

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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On its face the winter season looked more like the old-fashioned kind that once characterized this Region, but the temperature data tells us that it was not harsh by historical standards. In Syracuse, the average temperature for December was 35.3° F, fully 5.9° warmer than normal. The same location saw precipitation on 21 days in December, for a total of 7.57", which is 4.35" above the norm. Much of that precipitation fell in the form of snow, producing 32.4". 12.5" of snow fell in a single storm on 26-27 December. By the end of December the snow depth measured 19". With an average temperature of 27.7°, January was 4.1° warmer than normal, but was also slightly drier with 0.8" less precipitation than normal. A total of 11.6" of snow fell in January. February broke the warming trend, but just barely and was 0.5° colder than average. Precipitation was 0.5" above normal for February, and a total of 36.4" of snow fell during the month. It's no surprise that Old Forge saw our Region's coldest temperatures for the period and experienced 20 days below zero. The coldest temperature recorded there was minus 28° on 24 January.

Relatively mild temperatures prevailed through the period when most of the Region's CBCs took place and was reflected by many of the high tallies of waterfowl and half-hardy songbirds on those counts. A massive flock of Snow Geese lingered just south of Utica for over a week before the Clinton CBC on 15 December. The presence of so many white geese stunned locals who never experienced anything like it before. Pictures of the phenomenon were featured in local media. In a field near Sauquoit in southern Oneida County, Jody Hildreth

estimated a flock of Snow Geese to be 100,000 strong. Around 15 in the flock bore neck bands, and Hildreth learned that most of those birds were originally banded on Bylot Island in Nunavut, Canada, which is approximately 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

From the Adirondacks, Gary Lee reported that the lakes around Old Forge didn't freeze until 26 December, and that allowed modest numbers of waterfowl to linger there longer than normal. Some of the deeper lakes in the western half of our reporting area never froze completely, including Skaneateles Lake, and that resulted in good numbers of waterfowl remaining on those waters. Gene Huggins reported that the lakes in the Tully area did freeze, but there always remained a few areas of open water where some birds could find refuge. Other lakes in the southern highlands froze by early January and remained frozen. The eastern end of Oneida Lake didn't freeze over until after 1 January, but by mid-month milder weather had opened up the western end of the lake. By the end of January Oneida Lake was iced over again except for the usual spot at Brewerton. Onondaga Lake was open through the annual Waterfowl Count but was mostly frozen thereafter except for the usual spots. Open water in some areas was arguably good for wintering waterfowl, but it also meant that the birds tended to be less concentrated and were therefore harder to find. Rarities such as Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, King Eider, and Barrow's Goldeneye were found this period. A female Tufted Duck found by Andrew VanNorstrand on 7 February at Oswego Harbor stayed through the end of the period and was ultimately witnessed by most of the upstate birding community. Several female Barrow's Goldeneye were found and well documented thus giving observers a chance to study this inconspicuous plumage.

In early January, late January, and into February, the ice shelves that formed near the dams and locks on the Oswego and Seneca Rivers and around the Inner Harbor of Onondaga Lake made especially good gull habitat. In these places, patient observers were rewarded with a good variety of winter gulls including some rarities and some interesting (and often enough, confusing) hybrids. Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Glaucous Gull were not uncommon finds this season in those areas and at the Madison County Landfill, which also produced a strong Thayer's Gull candidate. On the last day of February, scanning for rarities at Oswego Harbor, Dave Wheeler and Jim Tarolli found a first-for-the-Region Slaty-backed Gull. Unfortunately, the gull didn't linger to be seen by other birders, but the discoverers enjoyed a good long view and were able to take photos of the perched bird. Fortunately, they ultimately got to see the bird take flight, which helped to clinch the identification of this extraordinary find. The bird was thought to be third- or fourth-cycle and sported conspicuous bubble-gum-pink legs and wide white "skirt". Onondaga Lake's Inner Harbor produced another Thayer's Gull candidate among hundreds of Herring and Great Black-backed. An unusually pale large gull was tentatively identified as Glaucous x Great Black-backed, probably second-winter, and subsequently seen and well-photographed in coastal Massachusetts. Others

thought the bird might be a leucistic Great Black-backed but ultimately only the bird knows the truth. One might hope it will return next year and provide a truly rare opportunity to see the bird in its next plumage cycle.

