

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Matt Perry

3787 Dawes Ave., Clinton, NY 13323
mperry63@roadrunner.com

David Wheeler

20 Waterbury Dr., North Syracuse, NY 13212
tigger64@aol.com

The winter season was milder than average, with each month a little warmer than the one that preceded it. The mean temperature for December in Syracuse was 29 ° F, which is only 0.2° higher than average. Snowfall for the month was 37.2" which was 4.5" greater than normal. A cold spell that hit mid-month plunged temperatures to just below zero in most of the Region and served to lock up shallow ponds and lakes in ice. Predictably the cold spell was most acute in the northern part of the Region. The temperature dipped to -24° in Old Forge on 16 December. In January the amount of ice cover on the Region's lakes substantially decreased and what snow there was melted. Snowfall in Syracuse was only 8.4" in January which is more than 25" below normal. The average temperature for the month was 29.1°, which is 5.5° higher than usual. In Old Forge on 24 January, half an inch of ice followed by 6" of wet snow took down many trees. In February the mean temperature in Syracuse was 33.2°, fully 7.3° higher than the norm. Close to three feet of snow fell in February, which is 7.4" more than average, but the advent of warm winds from the south during the last week of the month seemed to herald an early spring.

More open water than normal on virtually all of the Region's lakes gave waterfowl and their allies a wide selection of waters to spend the winter in. Although much of the notoriously shallow Oneida Lake froze in mid-December, Bill Purcell reported that the lake's wider western end was partly open on 1 January. He further noted that by 26 February that same portion of the lake was completely open. This was the earliest ice-out date he could recall for the location, though it should be noted that Oneida froze over again in March. Onondaga Lake, usually the last to freeze, remained partly to mostly open throughout the period. Despite the overall lack of ice that normally forms on the Region's rivers and lakes, concentration of gulls was quite good.

Forest mast and wild food supplies in general were lacking in the Region this winter. However, many people reported above average supplies of wild grapes and European buckthorn berries. This fruit may have been what sustained the apparently unprecedented number of American Robins that wintered in the Region. Record numbers were found on virtually all of the Region's CBCs, and small flocks were widespread throughout the period. In a summary of the Syracuse CBC, which took place on 17 December, Kevin McGann wrote that the high count of 1,272 robins found on the count day shattered the old record of 698. Long-time observer Gerry

Smith commented that he hadn't seen anything like it in 55 years of birding. Indeed, the robins seemed to be working our Region in a circuit and sometimes doubling back to hit the same habitats again. At Spring Farm Nature Preserve in southern Oneida County, Matt Perry reported that in just a few days, robins had stripped every winterberry bush of its fruit, and this was after they consumed all the wild grapes and virtually all of the buckthorn berries on the property. Interestingly, although the latter two fruits usually disappear before winter is over, the less palatable winterberries normally remain on the bushes.

As it turned out the robins couldn't be used as an indicator of abundance for other half-hardy species. In fact no other "half-hardies" occurred in above average numbers. Perhaps most notably missing from the roster of winter frugivores were the waxwings, which were only lightly represented in the Region. Why, if so favorable for robins to remain, were there so few waxwings?

South winds and warm temperatures in the final week of February served as an early conveyer for many migrants into the Region. Typical early-March migrants like Snow Geese, Turkey Vultures, raptors, Killdeer, American Woodcocks, and blackbird species came pouring in with the promise of an early spring. They would soon be disappointed as winter returned for most of March, but that will be a subject for the spring report.

There were some reasonably good high counts of a few waterfowl species throughout the winter, in spite of much open water leading to fewer big duck concentrations. An impressive 224 Tundra Swans were observed on Oneida Lake at Brewerton on 4 January. On 5 December 91 Gadwall were seen at Fair Haven State Park. 350 Redhead on Otisco Lake on 26 December was also a good tally. Numbers of *aythya* species were unimpressive overall, likely due to open water spreading out the rafts of these ducks. An immature male and adult female King Eider were nice finds at Oswego Harbor by Wayne Fidler. They were distant and neither was relocated after the initial discovery on 16 January. Two different male Harlequin Ducks were identified by Fidler and Bill Purcell in the vicinity of Mexico Bay between 31 December and 19 January, and all three scoter species were found this period. During the first few days of December, impressive counts of Hooded Mergansers were staging on lakes in the Southern Highlands. A maximum count of 149 was seen on the DeRuyter Reservoir on 3 December.

