

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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It seems the harsh winter we experienced last year was only a dress-rehearsal for this winter. Persistent snow and ice cover as well as prolonged periods of arctic cold characterized the season and proved a challenge for birds and birders alike. It's hard to fathom now, but the period actually began on a more moderate note. The average temperature in Syracuse in December was 32° F, which is 2.7° higher than normal. The total snowfall for the month was 17.5", which was 15" below average. By January, temperatures plummeted. In Syracuse the average temperature for the month was 17.3°, which is 6.3° cooler than normal. The lowest temperature in the city was gauged at -11°, which occurred on 14 January. In the Region's higher elevations and rural valleys much lower temperatures were recorded, but even in the city there were 10 days in which the mercury fell below zero during the month. Snowfall for January was around 18", or close to half the average, but since there was never a thaw, any snow that fell remained on the ground for the duration. February was by far the most extreme month of the period. The average temperature was only 9°, a remarkable 16.9° lower than normal! In February there were 15 days when the temperature dipped below 0°. The lowest temperature recorded in Syracuse was -18°, which occurred on 24th of the month. Again, even lower temperatures were recorded in other parts of the Region. Sixty inches of snow fell in Syracuse in February, which is 34.7" above average. The greatest total for a single snowfall event in a 24-hour period was 9.6", which fell on 1-2 February. No thaw came as snow depth increased in many areas to over 3 feet.

Most of the Region's lakes were largely open through the CBC period. This made for some nice high tallies and decent waterfowl diversity on some Christmas Bird Counts. An exception was Skaneateles Lake, where Ken Burdick reported that both numbers and diversity were down from previous years. By the time of the Waterfowl Count (17-25 January), most of the Region's lakes were close to or completely frozen (though Skaneateles Lake didn't completely freeze

over until 11 February). Much of the waterfowl retreated to the rivers where some notable concentrations developed. By February, the Seneca River at Baldwinsville hosted a fair number of dabblers and divers. Stunned minnows passing over the spillway attracted mergansers and gulls. For the second year in a row the complete freezing of virtually all the Region's major bodies of water led to the death of an undetermined amount of fish-eating waterfowl. While claims of large numbers of dead ducks accumulating around the Lake Ontario shoreline couldn't be confirmed, what is indisputable is that beginning in February, a well above average number of diving ducks and grebes were being found stranded along roadsides, in parking lots, and in fields. Of the birds brought to wildlife rehabilitators, most were determined to be emaciated. Species rescued included: Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, and Red-necked Grebe.

But it wasn't just waterfowl that were getting into trouble; many raptors were also having problems finding prey. Deep snow allows rodent prey to remain hidden in tunnels systems. Hunger compelled many hawks and owls to perch along roadsides and wait for prey to emerge from snowbanks—or they sought roadkill. Too often, these raptors were being struck by vehicles while trying to secure food. At least 12 Barred Owls, almost all in February, were brought in to two of the Region's rehabilitation centers. Most were plucked out of roads and were subsequently found to be emaciated. About six E. Screech-Owls were also rescued. Most of those were found in weakened states, perched in yards—reportedly oblivious to the activities of humans and domestic animals. At his Waterville property, Bob Williams reported that a Northern Saw-whet Owl, which had been actively hunting around a feeding station during the day (likely a sign of desperation), was snatched in flight by a Cooper's Hawk! Unsurprisingly, given relentless arctic conditions, there was no perceptible flow of early migrants coming into the Region in late February.

On 6 December a half dozen **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found in a cornfield in the Town of Van Buren. The next day they were relocated in a nearby park, where five Cackling Geese were also present. In February two Trumpeter Swans were observed on the Seneca River in Baldwinsville. Unlike the handful of others found in the Region, these birds lingered for the duration of the period. At Fair Haven, a good maximum count of 90 Gadwalls was reported on 16 December. Black Ducks seemed more plentiful than normal on the Region's rivers and creeks, where they sometimes even managed to outnumber Mallards. Redhead tallies were generally good, particularly at Onondaga Lake, Oswego Harbor, and Baldwinsville. In fact the maximum number for Redheads (300) surpassed the high counts for all the other diving ducks except Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser. Canvasbacks, often completely missed in recent times, were reported in a few places albeit in small numbers. For the second winter in a row a **Harlequin Duck**, this time a female, was found in the Region. On 23 February, Josiah

