

REGION 2—GENESEE

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580

rspahn@prodigy.net

The winter of 2020-21 was generally quiet, warm, and lacking in significant snowfall. It began with a quiet December, with only nuisance snows. Three days topped 50° F and there were only two cool periods, 6-8 and 15-19 December. Temperatures averaged 32.9°, 2.9° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.31", 0.50" below normal, with 10.5" of snowfall, 11.3" below normal and a maximum single snowfall of only 2.7". January continued as a typical, quiet, winter month, with most of the first three weeks warm, then winter weather setting in as a cold air mass arrived on the 17th and cold and lake effect snow followed to month's end. The high of 43° on 15 January was the lowest January high since 2003. Temperatures averaged 27.9°, 3.2° above normal. Precipitation totaled 1.97", 0.44" below normal, and snowfall totaled 21.9", 6.3" below normal. Light snow fell on 23 days and heavy on only two days. Lake Ontario remained generally ice-free other than some near-shore ice. February finally brought the deepest cold of the winter in the second and third weeks. The period 5-22 February completely below freezing was the longest such stretch since 2015, yet no records were set. Temperature averaged 23.9°, 2.5° below normal. There were four short cold intrusions toward month's end. Precipitation totaled 2.23", 0.56" above normal, with snowfall 21.6", 0.28" above normal, and snowfall totaled 29.9", 8.4" above normal. The heaviest snowfalls were on 16 and 19-20 February. A warmup began on the 24th and led to some rainfall at the end of the month.

Looking at the general picture, we again are confronted with several impacting factors, some of whose effects are not immediately obvious. It was generally warm through much of January, many new birders were still more active due to the NY Breeding Bird Atlas, and COVID restrictions were loosening. We also had many lingering species from the warm late fall and continuing winter finches. So birders were out and species counts were up. The eBird downloads for December and January were both nearly double the prior year's numbers at 24,222 and 35,061, respectively. With a cold February and only very little start to spring

movement by month's end, the download was 35,616, up about 50%, though observer numbers were nearly double at > 617. Species for the month and year-to-date ran well above their ten-year averages, for the former at: December – 147 (vs. 132.0); January – 138 (126.7), the highest since 2006 and near record high; and February – 134 (119.9), again near record high.

All of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were affected, some by varied weather issues, precipitation and/or wind. Still species counts were at or above average, even in the face of weather issues, waterfowl hunting season open, COVID restrictions, and no countdown gatherings. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC (19 December) tallied 74 species (76 with count-week species added), with new high counts for Bald Eagle (12), Blue Jay (317), and American Crow (2801). The Rochester CBC (20 December) counted 95 (108) species, with new highs for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3) and Hermit Thrush (14); tied highs for N. Saw-whet Owl (1) and Common Raven (4); a second time count-week Black-legged Kittiwake; and a new species—**Swainson's Thrush**—and a new count-week species—Pine Warbler. The Conesus-Hemlock (Little Lakes) CBC (26 December) logged 83 (83) species, with new highs for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Tufted Titmouse (147), White-crowned Sparrow (11), and Dark-eyed Junco (434). All in all a good CBC season.

Moving on to more specifics, as usual we start with waterfowl. Again this season, all really expected species were reported in each month, with numbers generally poor to modest and good peak counts typically only on one or a very few dates for any species. In December we had high counts of Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, and Redhead plus the usual too many Mute Swans. The other swans were low in December this year. Long-tailed Duck numbers were good along the Lake Ontario shore, but down from recent highs. Redhead and Ring-necked Duck were high at their usual Finger Lakes sites. Lingering merganser numbers were down, as were grebes, though Brad Carlson did note a good count of 118 Red-necked Grebes on 14 December off Hamlin Beach State Park, high historically but down for recent years. The January State Waterfowl Count (WFC) provides a good comparison point. As usual, winter arrived on the eve of the official count date (17 January), and snow, cold, and wind persisted through the week of alternate dates. Still, counters managed to find decent dates to cover their sections. Surprisingly, on the days with the best visibility out over Lake Ontario, there were almost no waterfowl to be seen way out. The WFC total of 54,094 individuals was the third highest since 1973, BUT $\frac{3}{4}$ of that total was Canada Goose and Redhead. 34 species was a good number for the count. Another interesting observation was on the effect of count timing details. At one site in Mendon Ponds Park, counts of Canada Goose varied from 8000 to 4000 to 0 with less than one hour changes in when observers counted on the same day. Finally, in February the waterfowl picture changed little other than with all of the lakes, bays and ponds mostly frozen, birds moved about to the patches of open water and very few new arrivals were noted. Detection of new arrivals was made difficult by the larger numbers overwintering. Rarer species included King Eider,

Harlequin Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye, with several of the last species appearing near the mouth of the Genesee River. Loons and grebes continued very scarce.

