

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The winter season started off unseasonably warm in December, followed by above average cold and snow in January, and finishing off in February with a thaw that melted most of the accumulated snowpack. December 2021 was exceptionally mild, ranking as the second warmest on record. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 38.2° F, a staggering 6.8° above normal. Precipitation was low, with 2.46" of precipitation, 1.29" below average. Snowfall was exceptionally low with a total of 5.7" falling, 19.6" below normal. January's weather made up for the mild December, consisting of cold, snowy weather that tested the limits of residents' snow blowers and shoveling skills. The mean temperature was 21.9°, 3.6° below average. Precipitation was 3.59", 0.24" above average and a total snowfall of 52.1" was an impressive 25.4" above normal. Snowy weather continued in the first half of February, but the second half brought the first signs of spring and thawing out from winter's grip. The average temperature was 28.5°, 2.1° above normal. Precipitation was 4.57", 2.08" above average and snowfall totaled 23.1", 5.0" above normal. The rains, combined with melting snow, led to flooded conditions across much of the Region.

The warm December was likely responsible for some waterfowl lingering longer and a few more overwintering than usual. A few Cackling Geese were found in the Canada Goose flocks around Buffalo Harbor and the Niagara River

beyond December, while it was likely the most reports of Wood Duck beyond December ever. Diving ducks were found in decent numbers along the Niagara River, and as ice crept in on Lake Erie during the cold January and first half of February, reports of tens of thousands ducks were made at Buffalo Harbor. A maximum count of 13 Greater White-fronted Geese was made among a few reports in December, but there were no reports of February arrivals like in most recent years. Trumpeter Swans were reported from Iroquois NWR into late December, while Tim Lenz had (and heard) a group of five on Lake Ontario at Fort Niagara SP on 21 February, where sightings of this species have been rare. Hundreds of Tundra Swans wintered on the Niagara River, with some on Chautauqua Lake as well. A single group of 103 Ring-necked Ducks was a good number at Buckhorn Island SP during the Winter Waterfowl Count. A female **Tufted Duck** found by Josh Ketry at Buffalo Harbor on 26 December was sighted there in the following two days but not beyond. There were a few reports of King Eider from Fort Niagara SP, while one male Harlequin Duck was seen often above Niagara Falls through 24 December but no reports were made beyond that from this regular wintering location. Northward migrant dabblers, geese, and Tundra Swans started to return in February with the first likely migrants in the second and third weeks.

The **Razorbill** excitement continued from the fall season with up to four at a time (!) sighted on Lake Ontario off Fort Niagara SP through December until late January.

A few double digit counts of Sandhill Cranes were made in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR in December, while northbound migrants in the Region were first noted on 21 February. Shorebirds are sparse during the winter season, with just four species reported. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe were reported in December, while the first Killdeer and American Woodcock arrivals were noted in February. The shorebird highlight was clearly a Purple Sandpiper observed from Niagara Falls SP on 20 and 22 January.

Gull enthusiasts were happy with the numbers of both large and small gulls on the Niagara River this winter, which both seemed to peak in late December and early January. There were several Bonaparte's Gull counts of greater than 10,000 from the mouth of the Niagara River as they made their afternoon exodus to Lake Ontario. Some double digit counts including a maximum of 19 Little Gulls were made during these "fly-past" sessions as well. A few Black-legged Kittiwake reports were made along the Niagara River earlier in the winter, while one photographed by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor on 11-12 February was more surprising based on date and location. Juvenile Sabine's Gull reports included one at Niagara Falls on 1 December and presumably another found on 14 December at Unity Island by Sakura Paterniti that many observed in the vicinity through 22 December. A Laughing Gull found by Harper Cisely and Don Dixon at Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo in late December stayed for more than ten days at that location. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** was found at Niagara Falls SP by Josh Ketry on 5 January and again on 16 January independently by Joel Strong

and Rob Sielaff. This Asian species may be losing its “Mega”-rare status locally with sightings in four of the last six winter seasons at Niagara Falls, while it remains a difficult ID challenge, and each winter some birders are too quick to make the call on similar looking ‘odd’ large gulls.