The Creek Walk at Onondaga Lake hosted four immature Black-crowned Night Herons for most of the period, causing observers to wonder if this has been an annual occurrence and for how long. The Creek Walk has only recently allowed good viewing opportunities. The trail end at Onondaga Lake attracted as many as 15 Bald Eagles in mid-February. Bald Eagles had an excellent showing on many of the Region's lakes, bays, and rivers. Michael Goldych counted an amazing 29 eagles while traveling three miles on the west side of the Oswego River on 21 February, and other observers reported similar or (possibly greater) numbers. Golden Eagles were found in several locations this winter, including an area just north of Delta Lake and along the West Canada Creek just east of Newport. Increasing sightings during mid-winter provide hope that this species is becoming a regular winter resident in our Region. A few Red-shouldered Hawks appeared in January, including at least one well-photographed juvenile bird, which is particularly unusual. Rough-legged Hawks were not common this winter, but those birders willing to put in some extra effort stood a fair chance at coming up with one. A game camera operated by Kevin Pace in Madison County captured a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk feeding on a deer carcass left out for Bald Eagles.

Three species of shorebird were encountered this season including one Purple Sandpiper and one Red Phalarope. The latter made only a quick fly-by along Lake Ontario's east shore and was identified by the alert observer, Bernie Carr. There were no Snowy Owls reported and only six Short-eared Owls – five of which were found by Bill Purcell on 24 February at the southwestern marshes of Howland Island WMA. Even the “common” owls were not so commonly encountered this winter. Probably no more than two Northern Saw-whet Owls were found during the period, and they were only found at Beaver Lake Nature Center, where the species has been known to roost in previous winter seasons. The male Rufous Hummingbird that arrived at a Phoenix residence during the fall period remained until 27 December, when it was apparently ushered out of the area by a significant winter storm. Up until that time, the bird was being seen daily as it made use of a heated nectar feeder provided by Ann Dillon Gray, the residence's owner. Gray reported that the hummingbird had stayed in the area for a total of 14 weeks and four days. Many thanks are due to Ms. Gray for her efforts in monitoring the behavior of this incredible rarity and for keeping the birding community so well informed.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in only three places this period, with one found by Joe Brin consistently visiting a feeder in Baldwinsville. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in five areas. In Marcellus on 22 January, Ken Burdick observed a sapsucker feeding on frozen sap from vines of Virginia Creeper. All three “common” falcons were in evidence through the winter. Besides the resident Peregrine Falcons in Syracuse and Utica, a single Peregrine

was seen repeatedly in the vicinity of Oswego Harbor. Northern Shrikes were not uncommon either, but they became harder to find in the latter part of the season. The same was true for many half-hardy songbirds, which were very much in evidence during the CBC period and less so after that time frame. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen several times in Skaneateles between late January and late February, but Golden-crowned Kinglets were harder to come by than usual this winter. Searching for mixed foraging flocks in southern Oneida County, Matt Perry commented that kinglets and Brown Creepers seemed to be conspicuously absent from the woodlands in that area.

Several American Pipits were noted in the Region. Two kept company with a flock of Horned Larks in a farm field in Baldwinsville where freshly-spread manure allowed observers good views. Another lone pipit was seen frequenting the Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery in Elbridge. Despite the season's Region-wide poor berry and seed crop, some areas hosted large, if unpredictable, flocks of Bohemian Waxwings. At the end of February, a flock of 350 Bohemians were seen making the best of the scant offerings provided by European Buckthorn trees at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland. Baldwinsville was the most reliable place to find Lapland Longspurs this winter, and on 23 January a maximum of 10 was counted. The longspurs were usually seen with a flock of Horned Larks, and, with the two pipits and a lone Snow Bunting, provided a hard-to-achieve sweep of the field birds. Interestingly, a juvenile Lapland Longspur made an uncommon appearance at a bird feeder in Tully on 30 December.

An excellent find for the Region was an adult male **Varied Thrush** that briefly visited a Fulton backyard belonging to Daniel Wood on 18 January. Fortunately, Wood and his wife were able to adequately document this rarity, but the bird was not photographed nor was it ever relocated. Four warbler species were reported during the period, but none were found after 1 January. As expected, Yellow-rumped Warblers were the most numerous and the Onondaga Lake Creek Walk was the most reliable place to find them. The "Audubon's" Warbler first found during the previous reporting period stayed just long enough to be tallied on the Syracuse CBC on 15 December, as was the male Wilson's Warbler. A Common Yellowthroat was found in Waterville by Bob Williams on 13 December and on Christmas Day a single Pine Warbler was reported visiting a bird feeder at the Jamesville residence belonging to Alison Fitzgerald. A total of three Eastern Towhees was reported this period, two of which were found in the Southern Highlands. A decent mix of sparrows overwintered in the Region including Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow, but only the latter two species were found more than once or twice. Four immature White-crowned Sparrows were found together at the Crego Farm in Baldwinsville, and Jim Tarolli found an "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco at Beaver Lake on 7 January.