The discovery of a **CLARK'S GREBE** at Oswego Harbor on 22 February by Gregg Dashnau represented the find of a lifetime and a first State record if approved by the records committee. Though similar to the more expected Western Grebe, the rarity was seen, heard calling, and well photographed by many birders during the course of its long stay. Birders trekked from throughout the Empire State and greater Northeast to Oswego Harbor. The **American White Pelican** found during the previous period lingered at Fair Haven through the first day of December but afterwards was not relocated. The importance of the Region's open water in helping birds overwinter cannot be overstated.

On 25 February in the Town of Whitesboro in Oneida County, Sean Lanigan chanced upon the rare spectacle of 6 **Black Vultures** feeding on road kill.

Fortunately he was able to make a video and document the unusual occurrence. The species continues to be seen in bigger numbers, more places, and earlier in the year than in the past. Black Vulture as a more common species may not lie too far in the future. There were seven reports of single Golden Eagles, including two migrating birds over Derby Hill on 28 February. As the last week of February was before the official hawkcount period, coverage was spotty. How many and which other early raptors may have passed? On 14 January, Kevin McGann was treated to the amazing sight of 43 (at least) Bald Eagles festooning the trees along the shore of Cross Lake. With much of Onondaga Lake open this season, it was less conducive to eagle-watching, but the Oswego River from Minetto north remained a hotspot. Cooper's Hawks were very common this winter, and evidence from southern Oneida County indicates they were living well off the abundant supply of robins. Red-tailed Hawks were common through much of the Region, with the exception of Eastern Oswego County. Bill Purcell thought their lower number could be due to a lack of prey or that the birds simply remained further north this winter. In northern parts of the Region a lack of prey in the form of mice and voles could help to explain why Rough-legged Hawks were so thin on the ground and possibly why so many young Barred Owls were flooding in to wildlife rehabilitators from these same areas. A shortage of small rodents was not an issue in southern Oneida County where evidence of rodents' caching, tunneling, and the animals themselves were not hard to come by. As usual, Northern Goshawks were scarce in the Region, but a photo was taken of a handsome adult in North Syracuse on 11 February.

We don't often host Sandhill Cranes during the winter period, but a couple of the enigmatic birds remained at Ditch Bank Road well into December.

Though the amount of open water might suggest poor gull concentrations, this was to be among the best in years for most of the usual spots. Oswego Harbor hosted huge numbers in January, with a convenient ice shelf forming on the protected water of Wright's Landing. Long suspected of possibly wintering on Lake Ontario, one or perhaps two different immature **Black-legged Kittiwakes** spent considerable time at Oswego in both January and February. The birds were seen at close range fishing on the river and perched on the ice with other gulls. Taken together, the sightings during a December lakewatch and the unusual Oswego River bird, kittiwakes were seen during all three winter months, with the February bird a Regional first for that month. The ice shelf and open water at Brewerton where the Oneida River flows into Oneida Lake played host to several thousand gulls. Though always a hot spot for ducks in winter and early spring it does not normally attract large groups of larids. Onondaga Lake hosted several thousand gulls in addition to many ducks, but the ice edge was often far out and difficult to observe. The lock and dam on the Oswego River at Phoenix hosted a huge number of gulls. Expected to be a short-term situation until minnows ran scarce, the phenomenon continued through the end of winter. Record high numbers of Iceland Gull were tallied. Most of them were first winter birds and likely they represented the greatest number at a single location away from the Niagara and St. Lawrence River power plants/dams. Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were represented in more typical

numbers. At least 3-4 immature and 2-3 adult **Thayer's Gull** were reliable finds at Phoenix, and many birders twitched them while in the area to see the Clark's Grebe. Taxonomic and identification issues with the species are well-known but most observers agreed on the field marks as represented in widely-available literature. Wingtip photos of the adults suggested the birds were in the nebulous overlap zone with Kumlien's Iceland Gull. Possible hybrids?