On 2 February at Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo, Shelley Seidman photographed a large cormorant that she felt was unusual. Sure enough, it was an immature **Great Cormorant**, only the third for the Region. Three days later it was refound in the same location and then down river in Tonawanda. It became a regular in Tonawanda, often among a wintering group of Double-crested Cormorants, near Aqua Lane Park, Motor Island WMA, and as viewed from Beaver Island SP. The Great Cormorant was present through the rest of the winter and into early April.

Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron lingered into the end of December and a late Great Egret was seen throughout most of January at or near Beaver Island SP.

Black Vultures were seen at the usual Lewiston location throughout the winter with a high count of eight for the season. Turkey Vultures were more widespread compared to other winter seasons with a high count of 43 on 1 December at the Lewiston roost and sightings within several different counties. Allegany County produced the only winter Golden Eagle sightings with one on 26 December by Matt Nusstein and Claudia Rosen and another on 12 February by Brad Carlson, possibly representing the same bird. Northern Harriers made a nice showing at John White WMA with a count of eight on 12 and 17 December. Bald Eagles were reported throughout the winter season with a high count of seven from the Niagara River in Tonawanda on 15 February. Rough-legged Hawks were also reported throughout the season, with an impressive 22 reports in January. Up to three were regularly seen hunting a field in Porter this winter.

There were no reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls and only one report of Long-eared Owl during the winter season. However, the Long-eared Owl sighting included an impressive tally of five individuals found by Willie D’Anna and Betsy Potter in Yates. Snowy and Short-eared Owl reports were more prevalent. Buffalo Harbor produced a high count of four Snowy Owls with numerous other reports there throughout December and January. Short-eared Owls were reported throughout the winter season from several, mostly regular locations as either singles or pairs of birds.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were sparse, with winter reports from only two locations. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, on the other hand, continue to show a trend of increased winter frequency, with several reports during the season, including 22 reports in January alone.

Eastern Phoebe is another species that we are seeing leaving later in the winter and arriving early in the spring. This winter season had two December reports and the last bird reported on 16 January from Beaver Island SP, which represents only the third January record of this species for the Region. Several

Northern Shrikes were seen throughout the Region with 14 December, eight January, and five February reports.

Fish Crows have become a more regular sighting in Buffalo over the last few years and a maximum count of 16 was tallied there on 22 December as well as several smaller counts in January and February elsewhere in Buffalo. Josh Ketry also reported one mixed in a flock of 140 American Crows in Olean on 6 February, representing a sighting well away from their better-known Buffalo and Niagara Falls locations.

Several Horned Lark flocks numbering in the 100s were reported throughout the Region with a maximum count of 275 in Yates on 21 January. Lapland Longspur reports were sparse, most of which came from the Lake Ontario plain, with a maximum count of seven in Yates on 22 January. Snow Bunting flocks were smaller compared to last winter with a maximum count of 325 in Alexander on 15 February.

Flocks of up to 100 Cedar Waxwings remained towards the end of December, but unfortunately no Bohemian Waxwings were reported. A handful of Gray Catbirds and Hermit Thrushes, both “half hardy” species, were reported throughout the winter season. Even more prevalent were Yellow-rumped Warblers with up to 14 tallied on 8 January at Buckhorn Island SP, an annual wintering location. An American Pipit was reported in late January to early February at Buffalo Harbor, representing a rare winter sighting, but one that is slowly becoming more frequent in recent years.

In the winter finch arena there were no Evening or Pine Grosbeak reports, but the Region did enjoy sightings of the other sought after finches. A smattering of small flocks of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were reported throughout the Region with maxima of 35 and 12, respectively. Red Crossbill reports came from the Southern Tier conifer plantations in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties, including some singing and early breeding behavior. The only White-winged Crossbill sighting was from Krull CP on 9 December by Eric Schill.

Several sparrow species had good winter showings compared to years past. Among them, were reports of seven Field Sparrows, four Fox Sparrows, and numerous small flocks of White-crowned Sparrows. Two January reports of Savannah Sparrow suggest overwintering individuals, an increasingly common occurrence. There were also numerous Eastern Towhee reports throughout the winter season, mostly from southern counties within the Region.

Blackbirds were well-represented in the winter season with some lingering throughout the season and the first migrants appearing towards mid- to late February. Five Eastern Meadowlarks on 1 December and three on 8 and 22 January was a good winter showing. Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Common Grackles were reported throughout the winter, while the only reports of Rusty Blackbirds came from spring arrivals at the end of February.

