

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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By all accounts the winter of 2013-14 was a harsh one characterized by lower than average temperatures, persistent snow and ice cover, and very few winter thaws. In Syracuse the average temperature for December was 27.9° F, which is 1.5° cooler than normal. The lowest temperature for the month was -3° recorded on 17 December and precipitation was just barely below average. In January the amount of precipitation was again just under the norm in Syracuse, but the average temperature of 19.9° was 3.7° lower than normal. The low temperature in Syracuse for January was -12° on the 22nd. On the same date, to the east in the Town of Kirkland, a low of -17° was recorded. Those lows seem relatively balmy when compared to the reading of -35° recorded in Old Forge in the Adirondacks on 21 January. The same location remained immersed in a deep freeze for three more days, moderating slightly to -25°. February was also significantly colder. The average temperature in Syracuse was 20.9°, which is 5.0° lower than normal. Precipitation amounts were also higher for the month, and a total of 41.3" of snow fell in Syracuse. As usual snowfall amounts varied greatly across our Region, with northern Onondaga and Oswego Counties receiving the lion's share of lake-effect snows.

Deep and persistent snow cover always presents a challenge for birds, but when combined with extreme low temperatures, a greater than average mortality rate is to be expected. Surviving the cold requires a greater expenditure of energy which in turn necessitates the intake of more calories. The large amount of wild food present early in the season was expected to provide a decent buffer and insure greater bird survival rates, but a few observers said that much of the bounty seemed to disappear by mid-winter. In southern Oneida County, Matt Perry noted that most of the heavily-laden buckthorn trees and wild grape vines dropped their fruit after several bouts of extreme low temperatures. What became a scarcity of food in some areas forced foragers including large flocks of American Robins to expend more energy and to cover greater distance in search of sustenance.

Virtually all of the Region's lakes were covered by ice earlier than normal—or at least what in recent times has become the norm. Oneida Lake was frozen over by mid-December, which coincides with the Region's first CBCs. Skaneateles Lake oscillated a few times between being open and frozen—that is until early February when it finally froze over for the duration. The extensive ice that developed in near-shore areas of Lake Ontario forced waterfowl into

increasingly smaller areas of open water. The ice can also be blamed for pushing Red-breasted Mergansers onto rivers and smaller lakes where they are normally uncommon in winter. By mid-February intensive fishing by diving ducks in confined areas of Oswego Harbor led to a diminished food supply and ultimately to starvation. Similar starvation events were noted in other parts of the Great Lakes region. Experts fear that this possibly unprecedented phenomenon could be responsible for the deaths of thousands of birds around Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. As far as we could determine, in Region 5, the total number of carcasses found was around 100. Most were Red-breasted Mergansers, which were found dead along the Lake Ontario shore or alive but far from water; exhausted and disoriented birds became stranded on roads and in residential yards. Jean Soprano of Kindred Kingdoms Rehabilitation Center in Pennellville reported beginning to take in starving waterfowl on 15 February, and birds continued to arrive at the facility through the end of the period. Most of the ducks in her care recovered and were later released, but a few also sustained injuries from vehicle impacts and predators and had to be euthanized. Most of the emaciated waterfowl brought to Soprano were Red-breasted Mergansers, but other casualties included Long-tailed Duck, Ruddy Duck, and Horned Grebe. The important work of wildlife rehabilitators cannot be emphasized enough.

