

REGION 2—GENESEE

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And another “strange” winter enters the books. Maybe we ought to reflect on whether we may be presumptuous in proclaiming future predictions and drastic assessments when we really have less than 100 years of actual data for most places, so our variances for assessing comparison approach meaninglessness on a geological time scale.

December started us off with a relatively typical winter month, with cold winds and lake effect snows. The month started and ended warm, but the 11 days in the middle were below normal. Lake effect snows started on the 8th, with an arctic air mass dumping 10.6” of snow on 15-16 December and another event hitting at month’s end. The heaviest snows were southwest of Rochester. Temperatures averaged 31.3° F, 1.3° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.91”. 0.28” above normal, with 29.3” of snowfall, 7.5” above normal. January was a generally flat, mild month lacking in snow cover with only a few periods of

winter-like weather. Temperatures averaged 31.4°, 6.7° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.75", 0.34" above normal, but snowfall was only 11.8", 16.4" below normal. The heaviest snow event was only 4.8" on the 24th. With the apparent warmth, a surprise was that only short dips in temperature resulted in most bays, ponds, and even large parts of the Finger Lakes totally freezing over, with waterfowl pushed out and many not returning when the ice soon parted. Finally, only two years after the coldest February on record, we had the warmest on record. Temperatures averaged 35.5°, 9.1° above normal. Record highs were set on 7, 18, and 23 February plus a record high low on the 23rd. Precipitation totaled 2.33", 0.38" above normal, but with snowfall only 14.6", 6.9" below normal. The only real snow event was 6.2" on the 12th-13th, though areas east of Rochester received 2-3 times that amount. The last half of the month brought a taste of spring and a surge of early migrants. Lake Ontario remained open and most ponds opened, though still prone to quick icing over with only a night or two of cold.

High winds on the count days plagued all three local Christmas Bird Counts, with the Letchworth-Silver Lake count on 17 December also hampered by snowfall in the hills. All counts produced tallies on the low side. Record high counts were few, but included: 67 Tundra Swans and 1719 American Crows on the Letchworth-Silver Lake count; 20 Trumpeter and 75 Tundra swans, 10 Bald Eagles, and 31 Sandhill Cranes on the Rochester count; and 12 Bald Eagles and 485 American Robins on the Conesus-Hemlock count. New species for the counts were a video-recorded Palm Warbler for the Letchworth-Silver Lake count as well as the 31 Sandhill Cranes flying over, and a count week **Rufous Hummingbird** for Rochester. The hummingbird, the Region's third, was a hatch-year female banded by Bob Yunick on 13 December and present (since October) through a morning feeding on the 17th, the day before the Rochester CBC. The tale of the homeowners, not connected with the birding community, feeding the hummingbird, figuring out it was different, circuitously getting to Bob Yunick who bands wintering hummingbirds in New York, then to me, leading the CBC coverage in that sector, is one for telling in front of a fire with a warming beverage in hand. Passerines, and especially lingering half hardies, were hard to find on the windy count days.

Generally, the birding picture was very interesting this season. With the generally warm season and lots of listers out for the new year plus building county lists, we had good monthly species totals, with December and January at 131 and 126 vs. their 10-year averages of 130.5 and 127.4, respectively, and February at 131 vs. 114.2, a new high for that month and fitting for the record warmth and burst of early migrants. Interestingly, the season's species total was just 144, not far above that of the individual months. Most species were here for the season; just the addition of a few rarities and the early migrants were exceptions.

Waterfowl account for nearly half of the winter's noteworthy records locally. This winter was especially interesting due to the average warmth, yet

with brief periods of ice covering nearly all but the largest lakes and pushing out most of the winter waterbirds. The January NY State Waterfowl Count was also afflicted by a timing decision that left the target date—15 January—still inside the second part of the waterfowl hunting season and also in one of the freeze-up periods. Then the alternative, the following weekend, was shrouded in fog. Counts of most species, even Mallard, were low. Only geese, swans (excepting Mute), Ring-necked Duck, and Long-tailed Duck numbers exceeded their averages for the 2000-2016 period. This year's total was less than half last year's, though the overall total was still above that for the average period due to very large goose numbers.

