

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2012 was the eighth warmest December on record. The average temperature was 36.3° F, 6.2° above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.64", 0.25" less than usual, with 19.6" of snow, 7.8" less than usual. Most of the snow fell over the last week of the year and affected some CBCs. January 2013 was a roller coaster ride, with alternating cold snaps and well-above-normal warm periods. The average temperature was 30.0°, 5.1° above normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.50", 0.68" below normal, with 6.2" of snow, 19.1" less than normal. Lake Erie became partially frozen over late in January. February brought a return to normal winter conditions. The average temperature was 26.0°, again 0.3° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.05", 0.56" above normal, with 20.5" of snowfall, 3.2" above normal.

Waterfowl concentrations were slow to build in Buffalo Harbor and on the Niagara River, perhaps due to the mild conditions in early winter. However, there were large numbers by late January and through February. Gadwall and American Black Duck had higher winter counts than usual on the Niagara River during this period. There were more Wood Duck and Northern Shoveler reports than usual. The largest Greater Scaup count in Buffalo Harbor topped more than 22,000. There were several counts of Lesser Scaup in the hundreds, which is an indication that this species is increasing in winter and/or birders are paying more attention to differentiating the scaup species. The Region's first **Tufted Duck**, a female or 1st-winter male, was picked out among the scaup masses at Buffalo Harbor by Jim Pawlicki but was not found again. A count of Ring-necked Ducks just shy of 200 on the Niagara River off Buckhorn Island SP was unusually high for winter. Winter counts of Tundra Swans around Grand Island on the Niagara River reached new high levels of 700+. Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found by Jim Landau and Doug Happ at Dunkirk Harbor in early February, which were unprecedented for mid-winter. A female **Harlequin Duck** found by Tim Baird on the Allegheny River provided only the second Regional record of this species away from the Great Lakes and Niagara River and the first in over sixty years!

There were some high winter counts of Great Blue Heron on Strawberry and Motor Islands in late January and early February. Seventeen **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in Buffalo in mid-December was not unusual; however, up to six of them at Dunkirk Harbor being seen regularly in January and February was certainly unusual.

Up to eight **Black Vultures** and 31 Turkey Vultures wintered in Lewiston, at least the second consecutive overwintering year for Blacks.

There were numerous Bald Eagle sightings, with a maximum of 13 on pack ice at Dunkirk Harbor on 25 February. A **Golden Eagle** was photographed at Allegany SP by Tom LeBlanc, where this species has been annual in recent winters. Rough-legged Hawks were unusually scarce. The only **Northern Goshawk** report was from the Oak Orchard CBC.

Tom Somerville was surprised to find three **Sandhill Cranes** in a field in Elma on 27 February, an early arrival date and possibly tied to strong southeasterly winds that day. More surprising was the **Spotted Sandpiper** sighted by Brett Ewald and David and Debbie Suggs at Niagara Falls SP on 12 January; the first winter record for the Region. For other shorebird species, there were the usual smattering of Killdeer, two Wilson Snipe reports in December, and Purple Sandpipers at Niagara Falls, Buffalo Harbor, and Dunkirk Harbor.

It was an excellent winter for gull-watching on and around the Niagara River, with good variety, rarities, high numbers, and a big February influx of “white-winged” gulls. For the second winter in a row, Bonaparte’s Gulls were numerous on the Niagara River in January and early February, when in most years there are only a few around in mid-winter. The stretch of river between Squaw Island and Beaver Island SP held an estimated 15,000 or more “Bonies”. One or more **Black-headed Gulls** were sighted, and through photographs, Jim Pawlicki determined that two individuals have made up most of the Regional sightings over the past two years. Little Gulls were less frequent than usual this winter, and there were several **Black-legged Kittiwake** sightings as usual. The most unusual small gull species sighting was an immature **Sabine’s Gull** found by Jim Pawlicki at Buffalo Harbor on 27 January. This is only the second January record and latest on record. This winter produced the highest counts of Iceland Gull ever recorded and the highest counts of Glaucous Gull since 1975. They were especially numerous in February around Lewiston Reservoir, the Niagara River in Lewiston, and at Buffalo Harbor, which was largely iced over. Jim Pawlicki nicely photographed and documented several **Thayer’s Gulls** along the Niagara River. Multiple **Slaty-backed Gull** reports sent birders chasing after this Far Eastern species, which is seemingly becoming less rare with each winter. Observers felt that there were at least two individuals involved with the sightings at Lewiston Reservoir, Buffalo Harbor, and at Niagara Falls on the Canadian side. A **Franklin’s Gull** continued from the fall season into early December on the Niagara River. **California Gull** was documented at Devil’s Hole SP in late December.