This year's high counts for Snow Goose were far more modest than last year's. The Clinton CBC tallied nearly 70,000 in 2012 but didn't manage to get out of the low single digits in 2013. A high count of 1,250 on Cazenovia Lake on 12 December suggests the bulk of the migration preceded most CBCs, although the Oswego-Fulton CBC did report a respectable 3,620 Snow Geese on 15 December. This period there were two reports each of Brant and Cackling Goose. Gadwall was one of few dabbling ducks that was reported more often than usual, and sometimes they numbered in double digits. Most of Onondaga Lake froze for good in early February but the usual spots remained open. In Syracuse, Onondaga Lake's Inner Harbor became a haven for waterfowl. The birds' close proximity to shore afforded very good viewing. Some respectable numbers of Redheads were reported from the usual places, and a few showed up in unexpected corners of the Region, including on the Mohawk River east of Utica and on Tully Lake. Rarities included a King Eider, found by Jim Tarolli on the Oswego River on 12 January, which remained for nearly two weeks. A mile upriver Mary Magistro found an adult male **Harlequin Duck** feeding with Common Goldeneye on 28 February, a great find for the last day of the reporting period. All three scoter species were seen in the Region, but only White-winged Scoters appeared in number. A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found by David Wheeler on 19 February and was seen on-and-off in the open water at Brewerton where the Oneida River flows into Oneida Lake. Red-throated Loon was found at Oswego and Onondaga Lake, but none lingered after 20 December. No Common Loons were found beyond 19 January. All three common grebe species were found, with Horned Grebe being fairly widespread.

There were some relatively high counts of overwintering Great Blue Heron but only in a few places. The lack of open water in most of the Region made the

species scarcer than it has been in recent winters. The same thing could be said for Belted Kingfisher. No Black-crowned Night-Herons were found overwintering at Onondaga Lake, at least temporarily dashing hopes that the species would become a perennial winter highlight. Lin Garrepy managed to find and photograph a pair of **Black Vultures** in Manlius on 30 December. This species is found in our Region only rarely and never before in mid-winter. Turkey Vultures have wintered in the DeWitt/Fayetteville area for years, and this season's harsh weather didn't seem to discourage them much. Tony Shrimpton found a roost site in his suburban neighborhood and kept track of it as the numbers grew during late January and February, eventually noting as many as 36 birds in early February.

Five **Golden Eagles** were observed in the Region, all in mid-January. Happily, this species does seem to be becoming a more reliable presence in winter. In Skaneateles, Ken Burdick watched an adult and a juvenile Golden Eagle fly over with a Common Raven trailing close behind. Burdick speculated that the raven may have been attempting to escort the larger birds out of its territory. Bald Eagles are common winter residents throughout much of the Region. Whether they are staking out open water or feeding on carrion, pictures of the majestic species have become a staple of local media. An unprecedented high count of 39 Bald Eagles was tallied by Bill Purcell on 10 January at Onondaga Lake. There were around 25 reports of Northern Harrier from around the Region, which seemed rather high given the harshness of the season. One female was seen mobbing a Snowy Owl in a large open field in Fairfield. On the Seneca River in Baldwinsville on 20 February, Gregg Dashnau observed a Harrier standing on ice and feeding on a gull, unusual fare for that species. Cooper's Hawks were not uncommon, and most well stocked feeding stations had them as regular visitors. There were nine reports of Red-shouldered Hawks, almost all occurring in January. Such a relatively high number is unexpected in the midst of a harsh winter. Rough-legged Hawks were present this winter but not in especially good numbers due to snow depth. The most reliable places to find them were in central Herkimer County and in western Oneida County. Though not unprecedented in winter, Wilson's Snipe was a great find. The bird was carefully identified by Eddie Harlow and Matt Brunelle. The sighting didn't surprise them so much since they had recently observed and photographed another wintering snipe just to the east of Region 5.

Gulls largely avoided wintering sites along the Oswego River and at Oswego Harbor, but good numbers did appear on Onondaga Lake and at the Madison County Landfill. Early on, the southern shore of Oneida Lake was also fairly productive. By early January the Syracuse Inner Harbor had gull diversity on full display. 18 Iceland Gulls found on 6 February were likely a new Regional high for a single location. All but one were first-cycle birds. At the same location on 4 February, a presumed **Thayer's Gull** was photographed and carefully documented by David Wheeler and Lewis Grove. As it sat nicely juxtaposed with Herring and Iceland Gulls, birders were afforded an excellent opportunity to compare plumage details in those species. On 15 January Wheeler found a first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull, a rarely-seen plumage

in the Region. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were ultimately found at three locations this winter. On 14 February birders got an unusual look at both light and dark extremes of first-cycle Glaucous Gull in the same scope view.