Winter finch numbers never quite lived up to the optimistic pre-season predictions and really only Common Redpoll came close to reaching anything

approaching invasion-year levels. This was all understandable given a dearth of wild food resources throughout the entire Region. For most finch species the number of sightings matched what would be expected in a typical non-invasion year. At least 11 Hoary Redpolls were reported in the Region during the period. Evening Grosbeaks were most consistently found only in the Southern Highlands of Madison County where they traditionally concentrate.

A total of 145 species was found for this period, which is 19 species higher than the last decade's average. The highlights included: Cackling Goose, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Tufted Duck**, King Eider, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, **American Woodcock**, **Red Phalarope**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **SLATY-BACKED GULL** (first Regional record), Short-eared Owl, **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, **Cave Swallow**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **VARIED THRUSH**, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S)**, **WILSON'S WARBLER**, Common Yellowthroat, Pine Warbler, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Hoary Redpoll.

The winter season produced 29,495 eBird records which were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.01.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center; Brew – Oneida Lake at Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; DR – DeRuyter

Reservoir area; ECT – Erie Canal Trail; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; Fville – Fayetteville; HI – Howland Island WMA; HR – Hinckley Reservoir; LOnt – Lake Ontario; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; MPSP – Mexico Point SP; NSyr – North Syracuse; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga Lake Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; OSP – Oneida Shores Park; Osw – Oswego Harbor; Pville – Pennellville; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; Skan – Skaneateles; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max est 100,000 Waterville 14 Dec (JH); 10,000 Skan 13 Dec; 5,000 Pompey 8 Dec; 4,800 Manheim 2 Dec; high numbers linger in corn fields in areas south and west of Utica thru first weeks of December.

Cackling Goose: max 2 Mexico 12 Dec; MCL 5 Dec; 3 records for period.

Canada Goose: 4,559 Tully Lakes 19 Dec (GH); 17,839 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 12,324 Clinton CBC 15 Dec; 42 Old Forge 17 Dec (GL); good number for Adirondacks.

Mute Swan: max 50 FH 19 Jan; 10 OnonL 25 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 5 OnonL 5 Jan; 4 Fulton 12 Jan.

Tundra Swan: max 160 OSP 2 Dec; 149 Brew 4 Jan.

Wood Duck: max 7 Waterville 6 Dec; 6 UM 14 Dec; 2 remained in New Hartford thru late Feb.

Gadwall: max 50 FH 16 Dec; 27 Osw 15 Feb; 20 OnonL 28 Jan, & 19 Feb.

Eurasian Wigeon: male FH 3 Dec (BP).

Am. Wigeon: max 50 WP 4 Dec; 43 FH 3 Dec; singles/small numbers after early Dec.

Am. Black Duck: max 85 UM 15 Dec; 72 FH 3 Dec; 68 OneiL 21 Jan.

Mallard: max 400 HR 8 Dec; 400 OnonL 23 Jan; 400 Syracuse 19 Feb.

Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid): several reports.

N. Shoveler: max 22 FH 4 Dec; 7 OnonL 1 Dec; 6 VB 14-17 Dec; 6 UM 14 Dec; few reported after Dec.

N. Pintail: max 24 FH 3 Dec; singles/small numbers lingered thru.

Green-winged Teal: max 8 UM 14 Dec; 7 Frankfort 4 Jan; none reported after 4 Jan.

Canvasback: max 24 Osw 15 Feb; 5 OnonL 13 Feb.

Redhead: max 1130 Osw 10 Feb; 750 Osw 15 Feb; few reports away from ONON/OSWE.

Ring-necked Duck: 209 Skan 19 Jan; 200 WPd 9 Dec; 139 Tully 2 Dec; widespread reports and good numbers.

Tufted Duck: fem Osw 7 Feb thru (AVN!, mob, ph, NYSARC).

Greater Scaup: max 294 Osw 12 Feb; 280 Osw 17 Feb; scattered reports.

Lesser Scaup: max 405 OnonL 15 Dec; 340 Osw 25 Feb; 8 OF 17 Dec; scattered reports.

King Eider: fem Osw 13 – 16 Dec (BP, WF).

Surf Scoter: OnonL 14-15 Dec; Osw 7 Feb thru.

