

REGION 2—GENESEE

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The winter of 2021-22 provides a good illustration of the various influences on the birding scene that combine to make any season both similar to most of the past but also unique. Weather plays a prominent role, with timing of events critical.

Most longer-term trends remained in play. Some of the recent events simply died down or ended for a season. This was overall a pretty bland season.

On the weather scene, we started with a warm, quiet December, with little snow. Temperatures averaged 36.7° F, 4.7° above normal, for the fifth warmest December on record. Only seven days averaged below normal. Record highs were set on the 11th and 16th. Precipitation at 2.02" was 0.65" below normal, and snowfall of 10.1" was 12.2" below normal. Lake effect brought some short-lived snow cover on the 8th and 16th. Passing fronts brought gusty winds on a handful of dates, with 75 mph winds on the 16th causing some damage in western parts of the Region. Messy weather hit the southwest part of the Region on the 18th and following, once again negatively impacting the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC. The other two local CBCs saw decent, relatively warm conditions. From this warm start to the season, January slid from a high near 50° on 1 January to chill and snow. Temperatures averaged 19.5°, 6.7° below normal. It was the coldest January since 2015. Precipitation totaled 2.50", 0.05" below normal. There was some snowfall on 28 days, but the only significant event was 10.4" on the 17th. Total snowfall was 34.4", 7.5" above normal. The Lake Ontario water temperature dropped from 42° to 34°, and some shore ice developed by month's end. February brought a slow rise in temperatures. There was light snowfall on 19 days, with heavy snows of 9.2" from 2-3 February and 5" on 25 February. Snow cover started at > one foot and dropped slowly. Mid-month saw a record-for-the-date 0.95" of rain on the 17th, with some flooding then and again late in the month with more warmth and rainfall. There was limited shoreline ice on Lake Ontario, but bays, ponds, and inland lakes remained frozen all month. Temperatures averaged 26.1°, 1.3° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.45", 1.32" above normal, and snowfall at 26.3" was 3.2" above normal.

Looking to the general birding picture, there was nothing really surprising. The warm December was certainly a part of the month's large species total, 142 vs. a 10-year average of 132.8. But the cold and snowy January and a bit below average February both also remained at above average species counts at 136 (127.7) and 124 (121.6), respectively. The eBird downloads were likely within normal fluctuations. December's approximately 27,407 was up about 10% from 2021, while January at 33,365 was down about 10% and February at 28,991 down about 20%. The February dip may have been partially caused by the rainy weather around the great Backyard Bird Count period; eBird observers for the month were off about 10% and that weekend typically produces additions to that number.

Overall, the Christmas Bird Count season went very well. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC was again hit with bad weather and held to 66 species plus seven added during the count week period. The other two counts were above average, with Rochester at 96 (102) species and Conesus-Hemlock at 87 (89) species. As these counts are well summarized elsewhere, we will just hit the highlights here. New highs or ties reported were: Letchworth-Silver Lake – Snow Goose (68); Rochester – Cackling Goose (5), Harlequin Duck (2), Ruddy Duck (32), Red-bellied Woodpecker (197), American Crow (35,471), and American Pipit (1), plus

two new species for the count – Sanderling and **Great Cormorant**; and Conesus-Hemlock – Wild Turkey (126), Northern Harrier (35), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Tufted Titmouse (190), Marsh Wren (1), Carolina Wren (49), Eastern Bluebird (131), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (19), plus Golden Eagle new for the count.

All the expected waterfowl species were reported in each month, with the possible exception of Ruddy Duck, missed in February, when there are usually a few around on opening lakes. Mostly, numbers were on the low side other than the few annual gatherings where expected, e.g., Long-tailed Duck along the Lake Ontario shore, Redhead on Conesus Lake, and Ring-necked Duck on Hemlock Lake. Mergansers were generally a bit scarce. Rarer species included: a Ross's Goose in January; Greater White-fronted and Cackling Goose in each month; female King Eiders in December and February; a very rare immature male **Common Eider**, first found in late January and then thru the season; a pair of Harlequin Ducks off the Town of Greece all season after mid-December; and a couple of reports of Barrow's x Common Goldeneye in January. The January State Waterfowl Count was again hit with the serious arrival of "real winter" and iffy weather through the count period. Species were down a bit at 31, but most of the expected were spotted somewhere. Total individuals was down about 20% at 41,613, but that is still above the long-term average. Again this year, Canada Goose and Redhead led the totals. On into February, there was only minimal sign of spring increases on patches of open water on Braddock Bay. The arrival of Snow Goose, often in good numbers in February, was noted around us but did not make it to Region 2 as the season ended. But stay tuned for the spring report!