LaCelle discovered and photographed the rarity, which was fishing in a piece of open water beneath the dam at Delta Lake. Despite its reputation for drawing in Bald Eagles, this location attracts few birders at this time of year; or at least few that report their sightings. On the Oswego River in Phoenix, Gregg Dashnau found a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** on 23 January. On the 31st, David Wheeler contributed a second female and both remained for the balance of the period. On 15 December a maximum of six Horned Grebe was counted on Onondaga Lake. In February, five were found stranded in various places around the Region and were brought to local wildlife rehabilitators. A maximum number of eight Red-necked Grebes was observed on Onondaga Lake on 14 December. In February, four came to rehabilitation centers after they too were found stranded. The majority of the rehabilitated grebes survived to be released. Numbers of wintering Great Blue Heron were down this winter, which is not surprising given the lack of open water. This period no Black-crowned Night- Herons were found at the Onondaga Lake Creek Walk, which is understandable given the harsh weather.

Several Turkey Vultures wintered in the greater Syracuse area, but Tony Shrimpton thought the numbers were down at the traditional location in the Fayetteville area. A few Golden Eagles graced the area this season, including at least one adult observed in Cazenovia on 8 December by Barbara and Larry Hall. Bald Eagles were relatively plentiful again this winter, and there were notable concentrations in expected areas. Sean Lanigan observed a pair of adults adding materials to a presumed Red-tailed Hawk nest in Oriskany on 18 January. One and sometimes two adult Northern Goshawks (presumed pair) were seen regularly in the Southern Highlands of Madison County near Sheds. There, Linda Salter keeps close tabs on local raptors and on the multitude of songbirds that frequent her well-stocked feeding stations. Red-tailed Hawk numbers were good this winter, though low temperatures and deep snow caused higher than normal mortality in their ranks. On 28 February, a juvenile female Red-tail found in Oriskany Falls was brought to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center (KKWC) in Pennellville. Rehabilitator Jean Soprano treated the bird for frostbite in both feet. As of this writing the hawk is expected to recover and be released. Another Red-tailed Hawk brought to KKWC had been discovered caught in a leghold trap in Manlius. The raptor was no doubt attracted to the trap by its bait. Though the incident was reported to the appropriate authorities, no investigation was initiated by State or Federal wildlife agencies. Is it too much to ask that the laws protecting raptors be enforced? Rough-legged Hawks wintered in the Region but not in good numbers. Through most of the season, birders were lucky to find lone individuals even in Herkimer and Oswego Counties, where multiples are more expected.

Early in the season gull activity was marginally good around Oneida Lake and at the Madison County Landfill. While traditional gull hotspots on the Oswego River were unproductive, Onondaga Lake and especially the Seneca River at Baldwinsville became the most reliable locations to find gull diversity.

Iceland and Glaucous Gulls of all ages were seen at the spot, but Lesser Black-backed was noticeably hard to come by. The main highlight came on 18 February when David Wheeler found an adult **Thayer's Gull** at Baldwinsville. The bird was extensively photographed both perched and in flight but seen only one day. Species status of Thayer's is often considered uncertain, but Wheeler performed extensive research using Olsen & Larsson's *Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia* and Howell & Dunn's *Gulls of the Americas* to document the field marks. Ignoring taxonomic issues, these references describe adult Thayer's as Iceland-like in structure with a small, rounded head, small bill, and eye often appearing closer to the middle of the head than on Herring. The bird is similar in size to Kumlien's Iceland and thus obviously smaller than any but a very few small Herrings. Back and wing color, as with the Baldwinsville bird, should be as dark as Herring if not a touch darker, and never lighter. The eye averages darker than Kumlien's and folded wingtips on perched birds usually show 50/50 black/white marks on the outer primary tips. The actual outer primary tip pattern, as seen from above, varies in Thayer's from Herring-like to Kumlien's-like, but if the bird can be separated from Herring on size and structure and overall impression of wingtips, then the following helps distinguish it from Kumlien's. Dark markings on the primary tips of Thayer's should be black or nearly so, rather than gray or dark gray. P10 may have a complete dark subterminal bar, or it may be partial, or just a hint as the pattern becomes more like Kumlien's (which should have no subterminal mark on P10). P5 should also be unmarked on Kumlien's, but marked in some way on Thayer's. Thayer's, with obvious markings on P5 and P10 should be safely separable from Kumlien's; more vague marks are at the Kumlien's end of the spectrum and may be hybrids especially if combined with other ambiguous features.