Homeowners Chris and John Hoisington hosted a rare **Summer Tanager** at their feeders in Springville from 1 December to 7 January. This record represents the first of any tanager species past mid-November for the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

Snow Goose: four Dec reports, 1 each; Sheridan CHAU 1 Jan, 6 Feb.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 7 INWR 5-11 Dec; max 13 Olcott NIAG 18 Dec. 5, 8 Yates ORLE 23, 28 Dec.

Cackling Goose: 7, 2, 1 BufH 22 Dec, 21 Jan, 24 Feb; max 9 Batavia GENE 26 Dec; 5 BeSP 16 Jan; Grand I ERIE 26 Feb; apparent that some wintered in Reg.

Mute Swan: max 12 Waterport ORLE 4 Dec; Cassadaga CHAU 5 Dec; 4, 2 FNSP 1 Jan, 5 Feb; 2 BeSP 13 Jan; NFSP 28 Jan; East Aurora ERIE 18 Feb; 3 BuSP 18 Feb; 6 Yates ORLE 21 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 INWR 26 Dec; Lewiston NIAG 27 Dec; max 5 FNSP 21 Feb (TL).

Tundra Swan: 57 Jamestown ChauL 12 Dec; 191 NF 24 Dec; max 346 BeSP 7 Jan; 120 Long Pt SP ChauL 8 Jan; 155 Grand I NR 1 Feb; 50 Celoron ChauL 21 Feb.

Wood Duck: 7 Buffalo ERIE 5 Dec; Knox Farm SP ERIE 26 Dec; 2 AISP 31 Dec; NFSP 2, 23 Jan; BeSP 12 Jan; 2 Grand I NR

16 Jan; 2 Irving ERIE 16 Jan; Lime L CATT 23 Jan; Tonawanda NR ERIE 5 Feb; Silver Creek CHAU 6 Feb; arr FLC 24 Feb; 7 Sheridan CHAU 25 Feb; more winter reports than usual.

Northern Shoveler: max 65 BWWTP 27 Dec; 4 Buffalo ERIE 29 Dec, 1 Jan; BeSP 9 Jan; Buffalo NR 9, 18 Jan; arr 2 Olcott NIAG 22 Feb.

Gadwall: max 90 Tift NP 8 Dec; 50 Lakewood ChauL 9 Dec; 26 BeSP 5 Jan; 50, 6 Celoron ChauL 6 Jan, 2 Feb; 4 BufH 6 Feb; 20 NFSP 11 Feb; arr 10 DH 12 Feb.

American Wigeon: 30, 10 Lakewood ChauL 9 Dec, 6 Jan; max, arr 45 DH 12 Feb; 6 BuSP 21 Feb.

Mallard: max 379 Celoron Chau 16 Jan.

American Black Duck: 25 BWWTP 21 Dec; 25 Buffalo NR 10 Jan; max 27 Grand I NR 16 Jan; 12 NFSP 5 Feb; 20 DH 12 Feb.

Northern Pintail: max 51 Porter NIAG 27 Dec (MM); 35 ACNC 31 Dec; 10 N Collins ERIE 1 Jan; four other Jan reports; Tonawanda NR ERIE 5 Feb; Wellsville

ALLE 7 Feb; arr 7 Sheridan CHAU 22 Feb; 6 DH 24 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: N Collins ERIE 27 Dec, 13 Jan; NFSP 2 Jan; max 15 Cuba L ALLE 5 Jan; 2 Celoron ChauL 16 Jan; arr 2 DH 12 Feb; Leon CATT 24 Feb; Tonawanda NR ERIE 26 Feb.

Canvasback: 950 NF NR 27 Dec; max 3000 BeSP 6 Feb (MM).

Redhead: 250 NF NR 5 Dec; 400 Long Pt SP CHAU 8 Jan; max 1700 BufH 8 Jan; 1000 BeSP 16 Jan; 1000 BufH 5 Feb; 150 DH 12 Feb; 125 FNSP 12 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 40 LESP 11 Dec; 65 Buffalo NR 18 Dec; 67 Tiffit NP 28 Dec; 40, 11 Celoron ChauL 8 Jan, 6 Feb; max 103 BuSP 16 Jan (MM); arr 12 DH 22 Feb.

TUFTED DUCK (1): BufH 26-28 Dec (JK, mob, ph!); possibly same bird as recent years.