Catching loose ends between the waterfowl and shorebirds, we find a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** at a feeder near Sodus, Wayne County in December and a Sora seen and photographed in Mendon Ponds Park at the usual Virginia Rail site, with Virginia Rail not found there until February this season. American Coot numbers were poor through the season. Lingered Sandhill Crane numbers continue to increase, with 138 in the Region into December in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), good numbers into January, and two there in February. There were even more in nearby parts of Region 3. Up to nine individuals were seen well into winter in the area north of the village of Honeoye and west into the Town of Livonia, Livingston County.

Shorebirds were scarce, with only Killdeer reports from the Braddock Bay barrier island and in February also on fields west of Rochester, Purple Sandpiper at Point Breeze, Orleans County, and Wilson's Snipe at two locations in January.

Wandering through the gulls and terns and on to waders, we find gull numbers generally down a bit from recent winters, with a mostly open water at first then everything frozen through most of February, so very limited ice edges where the birds typically rest. But there is always something of interest. An immature Black-legged Kittiwake showed up in Irondequoit Bay 18-19 December and again at several locations in January; likely the same individual, rare here in winter. An adult Little Gull was found at Turning Point Park on the Genesee River about 2.1 miles inland from Lake Ontario on 18 December, then seen later that day headed out near the river mouth. Bonaparte's Gull lingered to late January followed by a single report in early February. The usual winter visitors—Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls—were seen through the season though in lower numbers than in many recent winters. A rare Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid was reported and photographed at a couple of locations in January, and a Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid was seen at Sodus Point by Tim Lenz on 13 February.

The Bird of the Season was an **Anhinga** found and photographed on Black Creek in Churchville Park, Monroe County on 13 December by Pam Inzinna and seen there by hordes of birders through the 18th. This was the first Regional record. Wrapping up, a Great Egret at Turning Point Park on 3 January was record late for our Region. Double-crested Cormorant number peaked at 34 at a single site in early January, then dropped to 1-2 through the rest of the season.

Among the raptors, all expected species were reported in all months, with numbers generally unremarkable. There were no Black Vulture or Northern Goshawks reports and only three Red-shouldered Hawks in December and January and two in February. Golden Eagles at the Honeoye Inlet WMA in December and near Fairport in February were rare finds. Bald Eagle was good all season and will be listed as lines in the eBird download each month. The Cooper's Hawk:Sharp-shinned Hawk ratio was typical of this Region in winter at from 5:1

in December to 3.5:1 in February. Another nice find was a *calurus* Red-tailed hawk found by David Tetlow near Spencerport on 14 December and seen 14-16 January by Andy Guthrie and Greg Lawrence. Rough-legged Hawk increased from few in December to about 17 locations in February. In the late February warming, Dominic Sherony did a brief hawk watch at Braddock Bay on 26 February and noted 10 raptors of five species passing. The official count will begin on 1 March, with David Brown returning as primary counter.

Moving to nocturnal raptors, it was interesting, personally, to start late on the Rochester CBC due to light rain mixed with snow and breezy and to have 1-3 Eastern Screech-Owls reply to my imitations at seven of eight stops between 6:00 and 7:10 AM. Snowy Owls were scarce, with about three, one, and five reported in the season's months, respectively. Short-eared Owl counts on the regular bi-weekly DEC surveys out of the Avon office remained very good through the season. There were both Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owls found in the Owl Woods roost area each month, with Jim Adams reporting a total of 10 N. Saw-whet Owls tallied in February, the second highest February total since he has been summarizing the counts. There was also a continuing presence of a Barred Owl there, later taken advantage of by photographers and others needing a refresher on their birding ethics. Another N. Saw-whet Owl was also added to the Rochester CBC from Frisbee Hill by Robert Buckert and Jules Wagner. There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports for the season. But Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a good indicator of lingering half hardies, with ~ 40 in December, 29 in January, and still ~ 28 in February, when typically they have dropped to < 5 and often to zero. The three regular falcons were reported in good numbers all season, increasing through the months.