Primary tips on the Baldwinsville bird are clearly black, but the P5 and P10 marks, while present, are vague, putting it at the Kumlien's end of the spectrum. The case for Thayer's is also strengthened if the mirror on P9 is limited to the inner vane of the feather, rather than crossing the shaft and to the outer edge. Nonetheless, Thayer's on the Kumlien's end of the spectrum are shown in references with the mirror crossing, and this is the case with the Baldwinsville bird. All things considered, Wheeler concluded the bird a Thayer's Gull and presented his analysis and photos on Flickr. It's impossible not to appreciate the contribution of digital photography, as years ago this difficult ID might have hinged on trying to evaluate small differences in wingtip pattern under field conditions.

Snowy Owls were a presence in the Region this winter, but nothing close to the numbers seen during last year's historic invasion. On New Year's Day a maximum of three were found at Hancock Airport, and a few days later three were seen at Oswego Harbor. But for the most part, only single birds were found in typical locations. Particularly as the season wore on, Snowys became more elusive and in February, as the snow cover became deeper, sightings fell off precipitously. There were two reports of Long-eared Owls—one at Beaver Lake

Nature Center on 21 December and one near the shore of Onondaga Lake on 10 February. An Ornithology Class from SUNY-ESF is responsible for locating the latter bird. One might fairly ask what the bird was doing at such an unusual spot. Good numbers of Short-eared Owls were tallied in two locations. On 19 December, Brenda Best found nine in a traditional hotspot for the species in Durhamville. In Southern Herkimer County, not far from Fort Plain and the Montgomery County line, seven Short-eared Owls were observed on 2 January. Perhaps due to increasing snow depth, no Short-eared Owls were found anywhere in the Region after the first day of February.

No Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported during the period. Data from the Oswego-Fulton CBC indicates the Red-bellied Woodpecker population is continuing to increase in that area. There were five reports of individual Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers overwintering. Through most of February, a female sapsucker was reported frequenting a suet feeder at a residence near Otisco Lake. In the Adirondacks a single Black-backed Woodpecker was found by Gary Lee during the week of the Old Forge CBC. Unfortunately the bird eluded him on the actual count day, 14 December. The numbers of American Kestrels and Merlins reported in the area were identical—16 each. Peregrine Falcon pairs in both Syracuse and Utica held their respective territories through the season, while transients were reported in Phoenix, Baldwinsville, and Dolgeville. One juvenile *tundrius* Peregrine spent a few weeks, 20 December-9 January, in the Village of Clinton. The small community lacks the typical geography, both natural and man-made, and food supply one expects would be a prerequisite for keeping a Peregrine interested for an extended period, but evidently the bird saw it differently. The unusual visitor didn't go unnoticed by local media, and its picture was featured on the front page of the local paper.

Northern Shrikes were observed in approximately 16 locations, but like this season's Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls, "butcher birds" were elusive and most birders never got to see one. Very few were found in February. In January at least 20 American Crows and one Blue Jay were discovered dead or dying at Spring Farm Nature Preserve in southern Oneida County. Pathologists working for the State determined that the birds had been poisoned. It was speculated that they had ingested poison feed laid out for European Starlings, but to date, the precise circumstances of this incident were never investigated. Again we are forced to ask what use is it to have strict laws protecting birds if little or no effort is made to enforce them?

Fish Crows were found in their usual haunts at Onondaga Lake. The species was also seen and heard in Little Falls, which, when taken together with a prior sighting in the same vicinity, may suggest the presence of a new colony. A continued range expansion by Common Ravens is indicated by some of the Region's CBC data, with Syracuse, Clinton-Utica, and Oneida all reporting record highs for the species. No significant influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches was evident during the period; food reserves were likely insufficient for their needs. Harsh weather meant a tough winter for half-hardy songbirds. At

Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery in Elbridge, Ken and Rose Burdick located a few half-hardy species throughout the winter including Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Hermit Thrush. Ken turned up a Wilson's Snipe on 22 February, but it did not continue at the original wet seep. A Marsh Wren found by Dave Nash at the Clay Marsh was a nice addition to the Syracuse CBC's tally, where it was dubbed "bird of the count". A **Townsend's Solitaire**, originally located by Brian White at his Erieville property, was the Region's best find for the fall period, and since it carried over, it may also be considered the best bird for winter. The rarity continued through the first week of December, though it remained elusive and was not seen after an abrupt change to winter weather. The number of American Robins that wintered in the Region was way down from recent years. Even in some areas that purportedly had good crops of wild grape and buckthorn berries, the flocks were small.