Greater Scaup: 430 Buffalo NR 21 Dec; 1000 NF NR 23 Dec; 125 DH 5 Jan; max 4500, 4000 BufH 13 Jan, 6 Feb; 1030 BeSP 16 Jan; 175 FNSP 26 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 100 Buffalo NR 24 Dec; BWWTP 24 Dec; 34 DH 5 Jan; 50, 20 BufH 29 Dec, 5 Feb; 25 BeSP 7 Feb.

King Eider: 1, 1, 1 FNSP 1, 31 Jan, 26 Feb (KR, RT, WD).

Harlequin Duck: NFSP 1-24 Dec (mob, usual winter location); did not overwinter.

Surf Scoter: DH 1 Dec; max 5 FNSP 23 Dec; EvSP 30 Dec; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 16 Jan; BufH 6 Feb.

White-winged Scoter: max 200, 500 FNSP 20 Dec, 26 Feb.

Black Scoter: DH 1 Dec; 5 FNSP 16 Dec; max 6, 1 EvSP 24 Dec, 3 Jan; 2 BufH 28 Dec; Buffalo NR 1 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: 600 Buffalo NR ERIE 15 Dec; max 3440 FNSP 6 Feb; 900 Lewiston NR.

Bufflehead: max 1500 Buffalo NR 18 Dec.

Common Goldeneye: 325, 336 EvSP 11 Dec, 13 Jan; max 750 Buffalo NR 18 Dec; 250 NF 9 Jan; 26 Olean CATT 6 Feb; max 500 BufH 7 Feb; 260 BuSP 7 Feb; 110 FNSP 24 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: max 200 Chautauqua ChauL 7 Dec; 73, 18 BeSP 14 Jan, 26 Feb; 11 DH 12 Feb; 19 Tonawanda NR ERIE 27 Feb.

Common Merganser: 132 Cuba L ALLE 7 Dec; 200 NF NR 31 Dec; 150, 215 DH 13 Jan, 11 Feb; max 1000, 500 Buffalo NR 31 Jan, 7 Feb; 225 NFSP 6 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: 400 WoBSP 5 Dec; 250 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Jan; 250 FNSP 31 Jan; 500 BufH 5 Feb; max 560 Tonawanda NR 28 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: max 29 North Collins ERIE 4 Dec; 21 BWWTP 5 Dec; 2 Dayton CATT 13 Dec; BuSP 6 Jan; 4, 2 DH 8 Jan, 12 Feb; BufH 8 Jan; Jamestown CHAU 26 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 11 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 42 Akron ERIE 22 Jan.

Ruffed Grouse: 7 reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 Mayville ChauL 7 Dec; last 1, 2 DH 3, 5 Jan.

Horned Grebe: 14 EvSP 5 Dec; max 15 GHSP 8 Dec; 2 DH 1 Jan; Olcott NIAG 4 Jan; Whirlpool SP NIAG 5 Jan; FNSP 6, 13 Jan; GHSP 7 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: 2, 1 FNSP 4 Dec, 8 Jan; 3 GHSP 10 Dec; 2 LBSP 10 Dec; 3 Olcott NIAG 18 Dec; 2 PB 28 Dec; few reports.

American Coot: max 100 Lakewood ChauL 22 Dec; 5 DH 5 Jan; 2 Long Pt SP ChauL 8 Jan; 3 N Collins ERIE 13 Jan; 2 BuSP 16 Jan; 2 Barcelona CHAU 11, 21 Feb.

Sandhill Crane: max 17 INWR 2 Dec (PH); 12 JWWMA 12 Dec (BH); arr 4 Fredonia CHAU 21 Feb; 4 Sinclairville CHAU 24 Feb; 2 Oakfield GENE 28 Feb.

Killdeer: last AmSP 16 Dec; arr Portland CHAU 22 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: NFSP 20, 22 Jan (PY, KR); only reports.

American Woodcock: arr Forestville CHAU 24 Feb, only report.

Wilson's Snipe: last Ischua CATT 3, 11 Dec; only reports.

RAZORBILL: 1-4 FNSP 1 Dec – 30 Jan (mob, ph!), lingering birds from fall invasion.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Buffalo NR 11 Dec (JK, mob); FNFP 24, 30 Dec (AG, RG, WD); NF 27 Dec (JF, mob); DH 11, 12 Feb (GV, BR), irregular in Feb.