On to the passerines, we can connect the topics with Northern Shrike at 8-9 individuals each month, fairly low. Beyond that, species variety was good through the months, with essentially all expected species reported, half hardies particularly good, and winter finches present all season. At the top of the list is a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** banded at the state record late date of 11 December at BBBO. Photographs, recordings, and a feather for DNA analysis (still not completed) were gathered. In December, we also had record late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and **Swainson's Thrush**. The half hardy list of about 26 species included many in very good numbers, some persisting into February with good counts. The list of such lingering passerines not yet mentioned, with interesting February numbers in parentheses includes: Winter Wren (14); Marsh Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Thrush (16); Gray Catbird (5); Brown Thrasher; Eastern Towhee; Chipping (3), Field, Vesper, Savannah (12), Fox (max 3), White-throated (many), and White-crowned (many) Sparrows; Rusty Blackbird, Orange-crowned Warbler; Common Yellowthroat; Pine Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler (2); and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. With the full complement of winter finches were Hoary Redpolls at nine different sites. In addition, in January very high number of records were reported for Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and both nuthatches. There were only a few reports of Bohemian Waxwing at one site in

early December. Specific note was also made of good numbers of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. With the deep cold in February, the only new passerine species added was American Pipit. Interestingly, a surprise that persisted through the season was very low numbers for all of the blackbird species, especially Common Grackle. Other rarities included: two very rare **White-crowned “Gambel’s” Sparrows** found and photographed on Gloria Drive in Penfield on 8 February by Eunice Thein and Candy Giles and seen subsequently by a few others; a **Summer Tanager** photographed at a feeder in the Town of Greece on 16 January by Kenneth Carl; and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Chris and Helen Haller’s feeder in Bushnell’s Basin, Monroe County on 6 February.

A very interesting season, with many reports and great variety. Of special note were the Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird, Anhinga, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson’s Thrush, White-crowned “Gambel’s” Sparrow, and Summer Tanager. All but the thrush were documented with photographs.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kate Ackerman, Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Richard Ashworth, Diane Baillargeon, Cynthia Barlow, Ted Barnett, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Douglas Bassett, Will Baxter-Bray, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Chris Bertola, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown (BB-HW official hawk watcher), Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Kenneth Carl, Brad Carlson, Douglas Carpenter (DC), Donna Carter, Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Tom Cerdillo, Gary Chapin, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Peter Debes, Deborah Dohne, Gordon Dutter, Sarah Dzielski, Diane Egan, Joe Fell, Debra Florio, Annabelle Foos, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janice George, Jessica George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, Bill Gillette, Fiona Gilroy, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, David Griffin, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Jeff Gutterman, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Peter Harrity, Greg Hartenstein, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, William Heckman, Diane Henderson, Christina Hoh, Andrew Holt, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Alec Humann, IBA Monitoring, Bella Inigo-Payne, Pam Inzinna, Nancy Jameson, Alyssa Johnson, Jill Johnson, Nathan Johnson, Jordan Juzdowski, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Jacob Kearney, Hayden Keene, Kenneth Kemphues, David Kennedy, Bernie Kester, Josh Ketry, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Coby Klein, Gary Klue, Elijah Krueger, Hans Kunze, Karl Kunze, Michael Laird, Tom Lathrop, Chris

Lajewski, Greg Lawrence (GL), Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Bill Maier, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Matthew Medler, Steve Melcher, Janet Miles, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Mark Miller, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Judy Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Frank Morlock, Brian Morse, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Carl Mrozek, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Matt Nusstein, Dave Odell, Tom & Susan O'Donnell, Michael Palermo, Gary Palmer, Pat Parslow, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Aidan Perkins, Erma Perkins, Michael Peter, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Ian Power, Bill Purcell, Nick Pusateri, Doug Rabjohns, Mary Racinowski, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Rochester Young Birders Club, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Bruce Robinson, Brian Rohrs, Ken Rosenberg, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Carole & Jim Rudman, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jackie Salisbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Lori Seely, Erin Shannon, Shirley Shaw, Ed Scheidlower, Melissa Sheldon, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Dee Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Amanda Smith-Hatch, Joshua Snodgrass, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Nancy Sprague, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, David Strong, June Summers, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, John Thomas, M. J. Thomas, Judith Thurber, Brian Tuttle, Nathan Ukens, Trisha Vanable, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Thomas Verhulst, Matt Voelker, Jules Wagner, Scott Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Susan Weiner, David Wheeler, Kinsley Whittum, Joe Wing Jim Wood, Martha Zettel.