Snowy Owls were reported from three locations, with possibly more than one individual involved with the sightings at Buffalo Harbor. **Short-eared Owls** were enjoyed by many birders in the fields along Posson Road in Shelby, with up to 11 reported. Short-eared Owls were sighted at four other locations this winter.

Following last winter’s first documented occurrences, **Fish Crows** were again sighted this winter. Jim Pawlicki found six among American Crows feeding on gizzard shad carcasses washed up on ice near Squaw Island on 21

February. Common Ravens were observed gathering nest materials in Tonawanda in late February. They have been observed at this location over the past year and may have nested last year. Ravens are still rare in the northern portion of the Region, but there are continuing signs, like the Tonawanda pair, that this may soon be changing.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows continued from the fall season at Niagara Falls SP, with five in early December dwindling to one brave or foolish bird sighted by Joe Mitchell on 2 January, our first January swallow record. There were several American Pipit sightings, including three at Beaver Island SP in late January and early February. Winter pipit reports are slowly increasing. There were three warbler species sighted this winter, with **Common Yellowthroat** joining the more expected Yellow-rumped and Pine primarily during CBC season. Five Eastern Meadowlark reports were more than any winter in recent memory.

The cool February limited the number of earlier spring migrants. The first migrant Killdeer, Turkey Vultures, and blackbirds were reported in the second half of February; however, there was limited waterfowl migration in late February this year.

Similar to the fall season, all of the finch species were sighted this winter, but only **Common Redpolls** were widespread. Among the many redpolls visiting area feeders this winter, five **Hoary Redpolls** were documented. Crossbill reports were scattered, with more White-winged than Red. The only long-staying birds were up to nine **White-winged Crossbills** at the feeders of Chuck and Kristen Rosenburg in Elma. Pine Siskins were at the same feeders, and there were other scattered reports but they were not widespread this winter. There were several **Pine Grosbeak** reports along Lake Ontario earlier in the season and a report of 20 at Point Gratiot by Nick Ziemba. There were only three **Evening Grosbeak** reports following the fall movement. Purple Finches were again scarce, with only a total four birds seen over three CBCs and a winter maximum count of four.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALSP – Allegany SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, 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; 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; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tift NP – Tift NP, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, NIAG/GENE; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 4 DH 7-18 Feb (J&KL, DH, mob), early.

Snow Goose: 4 Oakfield GENE 6 Dec; 2 FNSP 14 Dec; 16 Carlton ORLE 19 Dec; Jamestown CHAU 16 Dec; no Jan reports; arr DH 7 Feb; Fredonia CHAU 26 Feb.

Brant: Mayville CHAU 2 Dec (JG), only report.

Cackling Goose: max 24, 6 Oakfield GENE 3, 28 Dec (KF); 12, 6 INWR 5, 19 Dec; Attica Res WYOM 9 Dec; SPNS 16 Dec; N Harmony CHAU 18 Dec (TSi); Lyndonville ORLE 19 Dec; 7 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Jan; INWR 12 Jan; arr 3 DH 9, 10 Feb; 2 Shadigee ORLE 17 Feb.

Mute Swan: max 7 PB 2 Jan; DH 10, 12 Jan; BWWTP 11, 20 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 TWMA 23 Dec (CC); OOWMA 28 Dec; only reports.

Tundra Swan: 70 DH 28 Dec; 65 Jamestown CHAU 1 Jan; max 785, 712 BeSP 6, 17 Feb (DS; JW), highest winter counts on record.

Wood Duck: max 14 OOWMA 6 Dec; BMAC 6, 21 Dec; INWR 29 Dec; 5 on 4 CBCs Dec; Buffalo NR 19, 20 Jan, 27 Feb; Jamestown CHAU 20 Jan; 2 NF 24 Jan; N. Tonawanda NR 24 Feb.