Sabine's Gull: NFSP 1 Dec (WD, BP); Buffalo NR 14-22 Dec (SP, mob, ph!); only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: 11840, 8910 FNFP 4, 24 Dec (BS); max 13800 NR near L Ontario as viewed from Ontario 1 Jan (KB); 400 Unity I NR 19 Jan.

Little Gull: Barcelona CHAU 7 Dec; 12, 11 FNFP 24, 30 Dec (AG, RG, WD); max 19 NR near L Ontario as viewed from Ontario 1 Jan (KB).

LAUGHING GULL (R1): BufH 29 Dec – 9 Jan (HC & DD, mob); rare.

Ring-billed Gull: max 2000 Mayville ChauL 12 Dec.

Herring Gull: max 1200 NFSP 6 Jan.

Iceland Gull: max 7, 8, 7 DHSP 5 Dec, 8 Jan, 6 Feb; 3, 5, 6 NFSP 5 Dec, 1 Jan, 12 Feb; 2 WoBSP 15 Dec; Tonawanda NR ERIE 27 Dec; 6 NPP 1 Jan; Chaffee ERIE 27 Jan, 9 Feb; 2 DH 11 Feb, 2 Buffalo NR 21 Feb.

“THAYER’S” ICELAND GULL (R1): FNFP 3 Dec; DHSP 30 Dec; NFSP 23 Jan; only documented reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7 WoBSP 1 Dec; max 13, 11, 6 NFSP 24 Dec, 12 Jan, Feb 12; 3 Sheridan CHAU 1 Jan (GV); 2 BufH 6 Feb; DH 11 Feb.

SLATY-BACKED GULL: NFSP 5, 16 Jan (JK, JS, RS), present in four of the last six winters.

Glaucous Gull: 2, 3 NFSP 4 Dec, 8, 12 Jan; max 1, 1, 4 DH 6 Dec, 1 Jan, 11 Feb; 1, 1 WoBSP 8 Dec, 7 Jan; Cherry Creek CHAU 12 Dec (JM); 1, 2 BufH 13 Jan, 23 Feb; 2 Chaffee ERIE 27 Jan (RS); 2 Buffalo NR 5 Feb; 2 FNFP 21 Feb; BeSP 23 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: 30, 24 WoBSP 15, 23 Dec; max 33 NFSP 16 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: max 13 FNFP 8 Dec; 1-3 FNFP 1-13 Jan; BufH 30 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

Common Loon: max 5 FNFP 17 Dec; few reports beyond Dec.

GREAT CORMORANT (R1): Buffalo NR 2, 5 Feb (SS, mob, ph!); Tonawanda NR 5-28 Feb (mob, ph!); same bird; very rare; third Reg rec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 50 Fredonia CHAU 2 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: 21, max 28 Tonawanda NR ERIE 28 Dec, 21 Feb.

Great Egret: Tonawanda NR ERIE 28, 29 Dec; BeSP 4-20 Jan (mob), likely same bird, late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last Buffalo ERIE 5, 29 Dec.

Black Vulture: 5, 8, 4 Lewiston NIAG 5 Dec, 1 Jan, 1 Feb; usual location.

Turkey Vulture: max 43 Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec; 3 Albion ORLE 31 Dec; 16 Dec reports of singles; 2, 1 Tonawanda NR ERIE 4, 13 Jan; Harmony CHAU 30 Jan; Holland ERIE 30 Jan; more widespread in winter than usual; arr Buffalo ERIE, Clarence ERIE 12 Feb.

Golden Eagle: Swain ALLE 26 Dec (MN, CIR); Swain ALLE 12 Feb (BC); possibly same bird.

Northern Harrier: max 8 JWWMA 12, 17 Dec (BH).

Bald Eagle: 6 Dayton CATT 3 Dec; 6 Buffalo NR 30 Jan; max 7 Tonawanda NR ERIE 15 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 reports 1-2 each 24-31 Dec; 5 reports Jan; 5 reports 1 each 6-24 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Wilson NIAG 5 Dec; max 3 Porter NIAG 16 Dec; reported from 22 locations in Jan; 6 reports 1 each Feb.