Many other observers contributed eBird data, but all cannot be listed here.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 26 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, G; **G** – T Greece; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **IB-W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **LSLCBC** – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 19 Dec; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, 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 (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **RCBC** – Rochester CBC on 20 Dec; **SPt** –

Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 1000+ Oatka Creek Park MONR 30 Dec (JAd); 60 Nunda LIVI 26 Feb.
Greater White-fronted Goose: T Bloomfield ONTA 14 Dec (JCo); HB 1 Jan (DeH, DiB).
Cackling Goose: 33 rep, ~ 52 ind 14 loc Dec; max 12 H 27 Dec (MBa); 25 rep, ~ 31 ind 11 loc 1-21 Jan; 3 rep, ~ 5 ind 2-3 loc Feb (4 obs).
BARNACLE x CANADA GOOSE: H 27 Dec (MBa, *et al.*), ph.
Canada Goose: max 10000 Nations Rd IBA 10 Dec (HKe); total 27,532 WFC 16-23 Jan (sev obs), very high count.
Mute Swan: max 270 IB-S 23 Dec (DC) & 16 Jan (JBo); 200 BB 30 Jan; 200 BB 6 Feb, SPT 14 Feb, & IB-S 28 Feb.
Trumpeter Swan: max 20 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GDa).
Tundra Swan: max 130 BB 8 Jan (JiM).
Wood Duck: 2 Churchillville Park MONR 27 Dec PI); Canal Ponds Park, G 16 Jan (LBe); Pultneyville Harbor WAYN 23 Feb (JWi), only Feb report.
Northern Shoveler: 13 IB-S 20 Dec (CGi, SG, JV); max 17 private pond, T Penfield 17-21 Jan (C&JB, R&SSp); 14 IB Park – W 25 Jan (5 obs); 6 IB-W 2 Feb (NU); OB 8, 10 Feb (RRy); high numbers for winter, many other rep.
Gadwall: max 35 IB-S 28 Feb, decent count.
American Wigeon: 1-2 ind 3 loc 9-31 Jan, usually scarce in winter; arr BB 23 Feb; max 14 BB-WS 27 Feb (GL), low max.
Mallard: max 2650 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Dec (IBA monitoring); 2500 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (AJ); good counts.
American Black Duck: 262 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Dec (IBA Monitoring); 150 Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 20 Dec (JWi); max 1000 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (AJ); 256 CL 21 Jan (MW); very good counts for this species.
Northern Pintail: total ~ 14 ind 11 loc 1-25 Jan, scarce mid winter; 40 BB-WS 26 Feb (MG).
Green-winged Teal: 1-2 IBO 25-31 Jan (6 obs); SPT 26-31 Jan (MG, W&MR, JWi); usually scarce mid winter; arr Turning Point Park MONR 12 Feb (WH).
Canvasback: max 36 BB 1 Feb (MBa), low max.
Redhead: max 10,000 CL 26 Dec (GL); 8573 CL 21 Jan (MW); 4300 off Sandbar P Webster

19 Jan (JBo, RSp); total 13,261 WFC 17-24 Jan (sev obs), very high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 700 Hemlock L P 8 Jan (AF); total 1031 WFC 17-24 Jan (sev obs).

Greater Scaup: max 1000 off Lake Rd, Webster I Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 150 Conesus Inlet WMA 22 Jan, low max.

King Eider: 1 f East Manitou Rd Overlook, G 1 Dec (JaG, KGri); 1 f BB-ES 21 Dec (BCar); 1 f off BB mouth 8-31 Jan (GL, mob); 1 F BB-WS 3 Feb (JKea); 1F SPT 5-13 Feb (DSH, MT, 11 oth obs, ph); likely some of these are the same individual.

