

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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It was the warmest winter in recent memory and tied for fourth warmest on record. At times the only thing that seemed like winter was the calendar. The average temperature in December 2011 was 35.5° F, 5.4° F above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.62", 0.27" less than usual, with only 3.8" of snow, 23.6" less than usual. January 2012 remained warmer. The average temperature was 30.3°, 5.4° above normal. The monthly precipitation was 4.43", 1.25" above normal, with 20.8" of snow, 4.5" less than normal. The warmer trend continued in February. The average temperature was 31.7°, again 5.4° above normal. The monthly precipitation was 1.72", 0.77" below normal, with 9.6" of snowfall, 7.7" below normal. Several strong wind events occurred associated with passing cold fronts. There were four consecutive months with a mean temperature greater than 5° above normal and 11 months in a row with above average temperatures. Lake Erie did not freeze.

The unusually warm weather influenced the occurrence and distribution of birds, as well as birding, in several respects. December brought an unprecedented number of winter warblers to a Region where they seldom occur. First winter records, all from December, were obtained for **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warbler**, while **Common Yellowthroat** and the regular-in-winter Yellow-rumped Warbler were also recorded. The warm weather was likely a factor in keeping these birds alive longer than otherwise. Only the Orange-crowned Warbler continued through most of the winter where it was seen on Goat Island through early February. Surprisingly, there was not an abundance of the so-called "half hardies" like Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, and Gray Catbird beyond December, but it is easy to surmise that it was an easier winter than usual on most species. There was anecdotal evidence from some birders that their feeders were less active than usual this winter.

By late January it became apparent that Lake Erie was not going to freeze. Waterfowl were still plentiful on the Niagara River and at Dunkirk Harbor; however, there was less of a concentration effect at these locations than occurs when Lake Erie freezes. Mallards and Canada Geese were less plentiful along the Niagara River in mid-winter, while they remained throughout the winter in inland locations, where they often depart from by mid-January or when ponds are frozen over. Waterfowl are known to make facultative movements during mild winters to take advantage of available foraging areas. However, flat out early migration was experienced this winter. Several dabbling duck species appeared in early February at multiple locations. Geese were on the move in early February, too. Region 1 is largely outside the migration route for **Snow Geese**; however, unprecedented numbers appeared along Lake Ontario in early

February, likely aided by some easterly winds. The first clear-cut migrant Tundra Swans arrived on 20 February and more followed; a few weeks ahead of the normal migration phenology.

In many years, Bonaparte's Gulls become scarce on the Niagara River in mid-winter. However, thousands remained this year. The waters around Squaw Island in Buffalo drew strong attention from the gulls and birders, as a **Black-headed Gull** foraged there with the thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls through at least early February. Multiple **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and Little Gulls were also seen in this area.

The warmer weather prompted earlier than usual breeding activity. Jerry Farrel reported that there were four Ring-necked Pheasant nests with eggs on 28 January and more that followed at the 3F pheasant program in Niagara County, the earliest he'd ever seen. Wild Turkey toms were observed displaying in late January and early February, which seemed about a month early.

The earlier spring migrants started to arrive in mid-February, e.g., blackbirds, robins, and bluebirds. Song Sparrows started to appear by late February to supplement the wintering birds. Turkey Vulture migrants arrived in mid-February. They are also becoming more regular in winter. A roost in Lewiston contained up to 11 through the winter and increased to 16 in February. More surprisingly, **six Black Vultures** also overwintered in Lewiston. Both vulture species have occurred with increased regularity in the lower Niagara River area in recent years, and Black Vultures were sighted there over most of the past year. It is uncertain if the atypical winter had a causal effect on the vultures wintering in Lewiston; however, it certainly made conditions more hospitable for them. Still, there were several occasions when Black Vultures were witnessed standing atop chimneys to gather warmth.

Waterfowl highlights not previously mentioned included up to four Harlequin Ducks spending much of the winter together in the rapids above Niagara Falls and two **King Eiders** and the regularly wintering **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Point Breeze on Lake Ontario. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from three locations in late December and early January, and then a group of four migrants arrived on 29 February. A **Ross's Goose** was identified at the Gypsum Ponds in Oakfield in late December, and David Gordon identified a **Brant** at Buffalo Harbor for only the third February Regional record.