A maximum of 13 Yellow-rumped Warblers was found at Rice Creek Field Station on 28 December. A handful of others was found in the Region but none after New Year's Day. Single Fox Sparrows didn't persist long at bird feeders in Williamstown or Waterville, but two managed to hold on all the way through February at Linda Salter's feeders in the Southern Highlands. Even with a photograph in hand, the authors weren't able to definitively identify the grosbeak species that made sporadic visits to a Syracuse yard as a holdover from the fall period. A photo taken by the homeowners shows what may be a juvenile male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but possibly a Black-headed Grosbeak. Additional pictures would have been helpful, but the unpredictable visits of the bird made obtaining them impractical.

This was not a finch invasion year; the Region lacked the food resources to host Pine Grosbeaks or crossbills. However, in the Town of Marcy on 20 December, we did get a single credible report of three Pine Grosbeaks on a roadside, presumably gritting. Almost two decades earlier, not far from this same area, the presence of wintering flocks of Pine Grosbeaks feeding on the seeds of White Ash trees growing along the Mohawk River was not that unusual. Common Redpolls arrived in the Region on the day after Christmas. They appeared at some area bird feeders in small flocks which increased only modestly during the course of the season. Pine Siskins were present in small numbers throughout the period. As was the case in fall, Evening Grosbeaks were represented only at a few of their traditional wintering areas in the Southern Highlands, Adirondacks, Adirondack Foothills, and Tug Hill.

A total of 126 species was found this period, which is four less than the most recent decade's average. The highlights included: **Greater White-fronted Goose**, Cackling Goose, **Harlequin Duck**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, **Golden Eagle**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Thayer's Gull**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Snowy Owl**, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N Saw-whet Owl, **Marsh Wren**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Townsend's Solitaire**, Gray Catbird, Rose-breasted/Black-headed Grosbeak, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak.

The winter season produced 25,948 eBird records which were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Bville – Baldwinsville; 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; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; Hast – Hastings; HI – Howland Island WMA; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga Lake Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; OtisL – Otisco L; RCFS – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; Skan – Skaneateles; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; WP – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr & max 6 Van Buren 6 – 8 Dec (JB, mob); good number.

Snow Goose: 3015 Syr CBC 20 Dec; 3000 Bville 27 Dec; max 3100 Skan 4 Jan; 2620 Oswego-Fulton CBC 15 Dec.

Brant: max 2 OswH 3 Dec; OnonL 9 Dec; only reports.

Cackling Goose: 4 Tuscarora Lake (DWe, mob); max 5 Van Buren 7 Dec (KMg, JM); 2 Oswego 9 Jan (WF); 2 other reports of singles.

Canada Goose: 3657 Syr CBC 20 Dec; max 3500 Skan 1 Jan.

Mute Swan: 14 FH 1 Dec; max 15 OLC 20 Jan; lower numbers tallied especially at FH.

Trumpeter Swan: max 2 FH 1 Dec (GD), 2 OneiL 20 Dec (DW), 2 Bville 2 Feb thru (mob); most sightings from Bville.

Tundra Swan: 13 FH 1 Dec; max 90 Phillips Point 8 Dec; 43 DH 24 Jan.

Wood Duck: 2 Volney 14 Dec; max 3 New Hartford 21 Dec; 2 Fulton 18 Jan; 2 Oswego 4 Feb; singles at 6 other locs.

Gadwall: 10 WP 4 Dec; max 90 FH 16 Dec, good number; 8 Oswego River 16 Jan; 8 GLSP 23 Jan.

Am. Wigeon: max 45 FH 1 Dec; 20 WP 4 Dec; a few other reports thru 21 Jan.