Still, as always, there are interesting observations. All the “regular” species except Blue-winged Teal and Common Eider were reported this season. Most species were reported in all three months, with the exceptions of Brant only in December; Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and Tufted Duck only in February; King Eider in just December and January; and Northern Shoveler in December and February. Rarer waterfowl included: Greater White-fronted Goose in or near Genesee Valley Park from 7-12 February, in North Ponds Park, Town of Webster on 27 February, and three in the Town of Bergen on 27 February; four Ross's Geese on North Hamlin Road 28 December to 2 January, one at Braddock Bay on 20 January, and one in North Wolcott Wayne County on 28 January; Cackling Geese totaling four in December, nine in January, and 36+ at 16 locations in February; Trumpeter Swan in both December and on the Waterfowl Count in January; Eurasian Wigeon arriving record early at Sandy Bottom Park near Honeoye, Ontario County on 25 February and at Braddock Bay on 27 February; a male Tufted Duck, the Region's fifth, at Sandy Bottom Park from 27 February into March; 1-2 immature male and female King Eiders most of December to 1 and then 21 January at several locations on the south shore of Lake Ontario; a female Harlequin Duck at Irondequoit Bay Outlet 1 December to 5 January then 5-17 February, a female west of Bear Creek Harbor, Wayne County on 9 January, and a male in the West Port Bay area in Wayne County on 16 January and 16 February and nearby on 16 and 21 February; and finally a Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser at Braddock Bay on 11-12 February. The long-returning male Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze, Orleans County was not reported this winter.

In spite of the comments around low numbers, there were some good waterfowl counts this winter. Snow Goose numbers remained low this late fall into winter until late December, then, similar to last winter, the species remained through the season with peak counts of 3000 on 2 January and 12,000 on 10 February. Tundra Swan numbers also held up through the winter, with monthly maxima of 125, 96, and 305. Once again Redhead peak counts were on Conesus Lake, with the best 5208 on 26 December on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC. During the Waterfowl Count, Bill Howe tallied a record high 1022 Ring-necked Ducks on Hemlock Lake on 16 January. Long-tailed Ducks flocked off a few

locations along the south shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester in rafts of 1200-1600 in January and February. Good numbers of both Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were noted off and on in Irondequoit Bay, with peaks of 836 Common and 443 Red-breasted on 17 February, and reports of 962 Red-breasted on 22 January from Sodus Bay to Port Bay and 700 near Port Bay, Wayne County on 16 February. Common Goldeneye also was found in good numbers all season both on Lake Ontario and in Irondequoit Bay, with a total of 1770 on the Waterfowl Count. The warm February brought an amazing influx of Northern Pintails to the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), with a rough total of 5000+ in the flooded corn fields south of Carncross Road on 22 February and with Mallards, American Wigeon, and some Green-winged Teal mixed in. After weak numbers most of the winter, many puddle ducks arrived at early dates in February, including: Wood Duck on the 25th, Gadwall on the 19th, American Wigeon on the 11th, Northern Shoveler on the 23rd, and Northern Pintail on the 19th.

Following a weak fall migration, loon and grebe numbers remained low into and through the winter. Maxima for all species were low double digit numbers in December and January and even lower in February. Few Great Blue Herons were noted this season. 53 Double-crested Cormorants on the Rochester CBC was a high count for winter but hardly one to draw applause. Black Vulture was reported, with four in Letchworth State Park on 27 December and one in Hamlin Beach State Park on 18 February. Peak Turkey Vulture numbers reported were lower than in recent winters.

Moving along to raptors, we'll cover all together. Among the hawks, we saw little of special note. Bald Eagle numbers were good all winter. Northern Goshawk was not reported, and Red-shouldered Hawk was near that until the end of February. The Rough-legged Hawks of winter were present, with over 20 individuals reported each month, but this is still far off irruption numbers. A nice surprise was two Golden Eagles seen by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch and then a short way farther east along the lakeshore on 25 February. Among the owls, Snowy Owl was present all three months, peaking with about 22 birds at 13 locations in January and falling off to two locations and only a handful of dates in February. The DEC again ran sets of biweekly Short-eared Owl counts through the season with modest results this year. The maximum was about 20 individuals at seven locations in January. Single Long-eared Owls were found on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC at Taylor Marsh, Ontario County on 26 December by Douglas Bassett and in the Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Road on 25 February by Chris Wood. Two Northern Saw-whet Owls at two Rochester area locations in December is a bit unusual. Another was found calling in the Town of Walworth, Wayne County by Mike Gullo on 18 January. More typical, singles were found on surveys in the Owl Woods on 9, 11, & 14 February, and one was located in Black Creek Park on 17 February by Brian and Brooke Morse. Among the falcons, all three regular species were well reported all three months.