Merlin sightings are becoming numerous in winter and all other seasons. Bald Eagles were widely reported again. Rough-legged Hawks were relatively scarce this winter. There were two **Northern Goshawk** sightings. The winter raptor highlight was a **Golden Eagle** seen and photographed soaring over Wolf Run in Allegany SP by Jeff Reed. Reed has observed Golden Eagles at this location on a nearly annual basis in recent winters.

Gull highlights not previously mentioned included a **Slaty-backed Gull** observed and photographed by Jim Pawlicki, Bill Watson, and Joe Mitchell above Niagara Falls at Goat Island on 8 December. The gull had been found on 3 December on the Ontario side of the river and observed there through at least the 13th. This was the only documented occurrence on the New York side. A

Franklin's Gull continued from the fall season into early December on the Niagara River. **California Gull** was documented at Niagara Falls SP on 18 December and then on several occasions in February at Devil's Hole SP, marking only the third February record.

The Razorbill continued from November where the Niagara River empties into Lake Ontario off Fort Niagara SP. Nick Sly observed the apparently dead **Razorbill** floating in the water on 3 December.

There were more **Snowy Owls** this winter than any other in at least 15-20 years. Only one (or possibly more than one) on the breakwalls in Buffalo Harbor and one in a field in Yates were long-staying at one location. Two separate owls were seen dead along roadsides in Lewiston. Chuck Rosenburg of the NYSDEC reported that an injured Snowy Owl was captured inside a defunct furnace near the Buffalo waterfront. It had entered through a fifty foot chimney and had been injured presumably when trying to escape by the same chimney. Rosenburg found it very unusual that this bird of the arctic flatlands was investigating artificial tunnels around buildings for prey. **Short-eared Owls** were found mostly at locations where they have been previously documented in recent winters.

Region 1 finally has its long-awaited first documented **Fish Crow** after a handful of possible or probable reports in recent years. Jeff Reed documented one that he heard and saw on at least two occasions in Olean in January. Just a few days after his initial sighting, several Fish Crows were discovered at a pre-roost in Fort Erie, Ontario just across the Niagara River from Buffalo. Birders observed up to five Fish Crows at this location over the next month. On one occasion, Jim Pawlicki observed what he suspected was a Fish Crow flying over the river toward the Buffalo crow roost. Pawlicki and others also heard Fish Crow-like calls several times while inspecting the Buffalo crow roost in Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery; however, they were never able to sight the crows making the calls to verify. In all likelihood Fish Crows roosted in Buffalo this winter.

It was not a big winter for finches. Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls occurred but they were not widespread or in large numbers. There were five reports of **White-winged Crossbill**, but no reports of Red Crossbill or Evening Grosbeak. Purple Finches were scarce, as evidenced by a total of only four birds seen over two CBCs.

Other highlights not previously mentioned include an **American White Pelican** observed flying across the Niagara River toward Lewiston on 1 December, a **Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger** at the Niagara Power Project on the Niagara River, three reports of **Bohemian Waxwing**, an apparent adult male "**Oregon**" **Junco** in Yates, and the second winter record of **Lark Sparrow** found by Jeanne Skelly and Gary Chapin in Yates in January.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; MI – Motor I NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on NR, Lewiston, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA; GENE/ORLE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tift NP – Tift NP, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, NIAG/GENE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

G. White-fronted Goose: 2 Oakfield GENE 29 Dec (JP!); max 7 OOWMA 30 Dec (CM!); 2 Somerset NIAG 1 Jan (WD!); arr 4 Shelby GENE 29 Feb (CM!).

Snow Goose: six Dec reports; PB 4 Jan; LBSP 6 Jan; Olcott NIAG 15 Jan; arr 2700 Yates ORLE 4 Feb (AH); max 5650, 4000 Yates ORLE 5, 10 Feb (JP, WW, RS), record count for Reg; 240 Somerset NIAG 11 Feb; 2000 Carlton ORLE 13 Feb; 25 Pomfret CHAU 18 Feb; 175 Barre GENE 25 Feb; unprecedented numbers in Feb, early.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Oakfield GENE 28, 29 Dec (KF, JP), third winter record.

Brant: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 28 Feb (DG!), only third Feb record.

Cackling Goose: Cambria NIAG 24 Dec; INWR 28 Dec; 3 Oakfield GENE 28 Dec; max 9 BWWTP 29 Dec (KF); SPNS 31 Dec; 7 Oakfield GENE 4 Jan; LBSP 6 Jan (BC); arr Yates ORLE 4, 5 Feb (AH, WW, JP), with large Snow Geese flock.