Harlequin Duck: 1 f East Manitou Rd Overlook, G Dec (mob); 1 f East Manitou Rd to Round Pnd, G Jan; 1 f btwn piers near mouth of Genesee R 2-25 Feb (mob); could all be the same individual.

White-winged Scoter: max 375 SPT 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), good number, generally scarce by Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1800 OB area 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), typical flock offshore on Lake Ontario, number a bit low.

Bufflehead: max 70 Conesus Inlet WMA 10 Dec, low max.

Common Goldeneye: max 275 Hemlock L 1 Dec; total 1528 WFC 16-24 Jan (sev obs).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1-2 imm m btwn piers near mouth of Genesee R 25 Feb thru (BHaa, mob, phs).

Hooded Merganser: max 113 Conesus Inlet WMA 13 Jan, low max.

Common Merganser: max 400 IBO 24 Feb (JiM), low max.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1845 Sodus Bluff area WAYN 21 Jan (DSH, MT).

Ruddy Duck: max 18 Silver L WYOM 11 Dec. last IBO 18 Jan (JO); 1-3 scattered sites thru season, scarce by late win.

Wild Turkey: max 52 OldDuck Inn WAYN 17 Jan (DO), good flock.

Horned Grebe: max 14 off Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 11 Dec (DSH), low max; 13 off Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 13 Jan (JWi); low monthly peaks, very scarce this winter.

Red-necked Grebe: max 118 HB 14 Dec (BCar), good count, *intro*; SPT 13 Feb (LCB, SB); IBO 24-27 Feb (mob); usually scarce in Feb.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD:

Sodus WAYN 16 Jan (CBarlow, phs), at feeder, *intro*.

Virginia Rail: MP – Quaker Pnd 22-24 Feb (4 obs), usual wintering site.

Sora: MP – Quaker Pnd 15-16 Dec (NU, 5+ oth obs, phs), rare in winter.

American Coot: max 115 IBO 25 Jan, low max.

Sandhill Crane: max 138 NMWMA (Savannah, Rts 31 & 89) 14 Jan (AJ); 9 flying W from Honeoye WMA 26 Dec (KKi); 14 NMWMA (Savannah) 2 Jan (JGr, AV); 9 Ashley Rd, T Livonia LIVI 7; 8 Jan (BHo; TB); 2 NMWMA (Deep Muck area) 26 Feb (CL).

Killdeer: BB-ES 27-30 Dec, 1-22 Jan (mob); arr N Hamlin RD fields and OB area 27 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: 1-2 BB-ES 1-12 Dec.

Wilson's Snipe: Conesus Inlet WMA 21 Dec (JGo); 2 Nations Rd IBA 29 Dec (MW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: IB – sev sites 18-19 Dec (BCar, JiM, mob); IB – sev sites 5; 13 Jan (NU, mob; RRY); BB-ES 11 Jan (AP); possibly same ind.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 IB-S 6 Dec, low max; ED & OB 12 Feb (MBa, NU), only Feb reps.

Little Gull: 1ad Turning Point P, Rochester 18 Dec (BCar, DM, JiM, JJo); later Genesee R near mouth 18 Dec (RB, LBe).

Ring-billed Gull: max SPT 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), good count.

Herring Gull: 3000 BB-ES 22 Jan (CKI).

Iceland Gull: 3 ind 3 loc 5, 14, 19 Dec; 37 rep, ~ 21 ind 12 loc Jan; 25 rep, ~ 14 ind 9 loc Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7 rep, 5 ind 6 loc 5-31 Dec; 34 rep, ~ 24 ind 17 loc Jan; 13 rep, ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

HERRING x LESSER BLACK-BACKED

GULL: Buck Pnd, G 1 Jan (AGu, 5 oth obs, phs); BB-ES 9-15 Jan (5 obs, phs), same ind.

Glaucous Gull: 15 rep, ~ 10 ind 6 loc Dec; 32 rep, ~ 18 ind 12 loc Jan; 11 rep, ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: SPT 13 Feb (TL, ph), interesting hybrid.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 13 OB 4 Dec & HB 14 Dec, low numbers thru.

Common Loon: low numbers thru.