Seven species of owl were found this season. The most interesting owl news was by no means limited to Region 5 or to New York State. Snowy Owls were commonplace this winter and appeared just about everywhere there was suitable habitat. It was almost guaranteed that if a given site had ever hosted a Snowy Owl in its history, it had one this year. Many local media outlets ran stories and pictures of the enigmatic species. Our Region's biggest concentration was found at Hancock Airport in Syracuse, where a maximum of seven was counted on 6 December. Other areas also hosted multiple birds. In a few square miles in the Town of Fairfield in Herkimer County, visitors were almost guaranteed to come up with three or four Snowys without putting in a great amount of time and effort. There were two reports of Long-eared Owl, which is encouraging since this secretive species is so often missed. Short-eared Owl reports came mostly from their traditional haunts in western Oneida County, but others were located in the Region including two found by Heather Perretta in the Town of Russia in Herkimer County. Beaver Lake Nature Center continues to be the most reliable spot in the Region to find overwintering Northern Saw-whet Owls. On 6 December a single N. Saw-whet Owl was found on the Bog Trail. That bird remained for the rest of the period and was briefly joined by a second Saw-whet on 2 February. There were two more reports of single N. Saw-whet Owls from other locations.

A juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker was reported by Linda Salter from the Southern Highlands of Madison County. There were just under 10 reports of overwintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and those reports spanned the period. A single Black-backed Woodpecker was reported in Old Forge by Gary Lee. Northern Herkimer County is the only place in the Region where that species is likely to be found. Northern Flickers were more common than normal. Perhaps this is best exemplified by the 17 tallied on the Syracuse CBC on 14 December. Merlin sightings were widespread; nearly 20 reports put them on par with the number of American Kestrel reports. One Merlin in the Town of Marshall reportedly picked off a Snow Bunting that had been flying at the periphery of a large flock. Peregrine Falcons were seen in Syracuse, Utica, and Oswego. A few single Peregrines were also observed in other areas, primarily in the western half of the Region. Northern Shrike sightings were also concentrated more in the west and few were reported south of Syracuse. Horned Larks became more numerous as the season progressed, and some fairly good numbers were observed in the Southern Highlands and in areas east. The number of Carolina Wrens reported was somewhat less than normal, and this harsh winter will have done their population little good. The same might be said for Northern Mockingbirds.

The numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets rebounded this year after a relatively small population overwintered the previous year. A healthy total of 31 was counted on the Clinton CBC. A single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen and photographed at the Cazenovia residence of Jeanne Ryan. The bird was seen

making multiple visits to a suet feeder. Interestingly, this is the third consecutive winter that a Ruby-crowned Kinglet has been found at the location, likely the same individual. Three Hermit Thrushes were reported but none were found after 4 January. Large flocks of American Robins were reported largely from the southern half of the Region. On 16 February Richard Cohen counted 500 in the vicinity of Woodman Pond in Madison County. Five Gray Catbirds overwintered, at least two of them successfully. A Brown Thrasher made frequent visits to the Kirkland birdfeeder of Ian Rosenstein and continued to at least the end of February. An American Pipit was found in Fabius by Matt Young and his party during the New Woodstock CBC on 30 December. Last winter the Region experienced a great influx of Bohemian Waxwings. This year we were not to be so blessed despite the season's better food reserves. Just as the winter finches they are often associated with, they were mostly missed this season. There were only two credible reports of Bohemians this winter, and one was a relatively unsatisfying flyover.

There were about 20 reports of Lapland Longspur, mostly of singles and small numbers. Snow Buntings were well represented this year, and some large concentrations were reported primarily from expected areas. Warblers are scarce during normal winters and only a few Yellow-rumps attempted to make it through this one. Most reports came from Rice Creek Field Station near Oswego, while a handful of Myrtles were also found at Howland Island. One was observed and photographed by Alfred McDowell at his Little Falls residence on 14-16 February. The bird was seen repeatedly trying to feed on the berries in a decorative wreath hanging on his door. One Field Sparrow was observed with a mixed group of more typical winter sparrows on 2 February at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland. Am. Tree Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow numbers were generally good. Two Fox Sparrows overwintered in the Region as did three White-crowned Sparrows. This includes one that likely had no choice due to an injured wing.