Gregg Dashnau made daily visits along the Oswego River between Phoenix and Oswego Harbor and documented the scene with copious photographs in his eBird checklists. In addition to many photos of the unusual gulls, Dashnau also looked carefully for and photographed gulls with field-readable plastic leg bands. Banded gulls are given a standard metal USFWS or Canadian Wildlife Service band (which requires capture to read in most cases), but some are given a second plastic band, usually of different colors and with a short, large string of characters that can be read in binoculars or spotting scope. Application of field-readable bands is typically done for specific studies that rely on re-sightings. Over the course of the winter season, 64 Ring-billed Gulls, seven Herring Gulls, and one Great Black-backed Gull were found with bands and the numbers submitted to reveal the bird's history. Most had been banded in Montreal, Quebec within the last several years and none more than seven years. Upon further research Dashnau discovered this number as the maximum expected lifetime of plastic bands, which become brittle and eventually fall off.

Both sexes and all ages were represented but adults made up about 2/3 of the banded Ring-bills, thus their exact ages are not known. The possible lifespan of the species is at least 25 years. One bird had been banded on Oneida Lake. Dashnau observed an influx of banded birds through mid-December, then the same individuals seen repeatedly up and down the river, followed by a return of banded birds returning north in mid-March (with 14 found on 28 March). Among the seven banded Herring Gulls, three had been banded on the Great Lakes, one in Maine, and one each in New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. The one Great Black-backed Gull was of special interest, having been banded in Maine, and the researchers there noted they are only rarely spotted inland when banded on the Atlantic coast. Much as the Niagara River is to our west, future seasons may shed more light on the Oswego River as a migratory launch and landing strip for gulls.

This was not a Snowy Owl invasion year, and this season's data certainly reflect that. Still, single Snowys were reported from nine different (mostly traditional) locations. There were only a few reports of them in February and no reports east of Oneida Lake. The significant upward trend in the number of Barred Owls being brought to the Region's wildlife rehabilitators is interesting, and it prompts inferences regarding the dynamics of owl populations. Are Barred Owl numbers on the increase because one of their chief competitors and sometimes predator, the Great Horned Owl, is experiencing a decline? And/or was there an abundant small rodent population that led to a boom in Barred Owl numbers followed by a subsequent crash (possibly cyclical) in rodent populations resulting in a high mortality rate for young Barred Owls? Short-eared Owls were a reliable find

only in a couple of large fields near Canastota in Madison County, although none were found there after 11 February. One and sometimes two Northern Saw-whet Owls were found at their traditional wintering location on the bog trail at Beaver Lake Nature Center. The species was reported from only one other place this winter.

Wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in several locations, and no Red-headed Woodpeckers were found this period. Pairs of Peregrine Falcons continue to hold their traditional territories in Syracuse and Utica, and what may be a new adult pair seemed to be consolidating their hold on Oswego. The Utica Peregrine Falcon Project working in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NRG Energy succeeded in getting a nest box installed on the roof of the NRG owned power plant located on the west side of the harbor. It remains to be seen if the Peregrines will accept the newly prepared site. Thanks go to *Kingbird* Region 5 contributor and Oswego resident, Mary Magistro, for monitoring the falcons and helping to coordinate the early meetings of the principals.

Northern Shrikes were not here in force this winter. Only a few were seen in traditional areas, but even those didn't seem to linger and very few were reported after January. On 6 February, Tim Johnston counted at least 10,000 American Crows at the Utica roost site. Johnston had spent several evenings watching the birds come in after dusk and he got his highest tally on the 6th. The number of reports of Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet were very low this period. This was especially true in the eastern portion of the Region, where the latter species was completely missed. Wayne Fidler found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the Syracuse CBC, which is always scarce in winter. Hermit Thrushes were found in three areas, but none were reported after 16 January; coincidentally the last reported date for wintering Gray Catbirds also. Abby Darrah made the unusual discovery of two **Orange-crowned Warblers** at the Onondaga Lake Creek Walk on 11 December, surprisingly only the third Regional record for winter. The warblers had been foraging with Tufted Titmice and picking things out of spider webs in a chain link fence. She thought she may have found a third one while she was leaving but could only safely vouch for two. One remained to be found the next day, but not afterwards despite some considerable searching. The spot continues to harbor a small micro-climate in early winter and can be a great place to find rarer half-hardies. A handful of Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported only at Rice-creek Field Station, which is a traditional winter location for the species. None were reported after mid-January, but observer effort is unknown.