Am. Black Duck: 53 Cazenovia 30 Dec; 80 Bville 18 Jan; max 84 Herkimer 28 Jan; relatively good numbers on rivers.

Mallard: 385 WP 24 Dec; max 509 OswH 18 Jan; 440 Bville 6 Feb.

Am. Black Duck x Mallard: singles at 7 locs.

N. Shoveler: singles Tully, Bville, Port Byron, SSSP; last Bville 24 Jan.

N. Pintail: max 30 FH 1 Dec; 9 WP 19 Dec; last 9 Richfield Springs 23 Jan; small numbers at 3 other locs.

Green-winged Teal: Lake Moraine, MADI 25 Dec; last 2 Fabius 25 Jan; one other report.

Redhead: max 300 OnonL 14 Dec, 300 OswH 11 Jan; 107 Bville 18 Jan, widespread reports.

Canvasback: first OswH 8 Jan; 5 OnonL 10 Jan; max 10 OswH 11 Jan; 7 Skan 18 Jan; 5 Brewerton 27 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 43 Tuscarora Lake 3 Dec; max 50 WP 4 Dec; 30 Bville 12 – 22 Feb.

Greater Scaup: 60 Oswego 14 Dec; max 900 Brewerton 17 Dec; 56 OnonL 20 Dec; 150 OswH 27 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 15 OnonL 27 Dec; max 20 OswH 18 Jan; 15 Phoenix 28 Feb.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 200 Phillips Point 8 Dec, 200 Oswego 16 Feb.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (R5): ad. f Lake Delta

23 Feb thru (JL!, JaL, mob, ph).

Surf Scoter: singles Brewerton 18 – 28 Jan, 7 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 7 OnonL 20 Dec; 2 OtisL 20 Dec; 3 SSSP 27 Dec; 6 OswH 4 Feb; low numbers & relatively few reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 6 OnonL 20 Dec; max 150 OswH 8 Jan; 30 FH 18 Jan.

Bufflehead: 40 FH 1 Dec; max 50 Tuscarora Lake 3 Dec; 39 Skan 18 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: max 220 OtisL 20 Dec; 439 Syr CBC 20 Dec; 180 Phoenix 26 Feb; 200 Oswego 27 Feb.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R5): f Phoenix 23 Jan thru (GD!, mob, ph); max 2 f Phoenix 31 Jan thru (DW, mob); same loc.

Hooded Merganser: 114 FH 16 Dec; max 131 OtisL 20 Dec; 69 Syr 20 Dec; 65 Bville 22 Feb.

Com. Merganser: 475 OLC 18 Jan; 330 Skan 18 Jan; max 500 Bville 22 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 200 FH 1 Dec; 90 DH 3 Jan; 111 OswH 18 Jan; 120 Bville 22 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: OnonL 1 Dec; Skan 2 Dec; OtisL 3 Dec; Little Falls 1 Jan; OLC 14 Jan; only reports.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 Oswego-Fulton CBC 15 Dec; 2 DB 23 Jan, 2 Phoenix 25 Jan; singles at 3 other locs.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Kirkland 21 Dec, 5 Sauquoit 21 Dec; 2 Bville 1 Jan; max 4 Boonville 2 Feb; singles at 14 other locs.

Wild Turkey: max 73 Fairfield 20 Dec; 65 Verona 25 Jan; 70 Hamilton 7 Feb; declines noted in some areas.

Red-throated Loon: FH 1 Dec; max 4 OswH 3 Dec; OnonL 20 Dec; DH 27 Dec.

Com. Loon: 3 Caz 3 Dec; 4 OswH 9 Dec; max 6 OnonL 29 Dec; last OswH 4 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 Caz 5 Dec; 2 Fulton 18 – 24 Jan; singles Tuscarora Lake, OnonL, Volney & Trenton; none after 24 Jan.

Horned Grebe: 2 DeRuyter Reservoir 3 Dec; 3 OswH 3 Dec; 4 Oswego 14 Dec; max 6 OnonL 15 Dec; 2 DH 27 Dec; 2 Skan 18 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 8 OnonL 14 Dec; 2 WP 29 Dec; singles at 5 other locs.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 30 Syr 20 Dec; mostly small numbers reported.