Among the grebes, numbers were very low other than a good count of 826 Red-necked Grebes off Hamlin Beach on 14 December by Andy Guthrie, and then a good count for January of 64 off Benedict Beach on the 1st. The lone **Eared Grebe** of the season was spotted by Chris Wood at Hamlin Beach on 26 December. The only rail of the season was a Virginia Rail heard by Andy Guthrie and Chris Wood on the Rochester CBC in the Beatty Point marshes in Greece. Sandhill Crane continued to amaze, with **300-307** tallied in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in the Armitage and Olmstead Roads area in southern Wayne County from 1-10 December and then to 91 still at the NMWMA (Carncross Road) area to 5 January. There were also 10 individuals seen off and on all season from the Honeoye WMA to the Livonia area in Ontario and Livingston Counties.

Some winter seasons, shorebirds can be an empty slot. This season, there were some interesting observations. There were 1-2 Sanderlings seen off and on along the edge of Lake Ontario in the Town of Greece, with two at the Braddock Bay barrier beach island on 5 December and one at various sites through month's end and then one from 12-15 January at the north edge of Irondequoit Bay. There were up to five scattered Purple Sandpiper reports in December, with one to 21 January at Braddock Bay. Single Wilson's Snipe were found on 20 January and 16

February, and a Red Phalarope was at Sodus Point on 4 December. Killdeer was the first spring shorebird arrival, with two in Scottsville on 22 February.

A surprise carryover from the fall incursion was a **Razorbill** spotted near Round Pond Outlet, Greece on 12 December by visiting birders, David Benvent and Ryan Zucker, here for another rarity and taking a look at the lake. **Razorbill** was also seen with later reports off Manitou Beach and Edgemere Drive, Greece on 26 and 27 January by Mitchell Barry, Jessie Barry, and Chris Wood.

Gull variety and numbers were relatively low, though there were ok numbers of the usual Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls of winter here. The lack of open-water ice edges on the ponds and offshore ice floes limits observations of these. Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted on 3 and 30 December. Low numbers of Bonaparte's Gull continued through late January, then one report of ten was noted on 5 February and no more until spring. Two reports of the rare hybrid **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull** were posted on 2 and 4-5 January off Greece and on 9 January at Sodus Bay, Wayne County.

Wrapping up the water-related birds, we start with loons scarce, and Red-throated out numbering Common Loons. Double-crested Cormorant continued in double digit numbers, with up to 41 at Sodus Point to 5 December and to 23 at the usual Newport marina on Irondequoit Bay until 12 January. Numbers then dropped to few individuals, as expected in later winter. A highlight of the Rochester CBC was an immature **Great Cormorant**, new for the count, spotted off Greece by Jessie Barry, Andy Guthrie, and Chris Wood, and seen later by at least six others with photos obtained. A Great Egret, seen by Osvaldo Araya and nine others in the Conesus Inlet WMA from **2-4 December**, tied the Regional record late date for the species.

Next, the vultures and the diurnal raptors. We started with numbers up a bit in the warm December. Continuing the long trend, the Cooper's Hawk:Sharp-shinned Hawk reports ratio ran from a start at 5:1 to 3:1 for the season. Bald Eagle counts remained good and Red-shouldered Hawks few. Numbers generally dropped off some later with the increasing cold and snow, but there were some good concentrations of Northern Harrier and at least three locations with Red-shouldered Hawk. Surprises were the Conesus-Hemlock CBC first Golden Eagle on 26 December and then another Golden Eagle found in the town of Ogden by Dave Tetlow on 26 February. The only **Northern Goshawk** of the season was spotted passing off Edgemere Drive, Greece on 25 January by Chris Wood. Rough-legged Hawk provided an opportunity to discuss the need to examine data in some detail. Numbers of "reports", as lines in eBird downloads, varied greatly across months and year to year, but likely numbers of individuals were very similar. This year, a few individuals hung out in the general Braddock Bay area much of the season generating many reports for the few birds. I assembled information for any who might be interested in the issues around determining numbers; none were. An added piece of good news was that David Brown would be returning as the official Braddock Bay hawk counter this spring!