Single Fox Sparrows were reported around the Syracuse area and points west through 23 December, then none until 17 February. Subsequent reports probably involved early migrants. An enormous push of blackbirds came on 24-25 February. Dave Wheeler and Renee Kittleman estimated a single flock of at least 2000 Red-wings, grackles, and cowbirds in the traditional Pennellville farm fields. Ken Burdick estimated 12,000 Red-wings nearby, while at Derby Hill Bill Purcell counted 7,600 passing. This is an almost unprecedented early date for such numbers. Was there substantial mortality associated with this early movement? The February warmup would not truly herald an early return of spring, as the inaugural

month of the next period would inform us. Winter finches were practically nonexistent this winter. Even our best and most reliable places to find Evening Grosbeaks yielded no more than a few, and none were found after January.

A total of 137 species was found this period, which is five more than the most recent decade's average. The highlights included: Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, **CLARK'S GREBE**, **AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN**, **Black Vulture**, **Golden Eagle**, Red-shouldered Hawk, **Sandhill Crane**, Purple Sandpiper, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, Bonaparte's Gull, **THAYER'S GULL**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Snowy Owl**, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow.

The winter season produced 43,410 eBird records, which were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis Anderson, Amy Barany, Faith Baker, Sue Boettger, Carla Bregman, Joseph Brin, Matthew Brown, Ken & Rose Burdick (KRB), Andrea Burke, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Gary Chapin, Richard Cohen, Karl Curtis, Jim D'Angelo, Abby Darrah, Gregg Dashnau, Rose DeNeve, Deborah Dohne, Wayne Fidler, Mark Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth Frascatore, Bill Gruenbaum, Michael Gullo, Ethan Gyllenhall, Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Gene Huggins, Timothy Johnston, Renee Kittleman, Jonathan Kresge, Greg Lawrence, Joshua LaCelle (JaL), Robert LaCelle III, Sean Lanigan, Gary Lee, Jason Lusier, Mark Magistro (MMA), Mary Magistro (MM), Sue March, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Thomas McKay, Gary Meyers, David Nash, Kevin Pace, Matt Perry, Scott Peterson, Bill Purcell, Margaret Rusk, Linda Salter (LSr), Deb Saltis, Livia Santana, Stephanie & Thomas Schmidt, Mickey Scilingo, Ida Sheppard, Tony Shrimpton, Sheila Smith, Micaela Snyder, Jean Soprano, Chris Spagnoli, Jim Tarolli (JTa), Judy Thurber (JT), Matt Voelker, Drew Weber (DWe), David Wheeler (DW), Brian White, Robert G. Williams III, Dan Wood, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Brew – Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; Canas – Canastota; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; HI – Howland I WMA; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; RCFS – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center; SP – Sandy Pd and vicinity; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP;

Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; WP – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 7700 OswH 25 Feb; max 12000 Cato 28 Feb.

Ross's Goose: Phoenix 25 Dec; OswH 25 – 28 Feb.

Cackling Goose: 2 Cazenovia 10 Dec (BW); max 3 FH 18 Feb (GL, EG) 18 Feb; 7 other reports of singles.

Canada Goose: max 10000 Syr 24 Feb; 7700 SP 24 Feb.

Mute Swan: max 63 FH 17 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: max 9 HI 19 Dec (MF); 7 FH 16 Jan – 26 Feb (BG, mob); 4 other locs.

Tundra Swan: max 224 Brew 4 Jan; 54 OnonL 9 Jan; 64 Bridgeport 28 Jan.

Wood Duck: max 3 Oswego 11 Jan & 3 Phoenix 26 Feb & 3 TR 26 Feb.

Gadwall: max 91 FH 5 Dec, good number; 38 OLC 21 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: 33 WP 4 Dec; max 87 FH 5 Dec; 20 OnonL 18 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: 45 WP 4 Dec; 40 FH 13 Dec; max 56 Herkimer 21 Dec.

Mallard: max 570 FH 13 Dec; 375 OLC 17 Dec.

Am. Black Duck x Mallard: OswH 25 Dec – 3 Jan; GLSP 15 Jan.

N. Shoveler: max 5 FH 3 Dec; 4 Fulton 23 Feb; 4 Skan 24 Feb.

N. Pintail: 250 Phoenix 25 Feb; max 500 Port Byron 27 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 13 WMonroe 26 Feb; max 30 DB 27 Feb.

Redhead: 350 Otisco Lake 26 Dec; max 1130 OnonL 18 Feb (EG, GL), good number.