Snowy Owl: max 4, 3, 1 BufH 24 Dec, 1 Jan, 24 Feb; six Dec reports 1-2 each; 3, 1 NF Airport NIAG 1 Jan, 2 Feb; Olcott NIAG 3 Jan; NFSP 5 Jan, 5 Feb; Alden ERIE 13 Jan; Porter NIAG 29 Jan.

Long-eared Owl: 5 Yates ORLE 13 Jan (WD, BP); only report.

Short-eared Owl: Jamestown CHAU 4 Dec; Shelby ORLE 7 Dec; Newfane NIAG 13 Dec; Buffalo NR ERIE 17 Dec; Fillmore ALLE 3 Jan; 2, 1 Conewango CATT 11 Jan,

6 Feb; Gasport ORLE 18 Jan; 2 Newstead ERIE 21 Jan; 2, 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 Jan, 6 Feb; 2 Lockport NIAG 7 Feb, Forestville CHAU 9 Feb; mostly regular locations.

Red-headed Woodpecker: LBSP 12 Dec - 16 Jan; EvSP 24 Dec; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: six Dec, 22 Jan, and five Feb reports 1 each; increasing winter reports.

Eastern Phoebe: BuSP 1 Dec; Buffalo NR ERIE 18 Dec; last BeSP 13, 16 Jan (BR, SB).

Northern Shrike: 14 Dec, eight Jan, five Feb reports.

Fish Crow: max 16 Buffalo ERIE 22 Dec (JP), plus several reports of 1-3 elsewhere in Buffalo in Jan, early Feb; 2 Depew ERIE 6 Jan (KC); Olean CATT 6 Feb (JK).

Common Raven: 9 Chaffee ERIE 20 Dec; max 12 Bolivar ALLE 13 Jan.

Horned Lark: 20 Albion ORLE 8 Dec; max 275 Yates ORLE 21 Jan; 155 Wilson NIAG 21 Jan; 144, 210, 157 Bethany GENE 22 Jan, 5, 26 Feb; 120 Somerset NIAG 8 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BuSP 1 Dec; BeSP 11 Dec; Sherman CHAU 26 Dec; only reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 9 Gerry CHAU 24 Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: no reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 100 Boston ERIE 26 Dec; max 100 FNSP 27 Dec.

House Wren: TBNP 16 Dec, 4 Jan (SB), late.

Gray Catbird: four Dec reports 1-2 each; three Jan reports; BeSP 6, 26 Feb.

Brown Thrasher: Forestville CHAU 1 Dec; Cheektowaga ERIE 5 Dec; only reports.

Northern Mockingbird: max 8 S Buffalo ERIE 5 Dec, high count.

Eastern Bluebird: 12 Dunkirk CHAU 16 Dec; max 18 BWWT 21 Dec; 14 Ransomville NIAG 29 Dec; 13 Little Valley CATT 30 Dec; 11 Knox Farm SP ERIE 3 Jan.

Hermit Thrush: five Dec, three Jan, five Feb reports 1-2 each; good showing.

American Robin: max 110 NFSP 25 Jan; spring migrant arrive late Feb.

American Pipit: BuffH 25 Jan (NJ), 2, 5 Feb (SS, ChR), rare but increasing in winter.

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

Pine Grosbeak: no reports.

House Finch: max 45 Orangeville WYOM 6 Feb.

Purple Finch: max 18 Gerry CHAU 30 Jan.

Common Redpoll: WTSP 1 Dec; 13 Krull CP 18 Dec; 3 Medina ORLE 28 Dec; 2 Stockton CHAU 29 Dec; 9 Unity I NR 1 Jan; 15 OOWMA 1 Jan; max 35 BeSP 13 Jan; 30 Porter NIAG 20 Jan; 23 Lyndonville NIAG 29 Jan; Buffalo ERIE 4 Feb; Amherst ERIE 21 Feb; 10 Wilson NIAG 22 Feb.

Red Crossbill: 2 West Almond CATT 5 Dec; 6 Krull CP 26 Dec; 6, 4, 1 Birdsall ALLE 26 Dec, 1, 21 Feb (CHi; J & KG); max 3-8 Ashford CATT 21-27 Feb (JK, mob); 1-3 Gerry CHAU 24-28 Feb (AL, GV); 2 Cherry Creek CHAU 28 Feb (AL); good showing mostly in Southern Tier forests.

White-winged Crossbill: 7 Krull CP 9 Dec (ES); only report.