Owls, too, provided a bit more to look at than some years. Good listening weather resulted in good numbers of Eastern Screech-Owl for both the Rochester and Conesus-Hemlock CBCs, 77 and 49, respectively. Snowy Owl also had a decent showing, with about 12-15 individuals reported each month of the season. An interesting personal surprise for me came during the Rochester CBC when scanning Lake Ontario from the East Manitou Road overlook, first in the morning and later in the afternoon. I observed and followed for some time on two occasions different Snowy Owls about a mile offshore apparently hunting ducks and/or gulls over open water. I passed this along to our Snowy expert, Tom MacDonald, and he was not surprised and was interested in the details. More and more is being learned of the species as a primary marine-habitat predator. The Short-eared Owl picture was of relatively low numbers in this year's DEC monitoring efforts. On 1 January Dave Tetlow checked the usual Bergen Swamp sites and logged two Northern Saw-whet Owls. Data from Jim Adams on the usual owl counts from the Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Road totaled 17 Northern Saw-whet Owls in February, a new high for the month since Jim has summarized the numbers. There were also reports of Long-eared Owl there on two dates, possibly lingering from earlier sightings there.

Finishing the non-passerines, we have the usual couple of woodpeckers of interest, with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker again present in very good numbers, though down some from the last two bonus years, and Red-headed Woodpecker missed for the season. This part ends with the usual comment of the regular falcons all present in good numbers all season.

The passerines followed the trend of expected species being reported each month. The question is always how to cover this big group capturing interesting pieces in reasonable space. This winter, there were no major irruptions. There was only one occurrence of Bohemian Waxwing from 31 December to 1 January and few Cedar Waxwings. Winter finches were scarce, mostly Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins and a few isolated reports of Evening Grosbeak and both crossbills. Snow Bunting and longspurs were hard to find until there was snow cover. There were no major gatherings of blackbirds in the Region. A few special occurrences included: the Region's second latest Black-and-white Warbler to **4 December**, a record late Yellow Warbler on **8 December**, a CBC high 19 Yellow-rumped Warblers on 26 December, a surprising three male Baltimore Orioles reported in January, and then the bird of the season, with Mary Hadley finding a male **Painted Bunting** at her feeder in the Town of Greece on 11 December and alerting the birding community and helping arrange access. It was the Region's second for the species and at least 93 observers reported sightings to eBird through the 14th. From here, we could wander through the litany of the many lingering half-hardy species. But the list is similar most years and there is always the question of where the line lies between surprises and fairly regular winter birds in just varying numbers. There were 18 species that fall in this group, with all present in January, Savannah Sparrow and Eastern Towhee missed in December, and Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Swamp Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark missing in

February. This season, we did see a significant fall off in several of the species in February beyond the usual drops of the past couple of years. For illustration, some of those still present (with some numbers in parentheses) included: Winter Wren (5), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Hermit Thrush (12), Eastern Towhee (1), Chipping Sparrow (1), Field Sparrow (5), Savannah Sparrow (1), Fox Sparrow (max. 2), many White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (7 reports of 1-3). As usual, noteworthy records tables on the Rochester Birding Association website have more detailed records.

A major problem in assembling these reports is trying to select material of likely interest to readers. The overall data set is very large. Birds reported depend on weather, timing, the presence of special species of interest to many, etc., etc., It would be a great help if even occasionally there were some feedback from readers. What would you, the readers, like to see more or less of in these reports?

CONTRIBUTORS

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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 on 26 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, G; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **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 18 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 Christmas Bird Count on 19 Dec; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TTP** – Turning Point P, Rochester.