Mute Swan: 2 Lewiston NR 8 Dec; Cassadaga CHAU 26 Dec; max 10 PB 1 Jan, 5 Feb; also reported from 5 L Ontario locations.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 OOWMA 1 Dec; Holland ERIE 4 Dec (JW); max 4 BeSP 18 Dec (ER); 2 TWMA 28 Dec; 2 INWR 18 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 28 OOWMA 1 Dec; 111 NF 30 Dec; 40 ChauL 31 Dec; 78, 86 Shelby ORLE 16, 27 Dec; 159, 168 BeSP 15 Jan, 20 Feb; arr 9

INWR 20 Feb; max 186 INWR 27 Feb; 88 Alexander GENE 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: OOWMA 1 Dec; Buffalo NR 19 Dec, 15 Jan; 4 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; Williamsville ERIE 15 Jan; arr SPNS 26 Feb; 2 Royalton NIAG 27 Feb.

Gadwall: 25 INWR 23 Dec; 77 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; 100 ChauL 29 Dec; 12 NFSP 9 Jan; arr 6 TWMA 4 Feb; 7 INWR 6 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: BWWTP 12 Jan; arr Alden ERIE 1 Feb; 15 OOWMA, 8 TWMA 4 Feb; early arrivals.

Am. Black Duck: 195 Oakfield GENE, 70 OOWMA 30 Dec (CM); 32, 48 BWWTP 8 Jan, 3 Feb; 27, 152 OOWMA 4, 5 Feb; 57 Yates ORLE 4 Feb; unusually high counts for winter and early arrivals.

Mallard: max 660, 1669 BWWTP 8 Jan, 3 Feb (WW, KF), unusually high counts for winter.

N. Shoveler: 15, 8 BWWTP 18 Dec, 4-14 Jan; Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; arr BeSP 5 Feb, early; 2 Fredonia CHAU 26 Feb.

N. Pintail: five reports Dec & Jan; arr 4 BWWTP 3 Feb; 28 INWR, 23 OOWMA 4 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 2 Tift NP 10 Dec; 5 Dayton CATT 25 Dec; Lackawanna ERIE 26 Dec, 1 Jan; 3 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; NFSP 3, 20 Jan; Jamestown CHAU 15 Jan; 2 PB 28 Jan, 4 Feb, arrivals?

Canvasback: 900 NF 26 Dec; 2400 BeSP 16 Jan; max 2600 BuSP 8 Feb; 720 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 28 Feb.

Redhead: 349, 500 ChauL 4, 26 Dec (JB, TL); 90 NF 26 Dec; max 2300 NF NR 15 Jan (GR), higher than usual for one location; 350 Grand Island NR 30 Jan; 202 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 28 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 44, 39 NF 3, 26 Dec; BWWT 29 Dec; 20 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 4 Jan; 2 ChauL 18 Feb, arrivals?; arr 3 OOWMA 25 Feb; 2 Fredonia CHAU 26 Feb.

Greater Scaup: 27 ChauL 1 Jan; max 6800 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 2 Feb (WW).

Lesser Scaup: 7 BWWT 1 Dec; max 375, 250 ChauL 4, 26 Dec; 5 BusP 15 Jan; BWWT 3 Feb.

King Eider: 2 PB 27 Dec (CW); only report.

Harlequin Duck: 2-4 NF 3 Dec - 25 Feb (mob), impressive number for one location.

Surf Scoter: 7, 1, 2 PB 1 Dec, 2 Jan, 1 Feb; WTSP 15 Jan; DH 18 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 3 DH 26 Jan; only report away from NR, L Ontario.

Black Scoter: max 7, 2 FNPS 3, 27 Dec; 1, 3 DH 14, 26 Dec; 2 PB 25 Dec, 19 Jan, 4 Feb; 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 19 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 1000 Squaw I NR 26 Dec (GP).

Com. Goldeneye: 500 NF 10 Dec; SPNS 1 Jan; max 2200 NR 16 Jan (NS); 35 BWWT 4 Feb.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: PB 24- 27 Dec; 4, 16 Jan (CC, AG, CW, JP!), likely same male that has wintered here for several years.