Gadwall: 46 INWR 13 Dec; 36 Tift NP 19 Dec; 53 N. Harmony CHAU 20 Dec; max 236 BufH 27 Jan (JP); 34 Tonawanda NR 24 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: only a few scattered reports.

Am. Black Duck: 35 Oakfield GENE 30 Dec; 170 BufH 27 Jan (JP); max 200 BeSP 17 Feb (JW), excellent count for winter.

N. Shoveler: 39 INWR 13 Dec; 3 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 11 Oakfield GENE 28 Dec; INWR 11 Jan; Tonawanda NR 31 Jan, 3, 23 Feb; BWWTP 3 Feb; more reps than usual for winter.

N. Pintail: six reports Dec & Jan; arr 2 INWR 26 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: six reports Dec, Jan; arr DH 20 Feb; 4 Fredonia CHAU 23 Feb.

Canvasback: max 6550 BeSP 4 Feb.

Redhead: 132 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 450 Grand I NR 30 Jan; 300 DH 30 Jan, 2 Feb; max 1500 BeSP 17 Feb; max 1500 BufH 18 Feb; semi-leucistic Tonawanda NR 23, 24 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 35 BufH ERIE 7 Jan; 67 NF 15 Jan; max 191 BuSP 19 Jan (MM), good count for winter.

Tufted Duck: Buffalo NR 18 Feb (JP! WW! NYSARC), first regional record, although was sighted on Ontario side of NR once before.

Greater Scaup: max 22345 BufH ERIE 27 Jan (JP); 12000, 7000 Buffalo NR 10, 18 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 532 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 194 Grand I NR 19 Jan (MM); 115, 150 BufH ERIE 27 Jan, 18 Feb; 75 DH 31 Jan; max 698 Tonawanda NR 23 Feb (JP); either increasing numbers or increased scrutiny of scaup species.

Harlequin Duck: NFSP 20, 25 Dec, 10, 30 Jan (BE, AG); Allegany CATT 20 Jan (TB!), only second ever inland.

Surf Scoter: 1, 2, 2 FNSP 14 Dec, 2, 26 Jan; Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 2, 1 PB 19 Dec, 16 Jan; FMCSP 31 Dec; NFSP 21 Jan; Lewiston NR 28 Jan; BufH ERIE 10, 23 Feb; max 3 DH 27 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: DH 28 Jan, 24 Feb, only reports away from NR, L Ontario.

Black Scoter: small numbers (1-3) BufH, DH, L Ontario thru; max 6, 8 PB 19 Dec, 10 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 4000 Buffalo NR 1 Dec (JMc).

Com. Goldeneye: 600, 800 NF 31 Dec, 17 Jan; max 1480 BufH 27 Jan.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R1): PB 19 Dec; 2, 21 Jan; 6 Feb (RS, JP, WD), likely same male that has wintered here for several years and also wanders into adjacent Region 2.

Hooded Merganser: 76 Tift NP 19 Dec; 60, 92, 74 DH 6 Jan, 10, 18 Feb; max 250 ChauL 4 Jan (JB).

Com. Merganser: max 550 DH 2 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1800 Barcelona CHAU 22 Dec; 900 NF 17 Jan; 1000 BuFH 10 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: 98 BWWTP 5 Dec; 200

Lakewood ChauL 14 Dec; max 299 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 50 DH 9 Jan; BWWTP 11 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: max 157 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (WD, BE); 29 FMCS 31 Dec; FNSP 21 Jan; 3 GHSP 26 Jan; rescued by SPCA on L. Ontario ice, released Wilson Harbor NIAG 7 Feb; 6 Carlton ORLE 16 Feb; 11 Shadigee ORLE 17 Feb; increasing in winter on L. Ontario.

Com. Loon: PB 5 Jan; 2 NFSP 10 Jan; 5 on January waterfowl count 20-27 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: Tonawanda NR 4 Jan;

ChauL 4 Jan; 4, 2 BuSP 5, 12 Jan; max 16, 22 DH 31 Jan, 9 Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 12 Carlton ORLE 16 Feb; few reports.