Pine Siskin: 2 Aurora ERIE 8 Dec; INWR 14 Dec; 5 Krull CP 17 Dec; 12 Andover ALLE 19 Dec; 8, 11 Franklinville CATT 11 Jan, 19 Feb; 4 Forestville CHAU 15 Jan; 3 Orangeville WYOM 5 Feb; 4 Whitesville ALLE 18 Feb; 5 Rushford ALLE 19 Feb; low numbers.

American Goldfinch: max 135 Stockton CHAU 29 Dec; 110 Orchard Park ERIE 25 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: 3 Porter NIAG 22 Jan; max 7 Yates ORLE 22 Jan; Bethany GENE 5 Feb; 6 Wilson NIAG 6 Feb; 5 Somerset NIAG 8 Feb; Leon CATT 13 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 100 Newfane NIAG 18 Dec; 60, 185 Bethany GENE 22 Jan, 7 Feb;

200 Yates ORLE 22 Jan; 55 Freedom CATT, 56 Delevan CATT 23 Jan; 100 Porter NIAG 26 Jan; 50 Wilson NIAG 6 Feb; 75 Shelby ORLE 7 Feb; max 325 Alexander GENE 15 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: Ridgeway ORLE 28 Dec (GL); Somerset NIAG 4, 20 Feb (JS); only reports.

Field Sparrow: WoBSP 9, 30 Dec, 2 Jan; RWNP 10 Dec; EvSP 14 Dec; Pomfret CHAU 19 Jan; ACNC 16 Feb; good showing.

Fox Sparrow: Gerry CHAU 19 Dec; Eden ERIE 22 Dec; WTSP 31 Dec; Wilson NIAG 27 Jan; only reports.

American Tree Sparrow: max 102 Porter NIAG 18 Jan.

White-crowned Sparrow: 6 Niagara Falls NIAG 21 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 23 Dec; 3 DH 26 Dec; 5 Collins ERIE 13 Jan; 5 Portland CHAU 16 Jan; max 14 Wilson NIAG 17 Jan (JS); 8 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 20 Jan; 5 Porter NIAG 28 Jan; 7 Fredonia CHAU 12 Feb.

White-throated Sparrow: max 29 Shelby ORLE 23 Jan.

Savannah Sparrow: Porter NIAG 18 Jan; 3 Pomfret CHAU 19 Jan (TM); increasing in winter.

Swamp Sparrow: reported from five locations beyond Dec.

Eastern Towhee: Ashford CATT 1, 5 Dec, 2, 27 Jan, 1 Feb; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 8 Jan; Ripley CHAU 11 Jan; Shelby ORLE 20 Jan; Pomfret CHAU 23 Jan; Holland ERIE

30 Jan, 13 Feb; Hanover CHAU 2 Feb; Wales ERIE 15 Feb; Wellsville ALLE 20 Feb.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 5 Concord ERIE 1 Dec; 3 Newstead ERIE 8, 22 Jan; good showing.

Red-winged Blackbird: 8, 14 Elma ERIE 8 Dec, 28 Jan; 11 BuSP 11 Dec; 22 Buffalo ERIE 2 Jan; 30 Porter NIAG 27 Jan; 6 Tiff NP 1 Feb; 2 Grand I ERIE 1 Feb; 3 Elma ERIE 2 Feb; 50 Little Valley CATT 22 Feb; max 350 DH 23 Feb; 65 Orchard Park ERIE 26 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 160 OOWMA 14 Dec; 35 Rushford ALLE 9 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: arr AmSP 23 Feb; Wales ERIE 25 Feb; only reports.

Common Grackle: ten Dec reports, three Jan reports one each, arr Somerset NIAG 12 Feb.

Pine Warbler: Forestville CHAU 7 Feb (GV), only report.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 12, 14, 1, 4 BuSP 1 Dec, 8 Jan, 2, 26 Feb (AHu, BN); Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Dec; EvSP 14 Dec; 4 Lockport NIAG 17 Dec, 16 Jan (AHe); 3 Sheridan CHAU 1 Jan; Barre ORLE 5 Jan; Oakfield ORLE 21 Feb.

SUMMER TANAGER (R1): Springville ERIE 1 Dec – 7 Jan (CJH ph!), visited feeder daily, rare and very unusual for this date range.