Great Blue Heron: 4 SSSP 26 Dec; 3 DB 1 Jan; 3 Skan 4 Jan; max 6 OLC 18 Jan; relatively few overwinter.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 8 Fayetteville 20 Dec; 12 Syr CBC 20 Dec; 2 SH 30 Dec; 4 Van Buren

11 Jan; Verona 7 Jan (MV); Poland 26 Feb, early migrant?; as usual most reports clustered around Syr area.

Golden Eagle: New Woodstock 3 Dec; Tuscarora Lake 4 Dec; ad. Caz 8 Dec; Fairfield 5 Feb; Waterville 12 Feb; only sightings.

Bald Eagle: 12 Port Ontario 15 Dec; 10 Lake Delta 15 Jan; Pair Oriskany 18 Jan, rebuilding Red-tailed Hawk nest; 9 Minetto 18 Jan; 19 Oswego River (between Phoenix & Oswego) 18 Jan (BP); 7 Trenton 27 Jan, on deer carcass; 9 Bville 10 Feb; max 15 OLC 17 Feb.

N. Harrier: max 2 Little Falls 2 Jan, 2 DB 10 Jan; singles at about a dozen other locs.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 SFNS 22 Jan; around 50 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: max 2, Williamstown 8 Dec, 2 Syr 20 Dec; widespread reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: SSSP 25 Dec (WF); SH 26 Dec thru (DW, LSr, CS); 2 SH 1 Feb (LSr), presumed pair.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles reported from Verona, Syr, Chittenango, Kirkland, Bville, Const, Fayetteville, and Hast.

Red-tailed Hawk: 91 Syr CBC 20 Dec; 6 DB 24 Dec; max 19 Canas 1 Jan; 5 GLSP 18 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 Clay 10 Jan; 4 Erieville 11 Jan; max 5 DB 10 Feb.

Am. Coot: 21 FH 1 Dec; max 55 Skan 2 Dec; 20 WP 2 Dec.

Wilson's Snipe: Elbridge 22 Feb (KB), unusual in winter.

Bonaparte's Gull: 17 FH 1 Dec; 28 Phillips Pt. 8 Dec; max 50 OneiL 15 Dec; none after 4 Jan.

THAYER'S GULL: Bville 18 Feb (DW!, mob, NYSARC); only report, *intro*.

Iceland Gull: 6 OneiL 15 Dec (DW, JT); 7 MCL 21 Jan (MV, BB); max 9 Bville 14 Feb (DW).

Ring-billed Gull: 570 OnonL 20 Dec; 450 OswH 26 Dec; 604 Canas 1 Jan; max 1400 Bville 11 Jan.

Herring Gull: 500 OneiL 15 Dec; 500 MCL 22 Jan; max 600 Bville 14 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 OneiL 15 Dec (DW); singles MCL, DB, FH, and Bville; Bville 28 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 OneiL 14 Dec, 3 OnonL 1 Feb, 3 Bville 14 Feb; last Bville 22 Feb

Great Black-backed Gull: 150 MCL 22 Jan; max 210 OnonL 1 Feb; 150 Bville 10 Feb.

larus species: 800 OnonL 6 Jan.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: 350 Skan 15 Dec; max 516 Syr 20 Dec; 293 Little Falls 18 Jan.

Mourning Dove: 51 Dolgeville 9 Dec; max 67 CM 20 Dec; 57 Const 28 Jan;

E. Screech-Owl: 2 Syr 20 Dec; 2 Canas 1 Jan; 2 New Haven 11 Jan; 8 other locs.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Oswego 14 Dec; max 3 TR 21 Dec; 2 Manlius 21 Dec, 6 Feb; 2 Mexico 11 Jan; 2 SH 17 Jan – 21 Feb; 2 GLSP 18 Jan.

Snowy Owl: max 3 Hancock Airport 1 Jan (DWe), 3 OswH 4 Jan; 2 Caz 4 Jan; 2 Syr 1 Jan; 2 SH 13 Jan; widespread reports of singles.

Barred Owl: 9 brought to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center thru; widespread reports of singles, but most from HERK.