American Coot maxima were poor this season, and no rails were reported. In contrast, Sandhill Crane lingered to 10 December in the NMWMA area along Armitage Road in the Town of Savannah, Wayne County, with the north side of the road in our Region. A maximum of 95 was tallied on 10 December by Jay McGowan. Also, 14 were seen in the Town of Conesus, Livingston County on 4 December; two in the Honeoye Creek WMA, Ontario County on 14 December; and finally the 31 noted earlier on The Rochester CBC on 18 December. In February, singles were back in the NMWMA on 7 & 8 February and at Huckleberry Swamp, Wayne County on 25 February.

Shorebirds were nearly invisible for most of the winter. The lone representative for December was a Purple Sandpiper off the Town of Greece on 16 December, and January contributed only a lone Dunlin at Braddock Bay on the 2nd. The late February warmth brought spring arrivals, with two Killdeer on the 22nd followed by many more, and a total of at least 16 American Woodcock at 10 locations from 23-28 February, beginning with one in Brockport on the 23rd and three in Canadice, Ontario County on the 24th; these two dates were record early spring arrivals.

There never seemed to be big concentrations of gulls except at the Riga (Millseat) Landfill and at the south end of Irondequoit Bay on occasion. Still, the usual winter gulls, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous, were present all season, though declining in February. An adult Thayer's Gull was identified by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood off West Port Bay, Wayne County on 21 January, and a Thayer's/Iceland Gull was reported on Long Pond, Town of Greece on 12 February by Andy Guthrie. Bonaparte's Gull returned to a typical fall departure date of 16 January followed by a single report of 15 at Braddock Bay on 18 February. No really rare gulls were reported.

Scanning the rest of the non-passerines, we find first the few odd reports of the Eurasian Collared-Doves (1-3) at the Greenwell farm in the Town of Hamlin on 4 & 10 December, 1-14 January, and 11 & 12 February. Belted Kingfisher reports were good in December but few later. The only Red-headed Woodpecker for the season was a single on 1 January in the Nations Road area. Finally, numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports were fairly high for the winter and held up through the whole season, with about five in December, three in January, and seven in February. The obvious local bird of the season was the **Rufous Hummingbird** noted earlier.

For much of the winter, passerines seemed scarce or at least hard to find. Yet there were quite a few lingering half hardies and many of these persisted through the season. Starting with regular species we monitor: Northern Shrike was present all winter in small numbers; the Fish Crows in Charlotte and nearby were seen all winter; the potential Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion was a total no show; big numbers of American Robin were present all winter, especially in unharvested apple orchards near the lakeshore both to our east and west, with 3375 on the Rochester CBC an indicator; Cedar Waxwing numbers were low, but still single Bohemian Waxwings were seen near East Bay, Town of Wolcott

on 14 January and in an east section of Webster Park from 23-28 February; and blackbirds were scarce until numbers arriving in late February, with peaks of 14,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 800 Common Grackles, and 80 Brown-headed Cowbirds all on 25 February. Typical field birds of winter were often hard to find with the lack of snow cover, but peak counts were good at 468 Horned Larks on 17 December and 800+ Snow-Buntings on 13 December. Lapland Longspur was scarce, with monthly peaks <10. Winter finches were scarce all winter, with only small numbers of Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin on few dates.

Finally looking at the half hardies, we had: Eastern Phoebe on 22 January; Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 19-29 December; Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Gray Catbird through the season; and American Pipit at four locations in January and arriving for spring at a typical 27 February date. Pine Warbler on three dates in December in Hamlin, a Palm Warbler video recorded on the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC, and single reports of Yellow-rumped Warbler each month covered the warblers. Chipping Sparrow was found in December, Savannah Sparrow in December and February, and Fox Sparrow in each month with apparent “spring arrivals” by late February. The very rare Dark-eyed “Pink-sided” Junco of fall in Hamlin Beach SP continued to 23 December. Eastern Meadowlark remains a scarce winter species, but birds were found in December and February in the farmlands south of Rochester, and a small number of Rusty Blackbirds was reported each month, with spring numbers increasing after 15 February.