ANHINGA: 1 ad m Black Creek, Churchville P MONR 13-18 Dec (PI, mob many phs), 1st Reg record.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 38 RCBC 20 Dec, RCBC high count; 34 IB-Newport Marina 1 Jan (5 obs); 1-2 sev loc thru Feb.

Great Egret: TPP 3 Jan (JJo), Reg record late.

Turkey Vulture: max 65 Dalton RD, T Lima LIVI 17 Jan (AF).

Golden Eagle: Honeoye Inlet WMA 2 Dec (MW); 1 ad Fairport 21 Feb (MT); rare in winter.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 52 eBird lines many loc Jan; 55 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: 228 eBird lines many loc Jan; 190 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 12 LSLCBC 19 Dec, CBC record high; 126 eBird lines 59+ loc Dec; 306 eBirdlines many loc Jan; 239 lines eBird many loc Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CL – N 11 Dec (BCar); NMWMA (SCU) 14 Dec (LP); Nations Rd IBA 17 Dec (KS); Mathes area ORLE 18 Jan (GP); N Wolcott WAYN 29 Jan (W&MR); Doran Rd, T Lima 30 Jan (JGo); T Conesus LIVI 20 Feb (TBo); 1 ad Doran Rd, T Lima LIVI 23 Feb (DDa).

Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*): Rts 531 & 31, Spencerport MONR 14 December (DT, ph) & 14-16 Jan (AGu, GL), rare.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 26 N Hamlin Rd fields 1 Jan 9DF0.

Rough-legged Hawk: 13 rep, ~ 11 ind 10 loc Dec; 22 rep, ~ 18 ind 17 loc 1-25 Jan; 49 rep, ~ 33 ind 23 loc Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 62 RCBC 20 Dec, in spite of weather, *intro*.

Snowy Owl: ~ 3 ind 3 loc 16; 18; 26 Dec; SPT 26 Jan (W&MR, MG, JWi, phs); total 5 ind 4 loc 2-14 Feb.

Barred Owl: M (OW) (JAD rep0rt), relatively "tame" ind.

Long-eared Owl: M (OW) 11 Dec (BBRR counter); 2 M (OW) 2 Jan (*vide* JAD); T Ontario WAYN 4 Feb (DE, ph); 1 found dead private, T Mendon MONR 13 Feb (KA); M (OW) 20 Feb (BBRR counters).

Short-eared Owl: monthly max: 9 Buckland P, Rochester 25 Dec; 16 DEC Avon Survey 19 Jan; 4 Nations Rd IBA 13; 27 Feb. **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** M (OW) 5, 7 Dec (BBRR counter, NU); Frisbee Hill, G 20 Dec (RB, JWa), RCBC; M (OW) 17 Jan (GL, MG); Lake Rd, T Ontario WAYN 14 Feb (AS-H); total 10

ind M (OW) Feb (BBRR counters), 2nd highest for a Feb, *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total 40 ind many loc Dec; 52 rep, ~ 29 ind 25+ loc Jan; 42 rep, 28 ind 26 loc Feb; big numbers for winter. T Chili, MONR 7 Dec; T Rush, MONR 15 Dec; T Victor, MONR 3 Jan (RH); Hemlock L west side, LIVI 5 Jan (DD); CL Inlet 24 Feb (KC); scarce in win.

American Kestrel: 22 rep, ~ 17 ind 17 loc 1-26 Dec; 46 rep, ~ 28 ind 27 loc Jan; 20 rep, 16 ind 14 loc Feb.

Merlin: 33 rep, ~ 29 ind 28 loc 5-29 Dec; 44 rep, 42+ ind 37+ loc Jan; 37 rep, 29 ind 29 loc Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: 22 rep, ~ 19 ind 17 loc Dec; 33 rep, 21+ ind 14 loc Jan; 23 rep, ~16 ind 16 loc Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: 1b BBBO 11 Dec (APa, *et al.*), **State record late**, photos, audio recordings, and feather for DNA analysis collected.

Northern Shrike: 9 rep, ~ 9 ind 9 loc Dec; 22 rep, ~ 9 ind 9 loc Jan; 12 rep, ~ 8 ind 6+ loc Feb.

American Crow: max 14,600 SE Rochester 20 Dec, winter roost, less organized this year; 1200 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan & 8000 there 24 Feb (GDa).