Hooded Merganser: 116 INWR 1 Dec; 102, 100 DH 14, 26 Dec; 201, 370 ChauL 14, 24 Dec; 50 AISP 26 Dec; 66 N Tonawanda NR 29 Jan; arr 6 Tift NP 2 Feb; 2 BWWT 3 Feb.

Com. Merganser: 60 AISP, 110 Allegheny Res CATT 26 Dec; max 910 Strawberry I NR 29 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2545 Grand I NR 18 Jan; 1800 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 2 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: 11 OOWMA 1 Dec; 69, 18, 1 BWWT 9, 18, 28 Dec; 386, 200 ChauL 16, 31 Dec; max 865 Jamestown CBC 18 Dec; BeSP 24 Jan; Grand Island NR 7, 10 Feb; 3 DH 18 Feb; ChauL 25 Feb.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 nests with eggs Lewiston NIAG 28 Jan (JFa), earliest ever for 3F pheasant program.

Wild Turkey: several toms displaying late January; early.

Red-throated Loon: DH 14, 28 Dec; max 78 FMCS 27 Dec; Barcelona CHAU 27 Dec; Ripley CHAU 30 Dec; 23 Shadigee ORLE, 14 Somerset NIAG 1 Jan; Yates ORLE, Olcott NIAG 5 Feb; 4 PB 8 Feb.

Com. Loon: SPNS 1, 3 Dec; ChauL 31 Dec; Somerset NIAG, Shadigee ORLE 1 Jan; BuSP 22 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: BeSP 1-10 Jan; ChauL 8 Jan; max 6, 6 DH 18, 26 Jan.

Horned Grebe: 60 Barcelona CHAU 26 Dec; 70 DH 27 Dec; max 123 Somerset NIAG, 66 Yates ORLE 1 Jan; 47 Carlton ORLE 19 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: 11 PB, 2 ChauL 27 Dec; max 78 Yates ORLE, 65 Somerset NIAG 1 Jan (WD); GHSP, Shadigee 22 Jan; 12 Olcott NIAG 5 Feb; 6 PB 27 Feb.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec, after several days at pond in Ontario was observed departing and flying states side to Lewiston.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3 INWR 1 Dec; max 247 DH 14 Dec; 7 Lewiston NR 19 Feb.

Great Blue Heron: 27 DH 14 Dec; max 26, 49 MI 3, 27 Feb.

BLACK VULTURE: 1-6 Lewiston NIAG

through (mob); first documented overwintering.

Turkey Vulture: 11-16 Lewiston NIAG through (mob); arr 2 Fredonia CHAU 1 Feb; Bethany GENE, Jamestown CHAU, Lancaster ERIE, Grand Island ERIE 13 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 7 DH 22 Jan; well reported from other traditional wintering and breeding areas.

N. Harrier: 6 Alexander GENE 24 Dec (DB, ED); max 10 Shelby ORLE 22 Dec (CM), winter roosts.

N. Goshawk: ad Wilson NIAG 17, 19 Dec (BM, BG); AISP 29 Dec (JR); only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1, 2 Busti CHAU 11 Dec, 4 Feb; 2 RTPI 4 Jan; Stockton CHAU 11 Jan; Ashford CATT 7-27 Feb; AISP 22 Feb; only reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: not widely reported.

GOLDEN EAGLE: AISP 15 Jan (JR!, ph), has wintered at location nearly annually.

Merlin: 15 reports throughout Reg.

Peregrine Falcon: reported from nine locations.

Am. Coot: 126 INWR 1 Dec; max 1152 ChauL 14 Dec (WW); 126, 113 DH 11 Jan, 9 Feb; 10, 33, 38 Grand Island NR 22 Jan, 15, 23 Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: 3 Jamestown CBC 18 Dec; only report.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Whirlpool SP NIAG 3-8 Dec 9 (WD, JP, WW); FNPS 4 Dec; 1-3; 1 Buffalo NR 18-22 Dec; 2-22 Jan; Buffalo Harbor ERIE 19 Feb (JP, KH), only fifth Feb report.

Bonaparte's Gull: 5500 Lewiston NR 2 Dec; 2100 Barcelona CHAU 14 Dec; max 10000 Buffalo NR 19 Dec (JP); 1136 FMCS 27 Dec; 6500, 5000 Buffalo NR 16 Jan, 8 Feb; remained on NR through winter.

Black-headed Gull: Buffalo NR 18-26 Dec, 12 Jan – 5 Feb (JW, JP, mob), long staying bird.