White-winged Scoter: max 150 Osw 28 Feb; most records from Oswego.

Black Scoter: 3 Rainbow Shores 9 Dec (BP), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 164 DH 5 Dec; 150 Osw 31 Dec, few sightings away from Lake Ontario.

Bufflehead: max 94 Osw 21 Jan; 64 MPSP 3 Feb; 57 Skan 11 Dec; many reports.

Com. Goldeneye: max 400 OneiL 12 Jan; 234 Osw 21 Jan; 7 OF 18 Dec.

Barrow's Goldeneye: fem Brew 12-13 Jan (DW!, mob, ph), fem birds seldom seen or documented.

Hooded Merganser: max 150 Tuscarora Lake 25 Dec; 135 Lake Neatahwanta 16 Dec; 288 Osw CBC 16 Dec; 49 OF 17 Dec; good numbers and widespread reports.

Com. Merganser: max 1200 OnonL 23 Jan; 600 Lake Neatahwanta 16 Dec; good numbers throughout Reg.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2000 FH 18 Dec; 1000 Fair Haven 8 Dec; 944 LOnt 21 Jan (Waterfowl Count); most sightings from Lake Ontario.

Ruddy Duck: max 145 Otisco Lake 12 Jan; 50 DeRuyter Reservoir 9 Dec; widespread reports.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 Bville 17 Feb; widespread reports singles/pairs.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 OF 17 Dec; 5 Kirkland 15 Dec; one territorial bird regularly confronts visitors at BLNC.

Wild Turkey: max 91 Little Falls 19 Feb; 90 Newport 12 Feb; indications of improving numbers in some areas.

Red-throated Loon: max 6 FH 4 Dec; few reports away from Lake Ontario.

Com. Loon: max 8 OnonL 9 Dec; 2 OF 17 Dec, unusual for Adirondacks in winter; last LOnt 21 Jan (Waterfowl Count); no Feb recs.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 OnonL 13 Feb; widespread reports of singles/small numbers thru.

Horned Grebe: max 19 OneiL 11 Dec; 15 LOnt 21 Jan, Waterfowl Count.

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 OnonL 15 Dec & Osw 8 Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 42 Fulton 3 Dec; 35 OnonL 29 Jan; small numbers reported thru.

Great Blue Heron: max 11 OLC 29 Jan; 9 OnonL 19 Jan, 14 Feb; OF 17 Dec; good numbers for middle of winter.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 4 juv OLC 18 Dec; at least 3 remained thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 20 Fayetteville 25 Feb; 18 Fayetteville 15 Feb, presumably overwinterers possibly augmented with migrants; 4 Syr CBC 15 Dec.

Bald Eagle: max 29-50 Oswego River 21 Feb (MG, PT, PD); 16 Oswego River 22 Feb; 15 OnonL 28 Jan; 15 Cross Lake 23 Feb; ever increasing numbers overwinter in the Region.

N. Harrier: max 3 DH 4 Dec; about average number of winter reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 Otisco Lake 17 Feb; many reports of individuals.

Cooper's Hawk: 6 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 7 Skan CBC 30 Dec, high compared with other Region 5 CBCs.

N. Goshawk: max 2 DH 9 Dec & 2 arr DH 28 Feb; few other reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: juv N Syr 11 & 31 Jan, 11 Feb (DW!, ph), several other reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 46 migrants DH 26 Feb; 36 migrants DH 28 Feb; relatively high counts on regional CBCs; dark-morph Erieville 19 Jan (KP!, ph).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 2 several locations; relatively few overwinter.

Golden Eagle: arr & max 2 migrants DH 28 Feb; Georgetown 29 Dec (KB); indication of increasing over-winterers - reports from Delta Lake, Newport, and West Winfield.

Am. Kestrel: widespread reports of mostly singles.

Merlin: max 4 Syr CBC 15 Dec; a few singles reported.

Peregrine Falcon: resident pairs overwinter in Syr and Utica; a few singles reported.

Am. Coot: max 124 Skan 19 Jan; 115 Skan 11 Dec; 49 OnonL 19 Jan; 47 Osw 23 Feb; excellent winter numbers.

Killdeer: max 7 OLC 4 Dec (TS), good number for December; arr Syr 17 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: FH 3 Dec, only report.

Am. Woodcock: Camden 1 Feb (JaL, JhL), rare in winter.

Red Phalarope: LOnt 13 Jan (BC), rare after Dec.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 57 FH 4 Dec; 51 OneiL 11 Dec; last 3 OnonL 6 Jan.