The male Rose-breasted Grosbeak continued from fall at an Elbridge feeder to at least 14 December. This winter-season rarity had been photographed by Steve Schwab when it originally appeared at his home in November. There were five reports of Rusty Blackbird. David Nash found five at the Clay Marsh on 2 December, and two months later Joe Brin located six Rusties in the Village of Jordan along the Erie Canal trail, a known refuge for half-hardies. A single report of Pine Grosbeak came from Constantia and with one lone Pine Siskin in Baldwinsville constituted our entire supply of winter finches. Even common finches failed to appear in any real numbers this season. Purple Finch numbers, such as they were, tended to build in the second half of the season and primarily in the south and east. Some isolated areas did see fair numbers of American Goldfinch.

A total of 135 species was found for this period, which is six species higher than the last decade's average. The highlights included: Cackling Goose, **King Eider**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Black Vulture**, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, **Golden Eagle**, **Wilson's Snipe**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Thayer's Gull**, **Snowy Owl**, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N

Saw-whet Owl, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, Gray Catbird, **Brown Thrasher**, Bohemian Waxwing, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak.

The winter season produced 22,488 eBird records which were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks (n. HERK); BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Bville – Baldwinsville; BW – Baltimore Woods; Brew – Oneida L at Brewerton; Canas – Canastota; Caz – Cavenovia L; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; Dvl – Durhamville; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; Hast – Hastings; HI – Howland I WMA; HR – Hinckley Res; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; NH – New Haven; NSyr – North Syracuse; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; OtisL – Otisco L; RCFS – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; SBP – Sunset Bay P, T Scriba; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature

Center, Sterling; SPd – Sandy Pd; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; SVB – Sylvan & Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; VBSP – Verona Beach SP; WP – Woodman Pond, Hamilton; WW – West Winfield, s. HERK.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1250 Caz 12 Dec; 3620 Oswego/Fulton CBC 15 Dec; GLSP 11 Jan; arr OLC 22 Feb.

Brant: FH 4 Dec; OnonL 7 Dec; only reports.

Cackling Goose: Mexico 9 Dec (WF); Bridgeport 19 Jan (BB); only reports.

Canada Goose: max 5000 BLNC 7 Dec; 2000 OneiL 8 Dec; 2100 Skan 31 Dec; only small numbers winter east.

Mute Swan: max 68 FH 19 Jan; 10 OshW 25 Jan; 12 OLC 18 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: 7 FH 13 Jan; 10 Brew 27 Feb; 3 Bville 11 Feb.

Tundra Swan: max 169 Const 1 Dec; 8 Oswego 9 Dec; 17 Skan 16 Dec; 17 OLC 4, 5 Jan; most sightings OneiL.

Wood Duck: 2 Fulton 19 Dec, 25 Jan; 2 Sterling 19 Jan; about a dozen singles reported.

Gadwall: max 26 SBP 28 Dec; 20 OnonL 4 Jan; 17 OLC 4 Feb; many reports of singles & small numbers.

Am. Wigeon: max 11 SBP 28 Dec; 10 FH 23 Feb; singles & small numbers.

Am. Black Duck: max 62 Herkimer 29 Jan; 35 Bville 15 Feb; 31 CM 23 Feb; 52 Brew 28 Feb.

Mallard: 486 OnonL 14 Dec; max 500 HR 1 Jan; 475 Bville 22 Feb.

Am. Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid); 2 DB 19 Jan; 2 Little Falls 8 Feb; 8 other singles.

N. Shoveler: OLC 11 Dec; OshW 11 Dec; WP 16 Feb; only reports.

N. Pintail: Fayetteville 14 Dec; OneiL 23 Dec; OnonL 26 Dec; Bville 20 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: Syr 14 Dec; Poland 8 Jan; DeWitt 21 Jan; Brew 28 Feb; only reports.