Red-necked Grebe: FNSP 14 Dec; max 91 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (WD, BE); PB, Olcott NIAG 5 Jan; DH 9 Jan; NFSP 10 Jan; Shadigee 17 Feb.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 75, 98, 149 DH 1, 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 7 Lewiston NR 16 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: 25, 15 DH 28 Dec, 29 Jan; 88, 55 Strawberry I NR 28 Jan, 4 Feb (WW), good counts for mid-winter; max 132 Tonawanda NR 3 Feb (D&DS); 18 Lewiston NR 10 Feb; 75 Motor I NR 15 Feb.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 17, 3 Buffalo NR 16 Dec, 1 Jan (J&KL); 1-6 DH 1 Jan – 24 Feb (JG, mob).

BLACK VULTURE (R1): up to 8 Lewiston NIAG thru (mob); overwintered for at least 2nd consecutive year.

Turkey Vulture: up to 31 Lewiston NIAG thru (mob); 16 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; arr Jamestown CHAU 25 Feb; Hamburg HW 26 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 11 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; max 16 Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC 1 Jan; 13 DH 25 Feb (TwL); well reported from other traditional wintering and breeding areas.

N. Harrier: 4 Shelby ORLE 9 Dec; max 16 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec.

N. Goshawk: Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: rep from seven locs.

Rough-legged Hawk: relatively few reports, even scarce at times.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R1): AISP 7 Jan (ToL, photo), has wintered at location near annually.

Am. Coot: 62, 66 BuSP 1 Dec, 12 Jan; max 247, 267 DH 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 18 Tonawanda NR 18 Feb.

Sandhill Crane: arr 3 Elma ERIE 27 Feb (TSo!), early.

Killdeer: BWWTP 3 Dec; Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC 1 Jan; arr Clarence ERIE 18 Feb; Orchard Park ERIE 26 Feb.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (R1): NFSP 12 Jan (D&DS!, BE); first Reg winter report.

Purple Sandpiper: NFSP 20, 25 Dec; DH 2, 10 Jan (NZ); 2, 1 BuFH 19, 27 Jan, 2 Feb (JP, CC); only reports.

Wilson's Snipe: Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 3 Dec (RS!); Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: NF 1 Dec; NPP, Lewiston NR NIAG 15-28 Jan (JP, mob), observed several times in this stretch of NR.

Sabine's Gull: BuFH 27 Jan (JP!, WD), only 2nd Jan report and latest record.

Bonaparte's Gull: 1255 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 4800 Barcelona CHAU, 1400 DH 22 Dec (CC); 15000 Buffalo to Tonawanda NR 4, 17 Jan (WD, RS); 10000 BeSP 10, 19 Jan (WW, MM); 8500, 7000 Lewiston NR 21 Jan, 17 Feb (CM); present on NR most of winter but few by late Feb.

Black-headed Gull: Buffalo NR 12, 15 Dec, 4, 5 Jan (PY, RS, WD, JP), possibly same bird.

Little Gull: NFSP 1 Dec; 2, 3 DH 22 Dec, 31 Jan (CC, TM); 3, 3 Lewiston NR 15 Jan, 27 Feb; Buffalo NR 20 Jan; NPP 26 Jan; BuFH 2 Feb; fewer than usual.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Lewiston NR 2 Dec, continued from fall.

CALIFORNIA GULL: Devil's Hole SP NIAG 28 Dec (JP! NYSARC); regular location for fall, winter sightings.

Herring Gull: 2800 Lewiston NR 1 Dec; max 6200, 4800 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 3, 9 Feb (WW, CC); 1000 BeSP 17 Feb.

THAYER'S GULL: 1, 1 Devils Hole SP NIAG 28 Dec, 7 Jan (JP!, photos); 1, 1, 1 NFSP 21, 23 Jan, 3 Feb (JP!, photo); several other undocumented reports NPP, NF.

Iceland Gull: 10, 14, 30 NPP 9 Dec, 27 Jan, 3 Feb (WD, GP); Orchard Park ERIE 29 Dec (MM), flyover; 2 FMCS 31 Dec; 15, 32, 15 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 26 Jan, 3, 24 Feb (JP); **max 41** Lewiston Reservoir and Lewiston NR (JP, CC), record count.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: WoBSP 10 Dec; max 12, 15, 9 NFSP 14, 25 Dec, 9 Feb (WD, AG, JP); Barre ORLE 14 Jan (CM), only inland report; 3 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 5 Feb; 2 BuFH 10, 11 Feb; BeSP 13, 14 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull: NFSP 20 Jan (TJ, photo); annual occurrence, rarely ph. **SLATY-BACKED GULL:** Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 25, 26 Jan, 9 Feb (JP! NYSARC); BuFH 10, 11 Feb (JP! NYSARC); seen several times on Ontario side of NR 30 Dec, 1 Jan (WD!); consensus that there were at least two individuals.