Snow Goose: max 3000 T Richmond, ONTA 26 Dec (KKi, WS, SH); 5 CL-N 3 Jan, month max; 50 NMWMA (MR) 23 Feb, month max.

Ross's Goose: 1 ad H, mult loc 12-14 Jan (AGU, 11+ oth obs).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 ad H, mult loc 1, 2, 24 Dec, 1-16 Jan (mob); Silver Lake, WYOM 4 Jan (BCar); IB 21 Feb (CGi, RRe); still a scarce visitor.

Brant: last ED nr Lake Ontario shore thru 17 Dec, lingering on lawn and breakwall, many ph.

Cackling Goose: 24 rep, ~55 ind 16+ loc Dec; max 7 T Parma 11 Dec (MBa); 21 rep,

~21 ind 15 loc 1-19 Jan; max 7 Silver Lake, WYOM 4 Jan (BCar); 2 BB 21 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 8000 TCEA 9 Dec (MW); 600 T Lyons, WAYN 18 Feb, very low Feb max.

Snow x Canada Goose: Church Rd area, H 13 Dec (AGU, 5 oth obs); Shore Acres, H 2-3 Jan (AGU).

Mute Swan: max 378 RCBC 19 Dec; 230 BB 30 Jan (KH); 260 BB 22 Feb (AGU); too many.

Trumpeter Swan: max 21 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (KCa, GG).

Tundra Swan: max 160 T Savannah, WAYN 20 Dec (JRo).

Wood Duck: 1f last Turning Pt P, ROCH 17, 29 Dec (CBr, KE); T Richmond, ONTA 8 Jan (DT); ED 2 Feb (JeB); Burger P, G 21 Feb (MBa); 2 arr Cuylerville Rd, LIVI 23 Feb (TL).

Northern Shoveler: 13 ponds area G 24 Dec-3 Jan (mob); 1-3 IB to BB 17-20 Feb (7 obs); 2 SPt 10, 27 Feb (TL, MT).

Gadwall: max 40 Crescent Beach, G 19 Dec (RB, JuW, NK), decent count.

American Wigeon: last Bear Crk Harbor, WAYN 30 Dec (JWi); 1-3 ind 8 loc Jan (26+ obs), usually scarce in winter; arr 4 BB & SPt 12 Feb (AGu, JWi); max 22 BB 26 Feb (AGu).

Mallard: max 1538 CL 16 Jan (MW); 540 Seneca P, ROCH 10 Feb (LBer), usual winter huddle.

American Black Duck: 150 CL-W 6 Jan TBo), good count.

Northern Pintail: 15 BB-ES 25 Dec (CW); 8 NMWMA (AR) 1 Jan (DT); arr 4 SPt 11 Feb (K&MG); max 70 BB 22 Feb (AGu).

Green-winged Teal: last Alder Beach, T Parma 18 Dec (JiM); 7, 2 Mumford, MONR 21, 31 Jan (R&SSp); max 12 Cold Spring Rd Pd, LIVI 25 Feb (MW).

Canvasback: max 20 BB 28 Feb (PMar), low max.

Redhead: 3500 CL 26 Dec (JKi); 5952 CL 16 Jan (MW).

Ring-necked Duck: max 500 Hemlock L P 5 Jan (J&BVDM).

Greater Scaup: max 430 BB 22 Feb, low max.

Lesser Scaup: max 120 CL 26 Dec, low max.

scaup sp.: max 1000 IBO 1 Jan, interesting, but not high.

King Eider: 2 f HB 10 Dec (AGu); 1 f HB-WE 26 Dec (CW); 1 f Lake Ontario shore just e of BB 2, 12, 14 Feb (JiM, RB, AGu, MBa).

COMMON EIDER: 1 imm m Genesee R mouth 27-28 Jan (NU, 22+ oth obs, phs); scattered sites along Lake Ontario shore west to Manitou Beach off and on thru rest of season (mob); very rare here.

Harlequin Duck: 1f & 1m from mostly near Round Pd Outlet, G west to BB area 11 Dec thru (mob, phs); 1f SPt 19 Jan (JWi, MGU, TL, W&MR).

White-winged Scoter: max 350 off Rigney's Bluff, G 31 Jan (KH).