Redhead: max 400 OnonL 22 Dec, 400 Skan 12 Jan; 127 Bville 22 Feb; some reports from unusual locs.

Canvasback: 10 OshW 20 Jan; 6 FH 4 Feb; 6 OLC 18 Feb; 12 Brew 28 Feb; relatively small numbers.

Ring-necked Duck: max 122 Eaton 3 Dec; 120 OnonL 22 Dec; 50 OshW 12 Jan.

Greater Scaup: max 800 OshW 1 Dec; 40 OnonL 20 Dec; 145 FH 2 Feb; 100 Brew 22 Feb; widespread.

Lesser Scaup: max 143 OnonL 14 Dec; 140 OshW 8 Jan; 26 Phoenix 4 Feb.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 750 OneiL 4 Dec.

aythya species: max 150 Skan 5 Jan.

King Eider: imm m. FH 1-4 Dec (KM); f OshW 12-24 Jan (JTa!, mob, ph); only reports.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (R5): ad. m. Oswego River 28 Feb (MM!, mob, ph).

Surf Scoter: DH 8 Jan; ad. m. Oswego River 8-22 Feb (DW); only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 197 OshW 19 Jan; 127 FH 1 Feb; a few reports away from Lake Ontario.

Black Scoter: max 3 DH 1 Dec; 2 OshW 17 Jan; 4 other reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 470 SP 2 Dec; 250 OshW 30 Jan; 100 FH 2 Feb; a few away from Lake Ontario.

Bufflehead: 27 Otisco Lake 3 Dec; max 30 OneiL 10 Dec; 28 OnonL 22 Dec; 17 FH 1 Feb.

Com. Goldeneye: 600 OnonL 14 Dec; 199 OtisL 20 Dec; 200 Brew 17 Jan; 250 OshW 17 Feb.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R5): f Brew 19-22 Feb (DW!, mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 436 OtisL 3 Dec (KRB), good number; 133 OnonL 13 Dec; widespread reports.

Com. Merganser: 700 Brew 18 Dec; 3500 OnonL 20 Dec; 150 Skan 5 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: 150 FH 4 Dec; 125 OnonL 23 Dec; max 194 OshW 19 Jan; many starved, *intro*.

Ruddy Duck: max 12 WP 2 Dec; 4 OneiL 4 Dec; 6 OnonL 4 Jan; Pulaski 16 Feb (JS), starved & injured, euthanized.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 Rome CBC 15 Dec; f Hamilton 5-10 Jan; 3 other reports.

Ruffed Grouse: 3 Kirkland 21 Dec; 3 Waterville 31 Dec; 30 reports of singles and pairs.

Wild Turkey: max 84 Fairfield 27 Dec, 21 Jan; 75 Poland 1 Feb; 80 SH 4 Feb; generally low numbers.

Red-throated Loon: OshW 9-15 Dec; OnonL 19-20 Dec; only reports.

Com. Loon: 2 OtisL 3 Dec; 2 FH 4 Dec; max 4 OshW 9 Dec; singles thru 19 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Bville 4-13 Jan; 2 OshW 10 Jan; max 5 OnonL 19 Jan.

Horned Grebe: 3 Skan 8 Jan; max 5 OLC 25 Jan; 4 Fulton 25 Jan; 2 Oswego 13 Feb; fairly widespread.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 WP 7 Dec; OnonL 3, 4 Feb; 2 Phoenix 6 Feb; singles reported mostly OnonL.

Double-crested Cormorant: 35 FH 4 Dec; max 100 OLC 8 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: 6 Fulton 15 Dec; 5 Bville 11 Feb; max 12 OLC 10 Jan, 18 Feb; fewer overwinter.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

BLACK VULTURE (R5): 2 Manlius 30 Dec (LG!), NB, ph), first Reg record for winter.

Turkey Vulture: SNC 14 Jan; Tully 20 Jan, unusual loc; 25 Fayetteville 2 Feb, growing to max 36 early Feb at roost site (TS!); over 20 reports Syr area.