Little Gull: Whirlpool SP NIAG 11 Dec; max 7, 3, 10 Lewiston NR 26 Dec, 17 Jan, 25 Feb (CW, NS, AW); 1-4 Buffalo NR 7-30 Jan; 2 Barcelona CHAU 18 Jan (JP, WW).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: NPP 3, 4 Dec (WD), continued from fall.

CALIFORNIA GULL: NFSP 18 Dec (LL, RD); Devils Hole SP NIAG 5, 8 Feb (JP!), only third Feb record.

Thayer's Gull: Devils Hole SP NIAG 16 Dec, 8 Feb (JP!, ph); several other undocumented reports NPP, NF.

Iceland Gull: max 10, 18 NPP 18 Dec, 15 Jan; 35 NPP 12 Feb (BC, WD, AW), record count.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 10 Dec; max 12 NFSP 10 Dec; 9 NFSP 18 Dec; PB 30 Dec; LESP 3 Jan; Sardinia ERIE 25 Jan (JP, WW); 7 NF 21 Feb.

SLATY-BACKED GULL: ad NFSP 8 Dec (WW, JP, JM, ph, NYSARC); seen several times on Ontario side of NR 3-13 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 10 Dec; BeSP 16 Jan; 2 Sardinia ERIE 25 Jan; DH 26 Jan; max 3 NFSP 3 Feb; NPP 9 Feb; 2 Porter NIAG 18 Feb; Tonawanda NR 19 Feb.

Glaucous x Herring Gull: 1, 1 Devils Hole SP NIAG 26 Dec, 8 Feb (CW, JP); annual on NR.

Great Black-backed Gull: 47 WoBSP 26 Dec; max 200, 462 DH 26 Dec, 15 Feb (TL, JP).

jaeger species: NPP 4 Dec (BC, sev ob); some felt Pomarine, some felt Parasitic; jaegers on NR rare.

RAZORBILL: FNFSF thru 3 Dec (WD! NYSARC), continued from fall, observed dead in water 3 Dec (NS).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 10-28 Dec, 6-25 Jan (PY, JP), likely multiple birds; Cheektowaga ERIE 17 Dec (G&MC), on Target store; Lewiston NIAG 30 Dec (CA), dead; FNFSF 15 Jan; Hume ALLE 15 Jan; Wilson NIAG 16 Jan; Squaw I NR 20 Jan; Yates ORLE 22 Jan thru (WD, mob); Buffalo ERIE 30 Jan (CR), injured, DEC captured bird that entered chimney; Lewiston NIAG 10 Feb, dead; Pembroke GENE 21 Feb; max 4 NF Airport NIAG 26 Feb (CR); best showing in years.

Long-eared Owl: Olcott NIAG 5 Feb (PY), only report.

Short-eared Owl: BeSP 9 Dec (JL); 3, 6 Alexander GENE 22 Dec, 20 Jan (DB, ED); 1, 3, 6 Shelby ORLE 22 Dec, 22 Jan, 10 Feb (CM, RS); 3 Hartland NIAG 14 Jan (CC); Lockport

NIAG 3 Feb; Yates ORLE 4, 10 Feb; mostly usual winter locations.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 3 Ellicott CHAU 18 Dec (JB), only report.

Red-headed Woodpecker: LBSP 3 Dec through 4 Feb, only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Fredonia CHAU 3 Jan (JG); Darien GENE 19 Jan; only reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: well reported throughout Reg.

Am. Crow: max 1200, 2000 Buffalo ERIE 31 Jan, 27 Feb (CC, JFe), roost; likely undercounted.

FISH CROW: Olean CATT 10, 22 Jan (JR!); first documented for Reg; 1-5 observed in Fort Erie ONT across NR from Buffalo 15 Jan – 19 Feb, a few 'small' crows observed flying over NR to Buffalo roost; several calls heard among roost but crows giving them not seen.

Com. Raven: 2 Marilla ERIE 8 Jan; GHSP 22 Jan (CC); Tonawanda ERIE 19 Feb (RS!), unusual location; only reports away from typical range.

Horned Lark: 84 Oakfield GENE 14 Jan; 76 Bethany GENE 14 Jan; 75 Shelby ORLE 14 Jan; max 297 Albion ORLE 20 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: poor showing; 27 on eight CBCs.

Winter Wren: five Dec reports; NFSP 27 Jan; Wilson NIAG 30 Jan.