Again this season, the bulk of the reports came from eBird data, with lines of records about 13,102 in December, 17,357 in January, and 19,754 in February and the “about” due to my imperfect separation of the records in counties split between Regions. February numbers of reports would typically have dropped, but the Great Backyard Bird Count attracts very large numbers of observers posting to eBird.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; BB-WS – Braddock Bay – West Spit; BB (HW) – at or from Braddock Bay hawkwatch; CHCBC – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 26 Dec; CL – Conesus L, LIVI; DEP – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HBSP – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; IBO – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; LSLCBC – Letchworth-Silver L CBC 20 Dec; MP – Mendon Pd P, MONR; NHR – North Hamlin Rd, T Hamlin, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; NMWMA (AR) – north side of Armitage Rd; NMWMA (CR) – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; NMWMA (MR) – Morgan Rd marshes area; NMWMA (SM) – Savannah mucklands area along Rt 31 SE of Savannah; OB – Ontario Beach P and nearby piers, T Charlotte, ROCH; PB – Point Breeze, T Carlton, ORLE; RCBC – Rochester Christmas Bird Count 14 Dec; SBotP – Sandy Bottom P, T Honeoye, ONTA; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; Spt - Sodus Pt., WAYN; TCEA – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; WP – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 1 Genesee Valley P area 7-12 Feb (EG, 13 oth obs); North Ponds P, Webster 27 Feb (GF, JW, *et al.*); 3 T Bergen 27 Feb (BriM).

Snow Goose: 2,000+ Lakeville LIVI 31 Dec, month max; 3000 Nations Rd IBA LIVI 2 Jan, month max; max 12000 Poplar Hill Rd LIVI 10 Feb (MW); 4800 NMWMA (SM) 25 Feb (GL).

Ross's Goose: arr 4 NHR 28-31 Dec, 1-2 Jan (AGu, mob); Braddock Bay 20 Jan (MG); 2 N Wolcott WAYN 28 Jan (W&MR); NHR 11 Feb (R&SS).

Brant: last Sodus Bay 4, 13-16 Dec (W&MR, JW).

Cackling Goose: 4 ind 4 loc 3-24 Dec; 9 ind 7 loc all Jan; 36+ ind 16 loc all Feb; max 8 Hamlin 25 Feb (AGu).

Canada Goose: max 10000 ConesusL Livi 1 Jan (KC).

Mute Swan: max 162 IB-N 24 Dec (DD); 109-111 BB 22 Jan (sev); 145 BB-N 18 Feb (RS).

Trumpeter Swan: max 60 NMWMA (AR) 14 Dec (KMcGo); 20 IB-N 21 Dec (RS), high for loc; 44 NMWMA (AR) 19 Jan (RS, TSm); 20 NMWMA (MR) 28 Feb (AL).

Tundra Swan: 120 BB 10 Dec; 125 CL 23 Dec; 96 HMWMA (AR) 19 Jan; max 305 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (SB, JMcG, KMcGo). 175 BB-N 28 Feb (AGu)

Wood Duck: Webster 4 Dec (MG); Seneca P ROCH 18 Dec; NMWMA (MR) 29 Jan (DA, MV); arr BB-N 25 Feb (CW).

Gadwall: arr 26-30 BB-N 19 Feb (mob).

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 1m SBotP 25 Feb thru (EG, GL, mob); BB 27 Feb thru (PMar, BCar, mob); aa Reg record early dates.

Am. Wigeon: arr 64-max 90 BB 20 Dec; arr 20 BB 21 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 100 CL 3 Dec; low numbers thru.

Mallard: max 900 Nations Rd IBA 15 Jan (MW); relative scarce all season.

N. Shoveler: 12 BB 10 Dec (KS), good count for date; arr 2-3 BB area 23 Feb (MG, PMar); max 20 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (EG, GL).

N. Pintail: 2 CL (KC) & 3 NHR (JeB, CW) 1 Jan, scarce in Jan; arr to 41 BB 19 Feb (sev); max 5000+ NMWMA (CR) 22 Feb (R&SS).

Green-winged Teal: max 40+ NMWMA (CR) 22 Feb (R&SS).

Canvasback: max 110 BB (HW) 3 Feb (JeB, CW); generally scarce.

Redhead: max 5208 CHCBC 26 Dec; 2550 CL 22 Jan (EG, GL); 2520 CL 28 Jan JeB, CW); 3800 CL 28 Feb (MW), good counts.