Fish Crow: total 21+ ind 6+ loc Feb, showing up at more different loc.

Common Raven: max 13 East Lake Rd, T Livonia LIVI 5 Dec (NK, SG, AMcM).

Horned Lark: max 200 N Hamlin Rd MONR 20 Jan, good count.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 46 Beatty Pt 15 Dec (GL), during RCBC; 1293 eBird lines Dec; 1788 eBird lines Jan; 1962 eBird lines Feb; illustrates many reports for common birds.

Tufted Titmouse: 1052 eBird lines Jan; 1309 eBird lines Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 382 eBird lines Dec; 620 eBird lines Jan; 694 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 816 eBird lines Dec; 1331 eBird lines Jan; 1354 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

Winter Wren: 41 rep, ~ 39 ind 27 loc Dec; 34 rep, 20 ind 14 loc Jan; 15 rep, 14 ind 10 loc Feb many winter.

Marsh Wren: 2 NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 14 Dec (NJ); IB-S 1 Jan (6 obs);

NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 4 Jan (LCB, SBe).

Carolina Wren: 517 eBird lines Feb.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last BB-WS 11, 12 Dec (GL, JiM, LMa, BCar, SG, DSh), Reg record late.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: HB-YC 7 Dec (JiM); BB-WS 11 Dec (GL, JiM, LMa); Bisig trail, G 8 Jan (GL, DT); NMWMA (AR) 8 Feb (JMcG, LSa); usually scarce in winter.

Eastern Bluebird: total 70 CHCBC 26 Dec, good count; 20 T Parma MONR 19 Dec (DF), many for loc & date.

Swainson's Thrush: N Greece Rd 20 Dec (PD), Reg record late, 1st on RCBC.

Hermit Thrush: 30 rep, ~ 32 ind 21 loc Dec; 35 rep, ~ 26 ind 20 loc Jan; 29 rep, ~ 16 ind 16 loc Feb (DWi); HB 29 Feb (GL, RB); usually scarce in win.

American Robin: max 3000 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GDa).

Gray Catbird: total 12 ind 12 loc 4-30 Dec; total ~ 11 ind 8 loc Jan; total 5 ind 5 loc Feb, usually scarce in winter.

Brown Thrasher: Webster P 23 Dec; 2 Jan (GL, JiM, JJu; KH), rare in winter.

Bohemian Waxwing: 2; 1 nr Huffer Rd, T Parma MONR 7; 10 Dec (JiM, LMa, AGu; BCar), only reps.

Cedar Waxwing: max 225 Huffer Rd, T Parma MONR 10 Dec.

American Pipit: arr SPT 5 Feb (MG, W&MR), early, only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: many reps, small numbers thru; max 25 T Nunda LIVI 12 Feb (DG).

Pine Grosbeak: total ~ 21 ind ~ 6 loc 10-23 Dec; max 18 Webster P 2 Jan (RRe, JaG); 1-4 Webster P 5-21 Feb.

Common Redpoll: monthly max: 300 T Richmond ONTA 26 Dec (JBo, NP); 280 Honeoye Falls 16 Jan (J&KGo); 223 Hance Rd, T Macedon WAYN 7 Feb (DSh); good numbers thru.

Hoary Redpoll: 1-3 BB-ES 11-28 Dec, 1-21 Jan (mob, phs); Stone Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 14 Dec (KMcGa, MG); 2 Butcher Rd, T Parma MNR 19 Dec (R&SSp, ph) & 1 there 1 Jan (LBer); Lake Bluff Rd, T N Rose WAYN 1 Jan (W&MR); T Williamson WAYN 8 Jan (MG); SPT 24 Jan (JWi); Ivison Rd GENE 1 Feb (GL); Lakeshore Marshes WMA WAYN 12 Feb (MG), many reps for this impending lump.

Red Crossbill: small flocks on a few dates scattered thru; max 29 Webster P 13 Feb (KGa, MG).