MARSH WREN: BWWTSP 1 Dec (WW), late.

E. Bluebird: well reported; migrants started to arrive in mid-Feb.

Hermit Thrush: Wilson CBC 17 Dec; 2 NFSP 18 Dec; only reports.

Am. Robin: well reported; migrants started to arrive in mid-Feb.

Gray Catbird: six on CBCs plus five other Dec reports; surprisingly none later in mild winter.

N. Mockingbird: 9 Lackawanna ERIE 26 Dec; Tift NP 9 Jan; Alexander GENE 15 Jan; Alden ERIE 2 Feb; only reports away from core NIAG range.

Brown Thrasher: Porter NIAG 27 Dec (BP, WD), rare in winter.

Am. Pipit: 30 Wilson NIAG 2 Dec, only report.

Bohemian Waxwing: LBSP 2 Dec (CH, GR); Newfane NIAG 29 Jan (WD, BB); 20 WTSP 1 Feb (BP); only reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 300 Newfane NIAG 29 Jan.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 29 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; Yates ORLE 14 Jan; Bethany GENE 15

Jan; 9 Wilson NIAG 21 Jan; 3, 2 Somerset NIAG 11, 18 Feb; Lyndonville NIAG 12 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 300, 700 Albion ORLE 15, 17 Jan (CM); 575 Elba GENE 21 Jan; 130 Wilson NIAG 21 Jan.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Spicer Creek WMA ERIE 18 Dec (MZ!), first winter record.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: NFSP 23 Dec – 3 Feb (BC!, mob), first winter record.

C. Yellowthroat: TWMA 29 Dec – 4 Jan (JP, JM), rare in winter.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Amherst ERIE 29, 30 Dec (CD), at feeder, first winter record.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 5, 1 BuSP 3 Dec, 6 Jan; Spicer Creek WMA ERIE 19 Dec; OOWMA 29 Dec; Alden ERIE 14, 16 Feb; 3 Chautauqua Institution CHAU 17 Feb (JB); good showing.

WILSON'S WARBLER: Williamsville ERIE through 7 Dec (RS!), continued from fall, first winter record.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: PB 1 Dec; Salamanca CATT 7-15 Feb; Bethany GENE 11-18 Feb; only reports.

Chipping Sparrow: Portland CHAU 16 Jan (CH), only report.

Field Sparrow: 2 Alexander GENE 31 Jan (ED), only report.

LARK SPARROW: Yates ORLE 21 Jan (JS, GC, NYSARC), 2nd winter report.

Savannah Sparrow: Hartland NIAG 13, 14 Jan (CC); Yates ORLE 22 Jan (WD, WW); still rare in winter.

Swamp Sparrow: 24 on five CBCs; reported from six other loc.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 2, 14 Bethany GENE 3, 22 Dec; 4 Porter NIAG 4 Jan; 2 Hartland NIAG 13, 22 Jan; 3 Medina ORLE 8 Feb.

Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h oreganus*): Yates ORLE 14 Jan (WD, BP), apparent adult male.

Red-winged Blackbird: 100 TWMA 1 Jan (MM); arr 4 Eden ERIE 9 Feb; more numerous migrants 20-29 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; 12 E Aurora ERIE 31 Dec (JP, JM); only reports.

Com. Grackle: Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; Grand Island ERIE 22 Jan; arr WTSP 17 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Cambria NIAG 17 Dec; arr Portland CHAU 13 Feb.

Purple Finch: very few reports; only 4 on two CBCs; max 8 ChauL 31 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: FMCSF 15 Jan; Porter NIAG 4 Feb; 2 WTSP 4 Feb; Olcott NIAG 5 Feb; PB 8 Feb; only reports.

Com. Redpoll: 4 Yates ORLE 14 Jan; BuSP 15 Jan; 3, 7 Somerset NIAG 15, 22 Jan; 16 PB 15 Jan; Holland ERIE 4 Feb; 10 Olcott NIAG 5 Feb; 8 PB 8 Feb; 20 Devils Hole SP 10 Feb; max 30 Newfane NIAG 12 Feb; 3 Depew ERIE 20 Feb.

Pine Siskin: Buffalo ERIE 18 Dec; 12 ChauL 24 Dec (TL); max 28 Houghton ALLE 15 Jan (LW); Lockport NIAG 12 Feb; 20 E Aurora ERIE 24 Feb (LH).

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.