Ring-billed Gull: max est 5000 Osw 17 Feb; est 4000 Osw 10 Feb; est 3000 Skan 13 Dec.

Herring Gull: max est 2500 OnonL 15 Feb; 1500 MCL 17 Jan.

THAYER'S GULL: MCL 7 Dec (DW!, ph, NYSARC).

Thayer's/Kumlein's Gull: OnonL 26 Jan (DW!, ph, NYSARC).

Iceland Gull: max 7 Phoenix 26 Dec & Phoenix 7 Jan; many reports of individuals and small numbers.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 OnonL 6 Feb; other reports from usual areas.

SLATY-BACKED GULL: 3rd or 4th-cycle, Oswego 28 Feb (DW!, JT!, ph, NYSARC), 1st Reg record.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 OnonL 25 Jan; numerous reports from usual areas.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: OnonL 8 & 10 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 OnonL 7 Feb; 150 MCL 5 Dec.

Great Black-backed x Glaucous Gull: OnonL 28 Jan (DW, JT, DWe, ph) & 3 Feb (DW), putative, see *intro*.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 555 Syr 15 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 133 Oneida 1 Jan; 107 Fairfield 21 Dec; 106 Canastota 1 Jan.

E. Screech-Owl: max 3 Waterville 30 Jan; fewer reports than usual.

Great Horned Owl: max 4 TR 4 Jan & Mexico 5 Jan; relatively few reports.

Barred Owl: singles only Oswego, SFNS, Waterville, BLNC, Dolgeville, Mexico, Verona, and FH.

Short-eared Owl: max 5 HI 24 Feb (BP); Bville 16 Jan (JB, mob); Ohio 17 Dec; few reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 BLNC 6 Dec; same bird early Dec and late Feb.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: ad male Phoenix, continuing from fall, last seen 27 December, see *intro*.

Belted Kingfisher: 4 Syr CBC 15 Dec; reports of singles/pairs throughout Region.

Red-headed Woodpecker: singles Bville, New Woodstock, Skan; only reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 Skan CBC 30 Dec.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles overwinter at HI, Cazenovia, Otisco Lake, Skan, Marcellus.

Downy Woodpecker: max 15 Verona area 1 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 11 Kirkville 29 Dec.

N. Flicker: max 6 HI 10 Jan; 4 Coldbrook 15 Feb; 7 Osw CBC 16 Dec; singles not uncommon.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 8 Old Forge 17 Dec (GL); 5 HI 10 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: max 2 Oswego 11 Jan & Rainbow Shores 12 Jan; singles reported.

Blue Jay: max 54 Cazenovia area 29 Dec.

Am. Crow: max 15,817 fly-in to Syr roost 15 Dec (GH); 25,575 Syr CBC 15 Dec.

Fish Crow: max 9 OnonL 27 Feb.

Com. Raven: max 8 Fairfield 15 Jan; also 8 BLNC 14 Dec; increasing numbers wintering.

Horned Lark: max 175 Manheim 2 Dec; 150 Bville 18-25 Jan (JB); otherwise low numbers.

CAVE SWALLOW: Derby Hill 4 Dec (BP, TC), flying west.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 174 Cazenovia area 29 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 16 Pville 26 Dec, traveling count; widespread at feeders.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Oswego 17 Feb; 11 Syr CBC 15 Dec; moderately good numbers in some areas.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 13 Cazenovia area 29 Dec.

Brown Creeper: max 5 FH 17 Feb; 4 Camden 12 Dec, 29 Jan, 19 Feb; 11 Syr CBC 15 Dec; generally uncommon.

Carolina Wren: max 7 Fville ECT 15 Dec; reports mainly from ONON/ONEI.

Winter Wren: max 3 CM 24 Feb; none reported after Jan.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 6 Nelson Swamp 18 Feb; uncommon.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Cazenovia 23 Dec-18 Feb (JS, JR), rare in winter.

E. Bluebird: max 14 CM 9 Dec; 20 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 16 Osw CBC 16 Dec; 7 HI 10 Jan.

Hermit Thrush: 5 individuals reported.

Am. Robin: max 75 SFNS 6 Feb; 54 CM 7 Dec; 145 Syr CBC 15 Dec; flocks size increases in Feb.

VARIED THRUSH: ad m Fulton 18 Jan (DWo!), no photos but description provided.

Gray Catbird: DeWitt 5, 7, 10 Jan; Syr 15 Feb.