White-winged Crossbill: 2 MP 15 Dec; Webster P 23 Jan; Beechwood SP WAYN 23 Jan; T Williamson WAYN 27 Dec; 1-3 Webster P 13-28 Feb.
Pine Siskin: monthly max: 130 DEP 6 Dec; 45 Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 15 Jan; 10 Hogan Pt, G 13 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 35 Lakeshore Rd, T Kendall ORLE 19 Jan.
Snow Bunting: 400 N Hamlin Rd 9 Dec (JiM); max 950 Catchpole Rd WAYN 8 Jan (DDo).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: T Galen WAYN 14 Feb (PH), only rep. **American Tree Sparrow:** max 150 nr Lyons WAYN 13 Feb (LCB, SBe).
Chipping Sparrow: 1-3 T Livonia LIVI 1 Dec, 1 Jan, 6-20 Feb (TBo, ph); Cook & Redman Rds, H MONR 21 Dec (BCar); TCEA 4 Jan (MW); T Gates MONR 13 Feb (SW), usually scarce in winter.
Field Sparrow: 1-5 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 3-29 Dec, 2-18 Jan (7 obs); nr Warsaw WYOM 25 Dec (RSt); NMWMA (VDS) 25 Jan (DK); T Penfield 29 Jan (CMc), usually scarce in winter.
Vesper Sparrow: Lima-Livonia TLR LIVI 23, 26 Dec (TBo, GL), 25 Jan (ST), 7, 8 Feb (MG, KGa).
Savannah Sparrow: Nations Rd IBA 6 Dec; Jones Bridge & Perry Rd, T Leicester, LIVI 18 Dec; max 7 Nations Rd IBA 25 Jan (TBo); 19 rep, 12 ind 8 loc 1-14 Feb; usually scarce & local in winter.
Fox Sparrow: total 5 ind 5 loc 1-22 Dec; 1-2 ind 6 loc Jan; total 8 ind 6 loc 4-28 Feb; usually rare in winter.
Song Sparrow: max 22 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 3, 13 Dec (BCar, NK).
Swamp Sparrow: 20 rep, 11+ ind 7 loc Feb, usually few in win.
White-throated Sparrow: monthly max: 35 HB 31 Dec (JPop), 40 Quaker Rd, T Macedon WAYN 31 Jan (MG), & 30 MP 20 Feb (AGa); 431 eBird lines Jan; 687 eBird lines Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 28 Genesee Valley Greenway 29 Dec (NK); 105 eBird lines Jan; 188 eBird lines Feb.
WHITE-CROWNED “GAMBEL’S” SPARROW: 2 Gloria Dr. T Penfield MONR 8 Feb (ET, CGI, phs), very rare in Reg.
Dark-eyed Junco: monthly max: 65 Caledonia 26 Dec & 50 Caledonia 11 Jan (SBu, JMcC), & 60 MP 20 Feb (JGo); 1795 eBird lines Feb.
Eastern Meadowlark: no reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: monthly max: 176 Beatty Pt, G 20 Dec (GL), 100 NMWMA (CR) & N Wolcott WAYN 1 Jan, & 130 Ionia MONR 8 Feb, low numbers thru.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 140 MP 7 Jan (NK), low max.
Rusty Blackbird: Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 4 Dec (JiM); 3 LSP 11 Dec (BCar); T Springwater LIVI 26 Dec (JGre); MP 1 Jan (KM, SR); max 10 Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah WAYN 18 Jan (JSn), scarce in winter.
Common Grackle: max 50 T Victor ONTA 2 Feb, very low all season.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Burger P, G 4-10 Jan (DF, 6+ othobs), rare in winter.
Common Yellowthroat: Genesee Valley Greenway 4 Dec (NK); Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye ONTA 13, 26 Dec (NK, GL); total 3 ind 3 loc 2-21 Jan, usually scarce in winter.
Pine Warbler: G 10-27 Dec, 1, 7, 8, 22 Jan, 1 Feb (KGri), rare in win, 1st RCBC during count week.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 16 rep, 22 ind 13 loc Dec (17+ obs); max 5 High Acres Nature Area 14 Jan (NU); Walker Lake Ontario Rd, H 4 Feb (DF, ph); MP 23-27 Feb (SG, NU), sometimes scarce in winter.
SUMMER TANAGER: 1 f G 16 Jan (KC, ph), at feeder.
Northern Cardinal: 1045 eBird lines Dec; 1528 eBird lines Jan; 2145 line eBird Feb; many reports.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 ad m Bushnell’s Basin, T Pittsford MONR 6 Feb (CHa), at feeder.