Long-eared Owl: BLNC 21 Dec (JB, mob); OLC 10 Feb (SUNY-ESF Ornithology class, mob); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: max 9 Dvl 19 Dec (BB), excellent number; 7 Fort Plain 2 Jan (BLH, MB, EF); SH 12 Jan; 2 HA 18 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: BLNS 4 Dec - 1 Jan; Syr 5 Feb (RW); ad. m Clay 17 Feb (JS), hit by vehicle; Waterville 25 Feb (RW), captured by Cooper's Hawk; only reports.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 Marcellus 17 Jan; just 2 persist into Feb.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Bville 11 Feb; 6 GLSP 1 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Whitesboro 20 Dec; Oswego 2 Jan; Skan 4 Jan; f Otisco Lake 2 – 21 Feb, visits suet feeder; Syr 31 Jan; only reports.

Downy Woodpecker: 9 Mexico 16 Dec; 10 OnonL 20 Dec; max 13 Canas 1 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: 4 SH 3 Dec, 3 Jan; 4 Dolgeville 10 – 21 Dec; max 6 CM 20 Dec.

Black-backed Woodpecker: OF 15 Dec (GL), only report.

N. Flicker: 30 Oswego-Fulton CBC 15 Dec; 4 Hannibal 14 Dec; 4 HI 15 Dec; relatively few reports in Feb.

Pileated Woodpecker: 3 HI 15 Dec; 3 GLSP 23 Jan; max 4 Camden 14 Dec.

Am. Kestrel: About 16 reports of singles, only 3 in Feb.

Merlin: max 2 Syr 20 Dec; 15 other reports of singles.

Peregrine Falcon: pairs hold territory Syr & Utica thru; juv. *tundrius* Clinton 20 Dec- 9 Jan, unusual loc; ad. Pheonix 25 Jan; Bville 17 – 18 Feb; Dolgeville 19 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: about 23 reports of singles 16 locs; only 4 reports in Feb

Blue Jay: 21 Dolgeville 11 Feb; 40 Williamstown 19, 28 Feb.

Am. Crow: max 4000 Utica 20 Jan, flying in to roost; 1500 Little Falls 8 Feb.

Fish Crow: max 2 OnonL 20 Dec, 1 Jan, 18 Feb; Little Falls 21 Jan (BLH, EF).

Com. Raven: max 5 Cold Brook 21 Dec; 5 Erieville 7 Jan; 4 Central Square 13 Feb.

Horned Lark: 115 New Woodstock 10 Jan; 120 OtisL 11 Jan; max 250 Cassville 22 Feb.

Black-capped Chickadee: 30 Erieville 7 Dec; 34 HI 15 Dec; max 60 SFNS 20 Dec; 51 Canas 1 Jan; 30 Manlius 7 Feb.

Tufted Titmouse: 9 HI 15 Dec; 10 SFNS 20 Dec; 7 Lake Neatahwanta 28 Dec; max 11 Canastota 1 Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 SSSP 26 Dec; 5 Fabius 14 Feb.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 7 Hannibal 14 Dec; max 15 HI 15 Dec; 10 SFNS 20 Dec; 7 Camden 26 Feb.

Brown Creeper: max 5 New Hartford 20 Dec; 4 Camden 1 Jan.

Winter Wren: 4 Syr CBC 20 Dec; max 3 CM 28 Dec; 2 Skan 4 Jan; singles at 8 other locs; last Fabius 14 Feb.

Marsh Wren: CM 20 Dec (DN), unusual in winter.

Carolina Wren: max 5 Syr 20 Dec; 2 Lake Neatahwanta 28 Dec; 2 Clinton 3 Jan; 2 Westmoreland 11 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 7 HI 15 Dec; max 8 SSSP 27 Dec; 5 GB 27 Dec; 5 Mexico 29 Jan.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Elbridge 9 Dec – 19 Jan (KRB, mob), only report.

E. Bluebird: 8 GLSP 7 Dec; 8 Bville 13 Dec; 13 TR 23 Jan; 8 Elbridge 31 Jan; 8 SFNS 1, 15 Feb.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Erieville 1 – 7 Dec (BW!, mob, ph, NYSARC, 1st Reg winter record), continuing.

Hermit Thrush: Syr 10 Dec; max 2 Rice Creek Field Station 28 Dec; Elbridge 2 Jan thru; Bville 6 Feb; only reports.

Am. Robin: 22 Kirkville 21 Dec; 26 CM 27 Dec; 21 Oswego 11 Jan; max 45 SFNS 10 Feb; generally low numbers overwinter.