Golden Eagle: ad Erieville/Eaton 13 Jan (BW), 30 Jan (SH), 8 Feb (KP); Dolgeville 16 Jan (BLH); 2 Skan 19 Jan (KRB).

Bald Eagle: 4 Remsen 7 Dec; 7 OswH 19 Dec; 7 Minetto 3, 31 Jan; 39 OnonL 10 Jan (BP); 5 Fulton 25 Jan; great numbers.

N. Harrier: 4 Oswego/Fulton CBC 15 Dec; Fairfield 29 Dec, mobbing Snowy Owl; Bville 20 Feb, fed on gull; 25 singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: widespread reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 Clay 14 Dec; 8 Syracuse CBC 14 Dec; 2 Waterville 31 Dec.

N. Goshawk: Clay 14 Dec (DN), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Rome 1, 23 Dec; juv Verona 1 Jan; Hast 3, 30 Jan; Fayetteville 15 Feb; 9 reports, most in Jan.

Red-tailed Hawk: 3 NSyr 23 Dec; 3 SFNS 1 Jan; 55 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; fair but not exceptional numbers.

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 Rome CBC 15 Dec; 10 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; 3 Deerfield Hill 25 Feb; 3 Fairfield 29 Dec, 5 Jan.

Am. Coot: 55 OnonL 8 Dec; 40 OswH 19 Dec; max 80 Skan 19 Dec.

Killdeer: arr DB 21 Feb; 4 OnonL 23 Feb; only reports.

Wilson's Snipe: Salisbury 10 Jan (MB, EH); arr SH 22 Feb; rare in winter.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 125 OneiL 2 Dec; 8 OnonL 5 Dec; none after 6 Jan.

THAYER'S GULL: 1st-winter OnonL 4 Feb (DW!), LG!, ph, NYSARC).

Iceland Gull: 5 OneiL 11 Dec; 7 MCL 21 Jan; max 18 OnonL 6 Feb (DW, BP), probable reg record number for single loc.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1000 OnonL 5, 23 Dec; 1251 Syracuse CBC 14 Dec; 657 Oswego 4 Feb.

Herring Gull: 1000 OneiL 11 Dec; 750 MCL 11 Dec; 2400 OnonL 22 Feb (MI), impressive count.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 OneiL 11 Dec (DW); 2 OnonL 14 Dec (WF); max 3 MCL 30 Jan (SH).

Glaucous Gull: max 5 OnonL 10 Jan (BP); 3 MCL 15 Jan; most reports from expected locs.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: MCL 11 Dec (DW); OnonL 2 Feb (DW); Bville 22 Feb (MI); only reports.

Great Black-backed Gull: 75 OneiL 11 Dec; max 215 OnonL 7 Feb; 120 Bville 15 Feb; generally good numbers.

gull species: 1000 OnonL 19, 20 Dec.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 345 Bville 13 Jan; 254 Tully 8 Feb; 240 Brewerton 28 Feb.

Mourning Dove: 55 Hannibal 15 Dec; 57 Westmoreland 21 Dec; 98 Dolgeville 29 Dec.

E. Screech-Owl: max 3 Canas 1 Jan; Clinton 4 Feb; NSyr 22 Feb; only around 12 reports.

Great Horned Owl: 2 NSyr 7 Dec, 1 Jan; 2 Mexico 15 Jan; max 3 SH 29 Jan; 2 SH 10 Feb.

Snowy Owl: max 7 Hancock Airport 6 Dec (GD); 3 OswH 8, 9 Dec; 3 SH 12 Dec; 4 Fairfield 29 Dec; 3 Paris 21 Dec; *intro*.

Barred Owl: 2 Minoa 3 Dec; 2 Norway 20 Jan; 8 reports of singles.

Long-eared Owl: BLNC 5 Jan (JB); max 2 TR 10 Jan (GD); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 Dvl 1 Jan (BB, MV); 11 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; 2 Russia 28 Feb (HP, ph).