Canvasback: OswH 1 Feb; max 12 OnonL 22 Feb (DN).

Ring-necked Duck: max 250 Hatch Lake 3 Dec; 173 BLNC.

Greater Scaup: 46 DH 3 Dec; max 152 OswH 18 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 125 OneiL 10 Dec; 100 OnonL 28 Feb.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 200 OneiL 26 Feb. *Aythya* species: max 200 OnonL 19 Feb.

King Eider: 2 Oswego 16 Jan (WF, BP).

HARLEQUIN DUCK (R5): m Mexico 31 Dec – 17 Jan (WF, mob, ph); m Mexico 18 – 19 Jan (BP, mob), different individual.

Surf Scoter: 2 FH 13 Dec, 18 Feb; max 12 OswH 6 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: max 335 OswH 18 Feb, good number; most reports from Lake Ontario.

Black Scoter: max 7 SP 3 Jan; 4 OnonL 1 – 4 Jan; 5 OswH 18 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 417 OswH 16 Jan; most reports from Lake Ontario.

Bufflehead: max 113 Tuscarora Lake 3 Dec; 60 FH 23 Feb.

Com. Goldeneye: max 400 Otisco Lake 26 Dec; 225 Brew 13 Jan; 145 FH 18 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: 131 Eaton 1 Dec; max 149 DeRuyter Reservoir 3 Dec; good numbers.

Com. Merganser: 340 Brew 13 Jan; 1500 Cross Lake 14 Jan; 1500 OnonL 14 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: 800 FH 1 Dec; 664 OswH 12 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: 5 NH 2 Dec; max 20 WP 4 Dec; 8 OnonL 23 Dec; low numbers.

N. Bobwhite: Sauquoit 28 Jan, unknown origin, only report.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 3 SP 15 Jan & 3 Bville 3 Feb.

Ruffed Grouse: max 2 Waterville 9 Dec & 2 New Haven 14 Jan & 2 SFNS 16 Jan & 2 SNC 12 Jan.

Wild Turkey: 112 Pulaski 18 Jan; max 125 Port Ontario 19 Jan; numbers improving.

Red-throated Loon: max 5 FH 1 Dec; 3 OswH 25 Feb.

Com. Loon: 4 OnonL 17 Dec; max 6 OswH 2 Jan; 5 DH 22 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 OnonL 19 Dec; 5 OLC 22 Jan.

Horned Grebe: 6 OswH 13 Dec; max 9 OnonL 23 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 OnonL 23 Dec; 2 OswH 24-26 Feb.

CLARK'S GREBE: OswH 22 Feb thru (GD!, mob, ph, NYSARC), 1st State rec, *intro*.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 57 OswH 21 Dec; 50 OLC 29 Jan.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R5): FH 1 Dec (mob), continuing.

Great Blue Heron: max 5 Phoenix 25 Dec

HAWKS - LARIDS

BLACK VULTURE (R5): 6 Whitesboro 25 Feb (SL, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 20 Manlius 23 Jan; many regreater Syr area.

Golden Eagle: max 2 DH 28 Feb; 5 other reports of singles.

Bald Eagle: max 43 Cross Lake 14 Jan (KM); 19 Minetto 19 Jan; 8 DH 23 Feb.

