: max 6 BCBC 30 Dec; scattered reports thru.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 2 BCBC 30 Dec; Springfield 26 Jan (BD), unusual location; regular where expected.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CoCBC East Homer 23 Dec, missed some winters.

Downy Woodpecker: max 90 BCBC 30 Dec.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 26 OCBC 15 Dec.

N. Flicker: max 5 BCBC 30 Dec; several other reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 BCBC 30 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 7 reports of singles; last TIOG 27 Jan.

Blue Jay: max 213 BCBC 30 Dec.

Am. Crow: max 833 OCBC 15 Dec.

Fish Crow: max 2 BCBC 30 Dec.

Com. Raven: max 18 CHEN late season; regular TIOG; many reports.

Horned Lark: ChCBC 15 Dec; max 55 CoCBC 23 Dec; TIOG Feb "unusual for this area" (CB); low numbers.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 662 BCBC 30 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 177 BCBC 30 Dec.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 24 OCBC 15 Dec.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 118 BCBC 30 Dec.

Brown Creeper: max 16 BCBC 30 Dec.

Carolina Wren: OCBC 15 Dec; 2 CoCBC 23 Dec; max 12 BCBC 30 Dec; at BROO feeders Jan & Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 13 BCBC 30 Dec.

E. Bluebird: max 13 BCBC 30 Dec; TIOG, BROO, Oneonta & Norwich thru; intro.
Am. Robin: max 200 Cherry Valley 23 Feb; 160 there thru; unusual location, high number.
N. Mockingbird: Treadwell DELA 16 Dec (DH), unusual location; max 3 BCBC 30 Dec.
European Starling: max 3732 BCBC 30 Dec.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 10 TIOG 30 Dec; 4 reports; some with Cedar Waxwings.
Cedar Waxwing: max 418 BCBC 30 Dec.

WARBLERS

None reported.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 71 BCBC 30 Dec.
Chipping Sparrow: 2 BCBC 30 Dec; only report; often missed.
Field Sparrow: ChCBC 15 Dec; only report; often missed.
Song Sparrow: max 9 BCBC 30 Dec.
White-throated Sparrow: max 23 BCBC 30 Dec; missed from 30 Dec to 6 Feb.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 240 BCBC 30 Dec.
Snow Bunting: ChCBC 15 Dec; 5 CoCBC 23 Dec; max 100 Maine 19 Jan (JT); Plymouth thru.
N. Cardinal: max 93 BCBC 30 Dec.
Red-winged Blackbird: missed Jan; arr Treadwell 2 Feb; widespread after 10 Feb.
Rusty Blackbird: FMHW early Dec (FF), unusual.
Com. Grackle: max 51 CoCBC 23 Dec; widespread after late Feb.
Pine Grosbeak: max 12 CORT 24 Dec; 7 other reports.
Purple Finch: max 13 TCBC 30 Dec; last Gilbertsville 2 Jan.
House Finch: max 253 OCBC 15 Dec.
White-winged Crossbill: ChCBC 15 Dec; Binghamton Dec; CORT Jan.
Com. Redpoll: max 71 CoCBC 23 Dec; widespread thru.
Pine Siskin: max 6 Vestal 14 Dec (MP); scattered reports.
Am. Goldfinch: max 146 BCBC 30 Dec; numbers dropped during mid-season.
Evening Grosbeak: max 93 OCBC 15 Dec; widespread.

reg4sightings@mail.com