Glaucous Gull: 18 FNSP to Lewiston NR 25 Jan (JP); 15, 35 Lewiston NIAG 26 Jan, 9 Feb (JP), 35 is third highest count on record; 12 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 3 Feb; 10 BuFH 10 Feb (CC).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 76 DH 22 Dec; 58 BeSP 12 Feb.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Snowy Owl: BuFH 25 Dec – 13 Feb (AH), occasional sightings thru, may not be same bird; Dunkirk CHAU 7 Feb (NZ); Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 9, 18 Feb (JP, JM).

Long-eared Owl: Carlton ORLE 4 Dec, only report.

Short-eared Owl: 2, 11, 8 Shelby ORLE 9 Dec, 26 Jan, 18 Feb (CM, mob), many birders enjoyed thru winter; 3 Royalton NIAG 15 Dec; Wilson NIAG 2 Jan; 2 Cherry Creek CHAU 10 Jan (J&KL); 1, 2 Alexander GENE 20, 28 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (CR); Gerry CHAU 16 Dec (JB); FMCSP 31 Dec (BP); all CBC reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 29 Dec; Como Lake P ERIE 4 Feb; AISP 4 Feb; only reports.

N. Flicker: 14 Hartland NIAG 20 Dec (CC), on ground, good count for date.

Merlin: 5 Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 2 Hamburg- E Aurora CBC 29 Dec; 10 other reports throughout Reg.

Peregrine Falcon: reported from nine locations.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: typical number of reports.

Am. Crow: max 1500, 500 Buffalo ERIE 4, 6 Feb (JF), roost; likely undercounted.

FISH CROW: 6 Squaw I NR 21 Feb (JP!); multiple reports in Fort Erie ONT across NR from Buffalo 12 Jan thru Feb.

Com. Raven: Tonawanda ERIE 3 Dec thru, seen gathering nest mat. 23 Feb (JP); Buffalo ERIE 7 Jan; only reports away from typical range.

Horned Lark: 131 Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 85 Bethany GENE 7 Jan; max 150 Yates ORLE 10 Feb.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 5, 3, 2, 1 NFSP 1, 14, 18 Dec, **2 Jan** (BG, WD, JP, JMi!), record late, traditional location for late sightings.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: well reported.

Winter Wren: 10 reported on 4 CBCs; four other reports in Dec, Jan.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: NFSP 16 Dec, 10 Jan (CC, RS); BuSP 12 Jan (WW); TWMA 3 Feb (PY); more winter reports than usual.

E. Bluebird: max 10 LESP 1 Jan (JG).

Hermit Thrush: LBSP 4 Dec; Orchard Park ERIE 29 Dec; NF CBC 31 Dec; GHSP 26 Jan; only reports.

Am. Robin: max 285 LBSP 21 Jan; not widespread.

Gray Catbird: LBSP 4 Dec, only report.

Am. Pipit: OOWMA 28 Dec (KF); Hamburg ERIE 29 Dec (DG); DH 2 Jan (GV); Pomfret CHAU 5 Jan (JG); 2, 3, 2 BeSP 24 Jan, 3, 10 Feb (DS, S&TO!, AH); rare after mid-Dec.

Bohemian Waxwing: 6, 1, 2 Newfane NIAG 2 Dec, 5, 6 Jan (WD, BP, JF); GHSP 3 Dec (DB); Wilson NIAG 24 Jan (BP); only reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 350 Newfane NIAG 5 Jan.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 50 Beaver Meadow CBC 22 Dec; 42 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; 16 Porter NIAG 31 Dec; 2 Youngstown NIAG 2 Jan; 4 Yates ORLE 5 Jan; Bethany GENE 1 Feb; 14 Ransomville NIAG 17 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 310 Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 221 Porter NIAG 31 Dec; 350 Bethany 6 Jan (DB); max 450 Yates ORLE 10 Feb (LC).

Com. Yellowthroat: St. Bonaventure CBC 15 Dec, only report.