N. Harrier: max 2 DeWitt 26 Dec & 2 DH 23 Feb; widespread reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 DH 23 Feb.
Cooper's Hawk: high number of reports.
N. Goshawk: Richland 27 Dec; Fairfield, HERK 30 Jan; N Syr 11 Feb (ph); only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 reports of single.
Red-tailed Hawk: 6 OnonL 22 Jan; max 57 DH 23 Feb; good numbers winter in Reg.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 6 DH 21 Feb; mostly singles from expected locs.
Am. Coot: max 57 Skan 19 Jan; 25 OswH 25 Feb.
Sandhill Crane: 2 DB 3 – 19 Dec; 2 DH 28 Feb; only reports.
Killdeer: last Van Buren 21 Dec; arr OswH 22 Feb; max 16 OswH 25 Feb.
Purple Sandpiper: FH 4 – 5 Dec (DW, RK).
Am. Woodcock: arr max 3 TR 23 Feb; 4 other locs.
Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 2 Dec (WF); Fulton 18 Dec (BP); OswH 1 – 11 Jan (AD, mob); OswH 11 – 14 Feb (GD); few winter recs & first Feb rec for Reg.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 154 DH 2 Dec; 12 SP 2 Dec; 6 Phoenix 20 – 21 Dec; last Fulton 6 Jan.
Iceland Gull: 17 Brew 6 Feb (GD, BP); 21 Phoenix 7 Feb (GD); 25 Phoenix 10 Feb (GD); max 31 Phoenix 14 Feb (GD), Reg max; record or nearly so nums at usual gull spots.
Ring-billed Gull: max 5100 OswH 18 Feb (EG, GL); 1500 OLC 26 Feb; many banded birds, *intro*.
Herring Gull: max 3200 Brew 5 Feb; 2400 OLC 18 Feb.
THAYER'S GULL: max 2 Phoenix 3 Jan – 23 Feb (GD, mob, ph, NYSARC); 3-4 first cycle & 2-3 ad seen, various dates; *intro*.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 Brew 6 Feb (GD); max 4 Phoenix 11 Feb (GD); singles at a few other expected locs.
Glaucous Gull: 6 OswH 21 Dec (GD); max 5 Phoenix 13-14 Jan (GD, BP, WF).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 100 OswH 21 Dec & 100 Phoenix 23 Dec & 100 Brew 2 – 6 Feb; *intro*.
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: Oswego 18 Dec; Phoenix 11 Jan.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 327 Fulton 20 Dec; 300 Clay 20 Dec; 274 Tully 30 Jan.
Mourning Dove: 58 Clay 17 Dec; max 110 Dolgeville 14 Jan.
E. Screech-Owl: max 2 Skan 2 Jan; singles 11

other locs.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 Waterville 11 Jan; 2 SH 14 Jan – 22 Feb.

Snowy Owl: singles 9 locs, none east of OneiL.

Barred Owl: 2 New Haven 21 Jan; 2 Utica 21 Feb; 2 Ilion 23 Feb; 2 TR 23 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: Syr 23 Feb (MSn), only rep.

Short-eared Owl: arr Dolgeville 11 Jan; max 3 Canastota 31 Jan & 3 Canastota 11 Feb (mob); only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 BLNC 21 Jan – 5 Feb, one thru; SFNS 25 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 FH 3 Dec; 2 Fulton 25 Dec; 2 DeWitt 14 Jan; 2 OLC 16 Jan.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 GLSP 10 Dec & 6 HI 19 Dec.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 HI 19 Dec; singles 9 locs.

Downy Woodpecker: max 9 HI 19 Dec & 9 CM 22 Feb.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Dolgeville 14 Dec – 17 Jan.

N. Flicker: max 5 HI 19 Dec & 5 Syr 21 Dec; widespread reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 GLSP 10 Dec.

Am. Kestrel: max 2 Canas 15 Jan; 7 Dec; widespread reports of singles.

Merlin: max 3 Syr 17 Dec; approx 26 rep of singles.

Peregrine Falcon: pairs hold territory Syr, Utica, & OswH thru; Fulton 18 Dec; Manheim 24 Dec; 2 New Hartford 23 Jan, unusual loc.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: singles mostly in expected areas, few in Feb.

Blue Jay: max 21 HI 19 Dec; 20 Westmoreland 18 Jan.

Am. Crow: max 10000 Utica 6 Feb (TJ), roost site; 7086 DH 23 Feb.

Fish Crow: 3 Liverpool 22 Feb; max 5 Phoenix 28 Feb; few reports from Syr area.

Com. Raven: 6 SH 3 Dec; max 9 Manheim 10 Jan; 6 Fabius 20 Feb.

Horned Lark: 70 Earlville 17 Dec; 33 max 110 Marietta 26 Dec; 75 Skan 2 Jan.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 40 BLNC 5 Feb; 36 OF 21 Feb.

Tufted Titmouse: max 9 Earlville 17 Dec; 8 Fabius 20 Feb; 8 SFNS 25 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 BLNC 7 Dec; max 6 Richland 5 Jan; 3 Tully 20 Feb.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 14 HI 19 Dec; max 15 SFNS 25 Feb.

Brown Creeper: 2 Jamesville 1 Jan; max 3 BLNC 18 Feb; 2 CM 22 Feb; relatively few

reports.