Ring-necked Duck: 526 Hemlock L P 29 Dec (BH); max 1022 Hemlock L P 16 Jan (BH, ph), Reg high; 800 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (SB, JMcG, KMcGo).

TUFTED DUCK: arr 1m SBotP 27 Feb thru (BH, 13+ oth obs, ph), 5th Reg record.

Greater Scaup: max 1000 E of Bear Creek WAYN 11 Jan, low max.

Lesser Scaup: max 120 OB 27 Dec, low. 272 CHCBC 26 Dec, low.

King Eider: 1 imm m off Manitou Beach 3-4, 23 Dec (15+ obs, ph); 1 f + 1 imm m near mouth Genesee Ri 17 Dec – 1 Jan (23 obs); 1 imm m e of PB 16 Dec – 1 Jan (7 obs); 1 imm m ne of IBO 1, 21 Jan (AGu, JM, LM, JeB, CW).

Harlequin Duck: 1 f IBO 1-29 Dec, 5 Jan, 5-17 Feb (mob, ph); 1 f w of Bear Creek WAYN 9 Jan (JW); 1 m West Port Bay Pt 16 Jan, 16 Feb (W&MR, ph); 1 m Brown Rd T Wolcott WAYN 16, 21 Feb (W&MR, dist ph), same bird?

White-winged Scoter: max 218 IBO 1 Jan, low; generally scarce.

Long-tailed Duck: 1279 RCBC 18 Dec, month max; 1442 West Port Bay 16 Jan, month max; max 1600 Rigney's Bluff off T Greece 6 Feb (KG); 1505 off Manitou Beach 20 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 150 IB-S17 Dec (NK).

Com. Goldeneye: max 596 IBO to Bear Creek 15 Jan (JBo, PC, RS), Waterfowl Count sector total; 442 IB – H 17 Feb (RS). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** no reports.

Com. Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser: 1m BB-N 11-12 Feb (GL, MG, AGu, BriM).

Hooded Merganser: max 207 RCBC 18 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 836 IB off Newport Yacht Club 17 Feb (R&SS).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 962 Sodus Bay to Fairhave 22 Jan (M&JT), Waterfowl Count sector; 700 West Port Bay WAYN 16 Feb (W&MR); 443 IB off Newport Yacht Club 17 Feb (R&SS).

Ruddy Duck: max 25 T Groveland LIVI 3 Dec, low.

Red-throated Loon: max 12 near Summerville Pier ROCH 17 Dec (AGa), good count, but low max.

Com. Loon: max 16 IB-S 17 Dec (NK), low max, odd site for max.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 IB 1-20 Jan (sev).

Horned Grebe: max 20 off Bear Creek Harbor 4 Dec, low max.

Red-necked Grebe: 20 HB 10 Dec, month max, very low after poor fall movement; 17 off

Edgemere Dr, T Greece & 23 HB 2 Jan, decent winter counts; 1 off Webster P 28 Feb.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 55 RCBC 18 Dec, just short of 2015 CBC record high; 29 IB 12 Jan (R&SS), high for date; 12 IB off Newport Yacht Club 17 Feb (R&SS), good number for date.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): 4 LSP 27 Dec (EK); arr HB 18 Feb (HM, BH, ph), early.

TURKEY VULTURE: max 16 T Lima LIVI 3 Jan, low max.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Bald Eagle: approx. 46 ind Dec; 4 ad + 7 imm IB mid Jan, high for loc; 166 line eBird records Feb.

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Conesus L WMA 15, 28 Jan (KC, EG, GL); ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: approx. 21 ind sev loc Dec; ~ 22 ind 16 loc Jan; ~ 37+ ind 16 loc Feb; max 8 BB (HW) 27 Feb (MT).

Golden Eagle: 1 ad BB 25 Feb (JeB, CW); edgemere Dr, T Greece 25 Feb (JeB, CW), different bird; unusual for date.

Virginia Rail: no reports.

Am. Coot: max 120 CL 1 Jan, low.

Sandhill Crane: 14 T Conesus LIVI 4 Dec (KC); **max 95 NMWMA (AR)** 10 Dec (JMcG); KB); 2 Honeoye Creek WMA 14 Dec (KK); 31 IB-S & Ellison P, RCBC 18 Dec (sev obs), new for CBC; NMWMA (T Savannah & MR) 7-8 Feb (SMa, JAk); Huckleberry Swamp WAYN 25 Feb (JGa).