Pine Warbler: FMCSP 31 Dec, 2 Jan (WD, AG, BP), rare in winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: NFSP 1 Dec; Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; 4 Cambria NIAG 23 Dec; Wilson NIAG 24 Dec; Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; 2 NF CBC 31 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 12 Jan; only reports.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Gowanda ERIE 17 Feb, only report.

Chipping Sparrow: Beaver Meadow CBC 22 Dec; Fredonia CHAU 27 Dec, 1 Jan; 17-28 Feb (JG); Buffalo ERIE 29 Dec; only reports.

Field Sparrow: 2 Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; 4 Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 29 Dec; Eden ERIE 1-28 Feb (RA); only reports.

Savannah Sparrow: 3 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; Shelby ORLE 10 Feb (LC); only reports.

Fox Sparrow: Ashford CATT 5 Dec; BMAC 6 Dec; 2 Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; Wales ERIE 21 Dec; only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: 16 reported on 5 CBCs; scattered other reports.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 39 Bethany GENE 2 Feb (WD, DB); 15 Carlton ORLE 7 Feb (JMI, JP); rep 4 other locations in low numbers.

Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h. oreganus*): Colden ERIE 1 Dec thru 9 Feb (J&KL), continued from fall; Tonawanda ERIE 23 Feb (JP, WW).

Red-winged Blackbird: 57 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; rep 5 other locations Dec – Jan; arr 2 Portland CHAU 13 Feb; more numerous migrants 23-28 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: Shelby ORLE 9 Dec (CM); 2 Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC 1 Jan; Watts Flats WMA CHAU 5 Jan (TwL); 2 Somerset NIAG 6 Feb (RS); Fredonia CHAU 10 Feb (NZ); more winter reports than usual.

Rusty Blackbird: Tift NP, SPNS 1 Dec; INWR 28 Dec; Portland CHAU 6, 7 Feb; only reports.

Com. Grackle: 4 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; arr Grand Island ERIE 26 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: fewer winter reports than usual; arr 3 Alabama GENE 18 Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: 6, 1 GHSP 1, 14 Dec (J&KL, RS); max 20 PG 6 Dec (NZ); 1, 1 FNSP 6, 9 Dec

(JeL, JF); FMCSP 2 Jan (RS); 8 Carlton ORLE 25 Jan (DB).

Purple Finch: very few reports; only 4 on three CBCs; max 4 RTP1 3 Jan.

Red Crossbill: 3 Buffalo ERIE 3 Dec (AH); FNSP 14 Dec (RS); 2 Carlton ORLE 12 Jan (KS); Lancaster ERIE 23 Jan (MM); Colden ERIE 23 Feb (GB); 3, max 6 AISP 27 Jan, 25 Feb (AH, ToL).

White-winged Crossbill: 8 FNSP 14 Dec (RS); 13 Boston ERIE 3 Dec (J&KL); 1-9 Elma ERIE 9 Dec – 3 Feb (CR), regular feeder visitors; 7 FMCSP 2 Jan; 8, 8, 10 Carlton ORLE 15, 27 Jan, 2 Feb; 13 AISP 7 Feb (ToL); plus scattered reports of 1-3 birds.

Com. Redpoll: widespread thru; 119 Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 100 Clarence ERIE 12 Jan; 120 INWR 8 Jan; max 350, 290 Carlton ORLE 21, 25 Jan (BG, DD); 135 Bethany GENE 21 Feb; 100 S. Wales ERIE 2 Feb; 198 Hartland NIAG 18 Feb.

Hoary Redpoll: 2 Cambria NIAG 15 Dec (MG, RH); Wilson NIAG 14 Jan (WD!); Porter NIAG 25 Jan (JP!, WW!); Alden ERIE 8 Feb (JM!); only documented reports.

Pine Siskin: 13 Shelby ORLE 1, 2 Dec; 20 - 40 Elma ERIE 9 Dec thru 7 Feb (CR); 26 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 8 Colden ERIE 17-23 Dec; 10 BMAC 8 Jan; 25 S Wales ERIE 2 Feb; not widespread.

Evening Grosbeak: Cambria NIAG 7, 15 Dec; N Clymer CHAU 28 Dec; 2 Bethany GENE 28 Jan, 6 Feb (DB, JM); only reports.