Winter Wren: Scriba 3 Dec – 19 Feb; max 2 Clay 17 Dec; RCFS 16 Jan; Fayetteville 25 Jan; Elbridge 31 Jan; BLNC 17 Feb.

Carolina Wren: 3 Fulton 3 Feb; 2 Dolgeville 31 Jan – 13 Feb; 2 GLSP 19 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4 GLSP 2 Dec; 3 Boylston 21 Jan; 3 SH 18 Feb; relatively few reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Syr 17 Dec (WF); rare in winter.

E. Bluebird: 12 HI 19 Dec; max 16 Verona 1 Jan; 12 UM 14 Feb.

Hermit Thrush: Kirkland 17 Dec; GLSP 17 Dec; max 2 RCFS 4 – 16 Jan.

Am. Robin: 250 SFNS 10 – 15 Dec; 300 Eaton 1 Jan; max 550 Pulaski 2 Feb; high numbers overwinter.

Gray Catbird: 2 Oswego 2 Jan; all reports from Oswego area; none after 16 Jan.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Fayetteville 4 Dec – 26 Feb; 2 Skan 20 Jan; 2 Elbridge 11 Feb; 2 OnonL 11 Feb.

European Starling: 1400 Paris 23 Dec; max 2000 Fabius 28 Jan.

Am. Pipit: max 4 OswH 24 Feb; Syr 25 Feb; only reports.

Cedar Waxwing: 75 WP 2 Dec; 125 SSSP 7 Jan; low numbers overwinter in Reg.

Bohemian Waxwing/Cedar Waxwing: 8 DH 28 Feb.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Manheim 11 Jan; Central Square 13 Jan; Mexico 1 Feb; 2 Van Buren 2 Feb; 2 Bville 2 Feb; only reports.

Snow Bunting: 290 Schroepel 13 – 14 Jan; 290 Hastings 14 Jan; max 800 Fairfield 23 Feb.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: max 2 OLC 11 Dec (AD!), 1 thru 12 Dec, 3rd Reg rec for winter, *intro*.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 RCFS 21 Dec; last 2 RCFS 16 Jan; only reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Elbridge 16 – 18 Dec; Fayetteville

14 Jan; only reports.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 35 OnonL 11 Jan; max 50 Dolgeville 31 Jan.

Field Sparrow: Verona 1 Jan (BP, KM); Fulton 3 Feb; only reports.

Fox Sparrow: arr Fulton 25 Feb; max 4 Const 26 Feb; singles overwinter SH, Elbridge, Syr & GLSP.

Song Sparrow: 5 HI 19 Dec; 5 OnonL 31 Dec; CM 10 Jan; 5 OswH 25 Feb; max 8 Chittenango 28 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: Fayetteville 17 Dec; Verona 1 Jan; Oswego 16 Jan; Fayetteville 18 Feb; only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: 20 SFNS 20 Feb; max 25 UM 14 Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: Dolgeville 3 Dec; Elbridge 8 – 12 Dec; Clinton 31 Dec – 15 Jan; Bville 31 Jan; none after Jan.

Dark-eyed Junco: 40 HI 19 Dec; max 45 OnonL 2 Jan.

N. Cardinal: max 22 RCFS 16 Jan; 20 Fayetteville 19 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 12000 Pville 25 Feb (KB), exceptional number for date; 7600 DH 25 Feb (BP); *intro*.

Rusty Blackbird: 6 Durhamville 1 Jan; max 21 Waterville 31 Jan (RW), good number; singles at 3 other locs.

Com. Grackle: max 1000 TR 25 Feb (GD); 570 DH 25 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 48 Pompey 5 Feb; 20 Phoenix 24 Feb.

Purple Finch: 5 Dolgeville 7 Jan; max 8 SSSP 7 Jan; low numbers.

House Finch: 17 Hamilton 6 Jan; max 24 Syr 7 Jan; 20 Camilus 27 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: 2 Fabius 20 Feb, only rep.

Pine Siskin: max 3 Dolgeville 14 Dec; singles and small numbers mostly in east part of Reg.

Am. Goldfinch: max 89 Dolgeville 22 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 FH 6 Dec; max 7 SH 3 – 4 Jan; singles 4 other locs, none after 29 Jan.

House Sparrow: max 125 Liverpool 17 Dec; 98 n Syr 17 Dec; 60 Smithfield 29 Jan.