Killdeer: arr 2 NMWMA (MR) 22 Feb (R&SS); many more thru.

Purple Sandpiper: last off Edgemere Dr, T Greece 16 Dec (JiB).

Am. Woodcock: arr Brockport 23 Feb (JH); 3 T Canadice 24 Feb (B&MH); both dates Reg record early; ~ 16 ind 10 loc 23 Feb thru (mob)

Bonaparte's Gull: max 300 IB-S7 Dec, low max; last 2 SPt 16 Jan, typical historical departure date; 15 OB 18 Feb (KSq), only Feb rep.

THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad West Port Bay Pt WAYN 23 Jan (JeB, CW).

Iceland Gull: ~ 17 ind sev loc 3-30 Dec; max 7 Millseat Landfill, T Riga 23 Dec (BriM); 24 ind 10 loc Jan; 6 Long Pnd, T Greece 18 Jan (GL); ~ 6+ ind 6 loc 5-18 Feb.

Thayer's/Iceland Gull: Long Pond 12 Feb (AGu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ~ 19 ind sev loc 3-30 Dec; ~ 22 ind 12 loc 1-26 Jan; max 6 Long

Pnd, T Greece 18 Jan (GL); ~ 10+ ind 7 loc 4-16 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: ~ 14 ind sev loc 10-31 Dec; max 3 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 23 Dec (BriM); ~ 7 ind 6 loc 1-26 Jan; 2 rep in Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 56 IB-S 12 Feb (RB, NK), good count.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1-3

Greenwell farm, Hamlin 4, 10 Dec, 1-14 Jan, 11, 12 Feb (9 obs), site of most records recent yrs

E. Screech-Owl: 30 RCBC 18 Dec; 18 CHCBC 26 Dec; down a bit, weather.

Snowy Owl: 8 ind 7 loc 4-31 Dec; ~58 rep, 22 ind 13 loc Jan; Summerville Pier 1-2 Feb; Buck Pnd, T Greece 3, 5, 19 Feb. **Long-eared Owl:** Taylor Marsh ONTA 26 Dec (DB), CHCBC; Owl Woods, Manitou 25 Feb (CW), early at site.

Short-eared Owl: 6 Nations Rd IBAT Avon 17 Dec; ~ 20 ind 13 loc Jan; max 9 DEC Avon survey 14 Feb; *intro*.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Owl Woods, Mantou 13 Dec (ET); North Rush 18 Dec (NK); Owl Woods, Manitou 9, 11, 14 Feb (owl survey team); Black Creek Park 17 Feb (B&BM); rarely reported in winter.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Greece 13-17 Dec (M&SA, RY), 3rd Reg record, present since Oct, banded by RY on 13th, last feeding 17th, *intro*.

Belted Kingfisher: total 24 sev loc all Jan, good winter number.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Nations Rd IBA, Huston Rd 1 Jan (FMallard, fide JK), only rep. no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~ 14 ind 14 loc, good number for winter.

Am. Kestrel: totals - 23 in Dec, 41 in Jan, and 19 in Feb; a bit better than many recent years.

Merlin: totals – 20 in Dec, 19 in Jan, and 17 in Feb; good for winter.

Peregrine Falcon: totals – 20 in Dec, 14 in Jan, and 9 in Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: CL WMA 22 Jan (CW), rare in winter.

N. Shrike: ~ 8 ind 7 loc Dec; ~ 14 ind 13 loc Jan; ~ 9 ind 7 loc 2-23 Feb.

Blue Jay: max 486 CHCBC 26 Dec, good total.

Am. Crow: 14800 U of Rochester 6 Dec (EG); max 22700 RCBC 18 Dec, downtown roost count, down from recent years; 2700 SUNY Geneseo campus 19 Jan (SB, JMcC), roost.
FISH CROW (R2): max 7 IB-N 18 Feb (RS), high away from OB ans a few here in Jan, expanding locally.

Horned Lark: max 468 L-SLCBC 17 Dec, good total; 150 NMWMA (Savannah) 26 Feb.

Winter Wren: 9 ind 6 loc 9-28 Dec; 11 ind 9 loc 1-22 Jan; 1 singing Durand-Eastman P ROCH 21 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BB-WS 19-20 Dec (AGa, MG), scarce in winter.