N. Saw-whet Owl: BLNS 6 Dec thru; Pompey 29 Dec; TR 14 Jan; max 2 BLNC 20 Feb; only reports.

Belted Kingfisher: WW 17 Dec; CM 18 Dec; BW 23 Dec; SFNS 3 Feb; Bville, 15 Feb; fewer records than usual.

Red-headed Woodpecker: juv SH 10 Feb, only report.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 10 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; 5 SNC 14 Jan; max 6 HI 16 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 Syr CBC 14 Dec; St. Mary's Cemetery 14 Dec; Skan 10 Feb; less than 10 reports.

Downy Woodpecker: max 7 SFNS 21 Dec; 7 UM 28 Dec; 6 GB 31 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: 3 Verona 1 Jan; 3 HI 13 Jan; 3 Dolgeville 25 Jan–25 Feb; 3 Camden 30 Jan.

Black-backed Woodpecker: OF 14 Dec (GL), only report.

N. Flicker: 4 Hannibal 15 Dec; 19 Syr CBC 14 Dec; 4 Fulton 15 Dec; max 5 SNC 14 Jan.

Pileated Woodpecker: 3 GLSP 18 Jan; 3 HI 16 Feb; 3 Elbridge 18 Feb.

Am. Kestrel: m Fairfield 29 Dec; 2 Verona 1 Jan; about 20 reports of singles.

Merlin: 2 Syr CBC 14 Dec; Augusta Center 2 Jan; Marshal 5 Jan; Salisbury 31 Jan; DB 1 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: pr Utica thru; pr Syr 31 Jan, 11 Feb; singles Bville, Clay, Fulton, OswH, Verona.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: juv. TR 8 Dec; Bville 26 Dec, 22 Feb; CM 1 Jan; SH 30 Jan, 12 Feb; over 40 reports, few in east.

Blue Jay: 26 Dolgeville 2 Jan; 24 Elbridge 5 Jan; 22 DH 22 Feb; good numbers overwinter.
Am. Crow: max 5550 Syr 14 Dec; 1321 Utica 19 Dec; 1671 DH 22 Feb.

Fish Crow: 15 Syr CBC 14 Dec; 11 OnonL 10 Jan (BP); all reports from OnonL.

Com. Raven: 8 SFNS 13 Dec, high number for loc; 7 Cold Brook 10 Feb; max 11 Limekiln, Adks 25 Feb.

Horned Lark: max 80 Munnsville 21 Jan; 75 New Woodstock 9 Feb; 75 Sauquoit 18, 23 Feb.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 58 SFNS 21 Dec; 260 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; 29 Cold Brook 23 Jan.

Tufted Titmouse: max 8 SFNS 21 Dec; 29 Oneida CBC 1 Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 BLNC 1 Dec; 3 Georgetown 30 Dec; max 6 SH 30 Jan; generally poor numbers.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 6 OLC 14 Dec; 5 SFNS 21 Dec; 6 Elbridge 5 Jan; 6 Camden 31 Jan.

Brown Creeper: 4 BLNC 7 Dec; 3 SFNS 21 Dec; max 6 Camden 20 Jan.

Winter Wren: TR 10 Dec; UM 28 Dec; Dewitt 4 Jan; SFNS 12 Jan; one other report.

Carolina Wren: 2 CM 1-2 Dec; 2 DeWitt 14 Dec; 12 Syr CBC 14 Dec; mostly singles in expected areas.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 7 SFNS 21 Dec; 31 Clinton CBC 21 Dec; 5 BLNC 12 Jan; 5 Camden 20 Jan-27 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Caz 14-17 Dec (JR, ph), 3rd consecutive winter at same loc.

E. Bluebird: 9 CM 14 Dec; max 10 Hannibal 15 Dec; 8 Mexico 22 Dec; 8 Camden 31 Jan.

Hermit Thrush: max 2 OLC 8-23 Dec (AW, mob), one thru 2 Jan; RCFS 4 Jan; only reports.

Am. Robin: 195 Clay 14 Dec; 200 SFNS 11, 12 Feb; max 500 WP 16 Feb; large flocks in southern half of Reg.