N. Mockingbird: widespread reports of singles and pairs; 17 Syr CBC 15 Dec.

European Starling: max 2000 MCL 17 Jan.

Am. Pipit: max 2 Bville 23 Jan, with Horned Larks; Elbridge fish hatchery 17-22 Feb, rare in winter.

Bohemian Waxwing: arr Bville 23 Jan (AVN); max 350 SFNS 27 Feb (MP), unprecedented numbers at SFNS despite low food resources; 170 Rainbow Shores 3 Feb (BP).

Cedar Waxwing: max 225 SFNS 22 Feb; 125 Pulaski 1 Jan, relatively scarce.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr DeRuyter 29 Dec; max 10 Bville 23 Jan (JB), excellent number; juv Tully bird feeder 30 Dec (GH); 3 Canastota 2 - 3 Jan; Bville 22 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 400 Stockbridge 5 Jan; 260 Bville 24 Jan; 205 Sauquoit 17 Jan; low numbers before Jan.

Com. Yellowthroat: Waterville 13 Dec (RW), only report.

Pine Warbler: Jamesville 25 Dec (AF, ph).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 7 OLC 15 Dec; singles/small numbers same area thru 1 Jan; one Oswego Harbor 11 Feb.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S): continues from fall OLC 4 - 15 Dec (mob, ph, NYSARC).

WILSON'S WARBLER (R5): ad male continues OLC 7 - 15 Dec (mob, ph).

SPARROWS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 3 reports; male SH 30 Dec; male Elbridge 5 Jan; fem New Woodstock 23 Jan.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 426 Onei CBC 1 Jan; generally good numbers.

Chipping Sparrow: Tully 17 Feb (CT), adequately described, rare in winter.

Field Sparrow: 2 reports; one Manheim 1 Jan; one Bville 19 Dec; rare in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: Lysander 1 Jan (JT, JB, ph), seen gritting on edge of road; rare in winter.

Fox Sparrow: 5 records; Syracuse mid Dec thru 17 Feb (DE, ph); rare in winter.

Song Sparrow: max 10 UM 14 Dec; 9 Osw CBC 16 Dec; 11 Skan CBC 30 Dec.

Swamp Sparrow: max 3 HI 10 Jan; 3 UM 15 Dec; scarce.

White-throated Sparrow: max 13 SFNS 15 Dec; 7 Fville ECT 15 Dec; 7 Elbridge 22 Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 imm Bville 8 Dec; 2 Canastota 1 Jan; 2 Bville 7 Jan; HI 10 Jan.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 94 Marcellus 30 Dec; widespread thru period.

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon): BLNC 7 Jan (JT!, DW, JB, ph, NYSARC).

N. Cardinal: max 47 Cazenovia area 29 Dec; 30 Onei CBC 1 Jan.

Red-winged Blackbird: arr & max 22 Bville 24 Feb (TC); 17 Dewitt 5 Jan; widespread reports of overwintering individuals and small flocks.

E. Meadowlark: no reports

Rusty Blackbird: max 3 New Woodstock 1 Jan (CS); 2 Canastota 2 – 3 Jan (BP, BB); 2 Elbridge 28 Feb (BW).

Com. Grackle: Skan CBC 30 Dec; arr SFNS 23 Feb; very few overwinter.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 150 New Woodstock 2 Dec (BB); 35 Dolgeville 7 Jan; 28 Mexico 11 Jan; increasing numbers overwinter.

Pine Grosbeak: max 6 Boylston 28 Dec (CS); 5 Tioghnio WMA 4 Dec (MY); 3 Marcellus 19 Jan; few other reports.

Purple Finch: a few reports of single birds and pairs but mostly absent from Region.

House Finch: max 76 Cazenovia 29 Dec; generally improving numbers.

Red Crossbill: max 3 flying west DH 4 Dec (BP) & 3 same location 12 Jan; few reports.

White-winged Crossbill: max 22 TR 13 Jan; 7 Syr 8 Dec; few reports.

Com. Redpoll: max 300 SH; 215 Verona area 1 Jan; common & widespread throughout Reg.

Hoary Redpoll: 11 ind reported.

Pine Siskin: max 16 Utica 15 Dec; 15 DR 9 Dec; mostly absent from Region as winter progressed.

Am. Goldfinch: max 80 Barneveld 17 Feb; 201 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 170 Onei CBC 1 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: max 80 New Woodstock 23 Jan; 40 Boylston 19 Jan; common at feeders in SH.

House Sparrow: max 109 Syr CBC 15 Dec.