Hermit Thrush: ~ 12 ind 6 loc Dec; totals – 6 in Dec; 2 ea Durand-Eastman P & Webster P 1-20 Jan; 6 ind 5 loc 5-28 Feb.

Am. Robin: 2150 Jefferson Rd ROCH 15 Dec (NK); max 3375 RCC Dec18; 485 CHCBC 26 Dec, record high for that CBC; 450 HB 14 Jan (JiM, LM); 400+ T Williamson WAYN 1 Feb (MG, *et al.*); high numbers for winter.

Gray Catbird: 6 ind 6 loc 3-27 Dec; Webster P 15 Jan (TL); 4 ind 4 loc 9-28 Feb; scarce in winter.

Am. Pipit: Burger P, T Greece 2 Jan; SBotP 15 Jan; Nations Rd IBA, T Avon 22 Jan; max 7 Groveland Flats LIVI 26 Jan (KC); arr BB (HW) 27 Feb (PMar, BCar, MG).

Bohemian Waxwing: East Bay Rd WAYN 14 Jan (W&MR); Webster P (Whiting Rd) 23 Feb thru (LM, JiM, 12+ oth obs).

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Webster P (Whiting Rd) 10 Dec; low numbers this winter.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: scarce all season.

Snow Bunting: max 800+ NHR 13 Dec (DS, MT); 300 Gloria Dr, T Penfield 13 Dec (JiM); 375 T Kendall ORLE 29 Dec (KB, GL); 450 H 12 Feb (AGu).

Palm Warbler: CHCBC 26 Dec (C&JB, *et al.*, video), 1st for this CBC.

Pine Warbler: HB 4, 8 Dec (JiM, MG); Cook Rd, Hamlin 29 Dec (KB, GL), scarce in winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: IBO 21 Dec (JBow); Durand-Eastman P 1 Jan (JeB, CW); 2 Webster P 25 Feb (R&SS); scarce in winter.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Oatka Creek P 12 Dec, 13-23 Jan (JAd); T Nunda LIVI 21 Dec (CA); Beechwoods SP WAYN 23 Dec (MG); T Clarkson GENE 3031 Dec (CK); Cook Rd, Hamlin 1 Jan (JeB, CW); scarce in winter.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 95 T Chili 11 Feb, low.

Chipping Sparrow: Bushnell's Basin 24 Dec (C&HH), rare in winter.

Field Sparrow: Nations Rd IBA 22 Jan (Jeb, CW), scarce in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: max 6 Nations Rd IBA, T Avon 20 Dec (RS); Nations Rd IBA, T Avon 31 Dec (RB, NK); Priem Rd, Hamlin 20 Dec (AGu); T Bergen MONR 3 Feb (MC, ph); scarce in winter

Fox Sparrow: Fairport 3 Dec (R&GG); 1-2 Webster P 7, 29 Dec (R&SS, JiM); Oatka Creek P 8 Dec (JAd); MP 5 Jan (PMar); Webster P 15 Jan (TL); ~ 9 ind 5 loc 5-28 Feb; good numbers, usually rare in winter.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 65 Churchville P MONR 5 Feb, low max.

Dark-eyed “Pink-sided” Junco: HB thru 23 Dec (mob, ph), 1st Reg record covered in detail last season.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 14,000 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 25 Feb (SB, JMcG, KMcGo), low numbers earlier in season.

E. Meadowlark: 2 Sand Rd, T W Bloomfield ONTA 20 Dec; CHCBC 26 Dec; Nations Rd IBA 19 Feb; Owl Woods, Manitou 25 Feb; now rare in winter.

Rusty Blackbird: BB 10 Dec; 2 T Victor ONTA 16 Dec; Hemlock L – N 20 Dec; 5 BB 2 Jan (CW); arr Webster P 15 Feb (JiM); 2 Island Cottage Woods 25 Feb; 1 Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield 26 Feb; Owl Woods, Manitou 27 Feb; 2 SBotP 28 Feb. typically overwinters in small numbers.

Com. Grackle: max 800 NMWMA (MR) 25 Feb (BMcG), low max, lower numbers earlier in season.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 80 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 25 Feb (SB, JMcG, KMcGo), low max.

Com. Redpoll: max 15 Cook Rd, Hamlin 29 Dec; scattered few reports this winter.

Pine Siskin: max 65 Jacobs Rd, Hamlin 4 Jan (AGu); small number thru.

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