Gray Catbird: Mexico 9 Dec; Elbridge 14 Dec - 19 Feb (KRB); SFNS 18 Dec; OLC 22, 23 Dec; only records.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Clay 2 Dec; 2 Bville 1 Jan; 2 OLC 5 Jan; 2 GLSP 12 Jan; max 3 DeWitt 17 Jan.

Brown Thrasher: Kirkland thru (IR, ph),

frequently birdfeeder, rare in winter.

European Starling: 1000 MCL 5 Jan; 1000 OLC 11 Jan; 784 Fabius 21 Jan.

Am. Pipit: Fabius 30 Dec (MY), only report.

Bohemian Waxwing: 20 Syr 22 Dec (KW); 2 Const 27 Jan (MS); only reports.

Cedar Waxwing: 250 SSSP 1 Dec; max 260 SPd 1 Jan; 250 NH 1 Jan; best counts from OSWE.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 15 Manheim 9 Dec (BLH, EH); 3 DB 18 Dec; 3 New Woodstock 9 Feb; around 20 reports.

Snow Bunting: max 750 BRH 24 Dec; 750 Munnsville 21 Jan; 1111 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; good numbers.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 9 Oswego Fulton CBC 15 Dec; max 6 RCFS 4 Jan (WF); 3 HI 13 Jan; Little Falls 14-16 Feb.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Elbridge 28 Jan, 15 Feb; max 2 Elbridge 30 Jan (KRB); f Volney 13 Feb thru.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 43 CM 14 Dec; 254 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; max 61 Dolgeville 19 Feb; 50 SFNS 13 Feb.

Field Sparrow: SFNS 2 Feb (MP); only report.

Fox Sparrow: NSyr 14 - 18 Dec (DN); SH 11 Feb (LS); only reports.

Song Sparrow: 3 SFNS 8 Dec; 3 Little Falls 27 Dec; max 5 OnonL 23 Dec, 9 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 Bville 2 Feb; 2 other reports of singles.

White-throated Sparrow: max 27 SFNS 21 Dec; 11 Dewitt 17 Jan; 12 Elbridge 7 Feb; generally good numbers.

White-crowned Sparrow: 9 Dec thru (BLH), injured wing; 2 Elbridge 14 Feb (JB, JT); only reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: 248 Oneida CBC 1 Jan; max 30 BLNC 9 Jan; 25 Mexico 10 Jan.

N. Cardinal: max 15 SFNS 21 Dec & CM 1 Jan; 12 Dewitt 4 Jan; 12 Elbridge 17 Feb.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK (R5): continuing m. Elbridge thru 14 Dec (SS! ph), very rare in winter.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 12 CM 25 Dec; less than 10 singles thru 31 Jan; arr 22 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: Fulton 12 Dec, only report.

Rusty Blackbird: max 5 CM 2 Dec; SH 30 Jan; 6 Jordan 1 Feb; 2 Elbridge 17 Feb; one other report.

Com. Grackle: max 2 Kirkland 21 Dec; Clay 24 Dec; BLNC 15 Jan; 2 GLSP 17 Feb; only reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 15 Elbridge 14 Dec; max 30 Westmoreland 21 Dec; 12 Clinton 20

The Kingbird 2014 June; 64 (2)

Jan; fair numbers.

Pine Grosbeak: f or imm Constantia 19 Dec (MS), only report.

Purple Finch: max 10 Camden 20 Jan & Marcy 13 Feb; 8 Dolgeville 29 Jan; 5 SH 11 Feb; more common after mid Jan.

House Finch: 18 CM 2 Dec; 17 SH 8 Dec; 17 Lake Neatahwanta 19 Dec; max 20 NSyr 26

Dec; low numbers.

Pine Siskin: Bville 15 Feb, only report.

Am. Goldfinch: 53 Waterville 14 Dec; 72 Dolgeville 2 Feb; 60 DeWitt 16 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

House Sparrow: max 148 Liverpool 14 Dec; 119 DeWitt 26 Dec.

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