Gray Catbird: Liverpool 20 Dec; Dewitt 20 Dec – 29 Jan; only reports.

N. Mockingbird: 3 GLSP 7 Dec, 3 Jan; max 4 Syr 15 Jan; no reports east of greater Syr area.

Brown Thrasher: no reports

European Starling: 2000 Skan 8 Dec; 1300 OnonL 20 Dec; max 1075 Canas 1 Jan; 500 DB 23 Jan.

Cedar Waxwing: 16 SH 8 Dec; 15 Minetto 31 Dec; 38 TR 7 Feb; 27 Rice Creek Field Station 18 Feb; low numbers overwinter.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 Pulaski 13 Dec (BP); max 5 SH 30 Dec (BC, MY); most reports from SH.

Snow Bunting: 178 Pulaski 26 Dec; max 200 Caz 29 Jan, 200 Cassville 22 Feb.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 HI 15 Dec (BG); max 13 Rice Creek Field Station 28 Dec (WF); only 4 reports and none after 1 Jan.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: CM 20 Dec; f New Haven 31 Dec – 14 Feb; only reports.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 40 Hannibal 14 Dec; max 80 OnonL 20 Dec; 56 Dolgeville 10 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: Const 8 Dec – 12 Jan (MS); Clinton 20 Dec (MP); Skan 29 Dec thru (KB); SH thru 23 Feb (LS); only reports.

Fox Sparrow: Williamstown 1 Dec (FB); Waterville 15 Dec (RW); SH thru (LS); max 2 SH 1 – 23 Feb (LS); only reports.

Song Sparrow: max 5 HI 15 Dec; 3 Mexico 13 Jan; 4 TR 15 Jan.

Swamp Sparrow: Syr 20 Dec; Skan 4 Jan; Little Falls 22 Jan; Waterville 26, 29 Jan; only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: max 27 SFNS 20 Dec; 10 Syr 20 Dec; 15 CM 27 Dec; 9 Const 2 Jan.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 3 Bville 1 Jan (JB); 2 DB 23, 24 Jan (JC); 3 other singles; last DB 25 Jan (JC).

Dark-eyed Junco: 44 HI 15 Dec; 28 Syr 20 Dec; 26 Pulaski 3 Jan.

N. Cardinal: max 25 OnonL 20 Dec; 23 Elbridge 2 Jan.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK/BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: Syr Dec thru 11 Jan (JMw), visits bird feeder sporadically, *intro*.

Red-winged Blackbird: 2 Williamstown 4 Dec; max 10 Tully 8 Dec; 5 Minoa 20 Dec; 3 Elbridge 4 Jan; 6 Trenton 6 Jan; 3 more reports of singles; no reports after 6 Jan.

Com. Grackle: max 3 Bville 27 Dec; 2 Williamstown 30, 31 Dec; 2 more reports; none after 12 Jan.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 26 Clay 20 Dec; 15 Westmoreland 13 Jan; 7 Dolgeville 20 Jan; 21 Central Square 16 Feb; only 2 reports in Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: 3 Marcy 20 Dec (SH), only report.

Purple Finch: 6 Whitestown 5 Dec; 6 Dolgeville 6 Jan; max 7 Oswego 14 Feb; low numbers.

House Finch: 17 Waterville 15 Dec; 20 Hamilton 26 Dec, 24 Jan; max 25 Skan 4 Jan.
Com. Redpoll: arr BLNC 26 Dec; 65 Central Square 29 Jan; max 75 Hast 20 Feb; 66 Dolgeville 21 Feb; 70 Cleveland 28 Feb.
Pine Siskin: 19 Const 1 Dec; 16 Dolgeville 28 Jan; max 20 Verona 14, 15 Feb.
Am. Goldfinch: 35 Erieville 3 Dec; 35 Syr 16 Dec; 50 Williamstown 12 Dec; 27 Fayetteville

20 Dec; 26 OnonL 20 Dec; 40 BLNC 10 Feb; max 120 Dolgeville 15 Jan.
Evening Grosbeak: 20 SH 9 Dec, numbers varied at this loc thru; 8 Newport 24 Jan; 9 Boonville 13 Feb; max 17 Camden 15 Feb; only locs.
House Sparrow: max 155 Columbus Circle 20 Dec; 90 e. Syr 25 Dec.