Long-tailed Duck: 1370 ED 24 Dec (CW); max 5200 Round Pd Outlet to Rigney's Bluff, G bay 22 Jan (R&SSp); 1900 Round Pd Outlet to Rigney's Bluff, G bay 31 Jan (KH); illustration of sometimes brief, local gatherings of species.

Bufflehead: max 65 Silver L, WYOM 1 Jan (KKu), low max.

Common Goldeneye: max 241 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 16 Jan (DSh, MT).

BARROW'S x COMMON

GOLDENEYE (R2): 1 imm m off Manitou Beach 19, 22 Jan (R&SSp); 1 f off Manitou Beach 26 Jan (PMar).

Hooded Merganser: max 190 CL-N 14 Dec (TBo).

Common Merganser: max 850 Lake Bluff Rd, Irondequoit 7 Feb (MTe), good count after low most of season.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1085 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 16 Jan (DSh, MT).

Ruddy Duck: max 54 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye L 3 Dec (TBo); no rep Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 126 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high.

Horned Grebe: max 10 Beechwood SP, WAYN 9 Jan, very low max.

Red-necked Grebe: max 826 HB 14 Dec (AGu), good count; 64 Benedict Beach (end Martin Rd), H 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW), late for so many.

EARED GREBE (R2): HB 26 Dec (CW), good find.

Virginia Rail: Beatty Pt, G 19 Dec (AGu, CW), heard during CBC work.

American Coot: max 92 IB-N 8 Dec, low max.

Sandhill Crane: max 300-307 NMWMA (AR & Olmstead Rd) 1-10 Dec (AJ, PS, KGa); 10 Honeoye WMA, ONTA to T Livonia, LIVI 26 Dec-15 Feb (KKi, WS, SH, BHo, KGa, DD, PMar, oth obs); 91 NMWMA (CR) 5 Jan (W&MR); continuing increases in Reg.

Killdeer: arr 2 Scottsville, MONR 22 Feb (BHaa).

Sanderling: 2 BB-ES 5 Dec (MGi, ph); 1 OB area to BB 15-31 Dec, 1, 8 Jan (JiM, mob); IB-N 12-15 Jan (12+ obs), likely same ind.

Purple Sandpiper: Summerville Pier 16-17 Dec (LP, 5 oth obs, ph); BB-WS 17 Dec (DF); IBO 25 Dec (CW, mob, ph); 1; 2 BB-ES 27-29; 30 Dec (Mba, mob, phs); last BB-ES 1-2 Jan (15+ obs).

Wilson's Snipe: T Ogden, MONR 20 Jan (DT); BB-ES 16 Feb (JGo).

Red Phalarope: last Spt 4 Dec (MMi, mob).

RAZORBILL: off Round Pd Outlet, G 12 Dec (DBen, RZ), *intro*; off Manitou Beach 26 Jan (Mba); ED 27 Jan (JeB, CW); likely still in lake basin from fall incursion.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 imm HB 3 Dec (AGu, phs); 1 imm OB 30 Dec (CW).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 59 IB-S 1 Dec, low max; 10 IBO 5 Feb (CBra), only Feb rep.

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 IBO 18 Feb (CBra), good count.

Herring Gull: 2000 BB 4 Jan (AGu), good count.

Iceland Gull: 10 ind 7 loc 4-31 Dec; 11 rep, ~13 ind 6 loc Jan; 16 rep, ~14 ind 6 loc Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 10 rep, 10 ind 9 loc Dec; 10 rep, ~10 ind 7 loc 4-31 Jan; 8 rep, ~7 ind 4 loc 11-27 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: 33 rep, ~21 ind 15 loc Dec; 25 rep, ~17 ind 13 loc Jan; 6 rep, ~6 ind 5 loc 11-26 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 68 IB – Bay Village 17 Feb (NU).

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull: Buck Pd, G & BB 2 & 4-5 Jan (CW & AGu); Sodus Bay – Shaker Tract 9 Jan (TL).

Red-throated Loon: max 15 OB area 24 Dec; 10 IB – Newport marina 1 Jan; otherwise low numbers thru.

Common Loon: low numbers thru.

GREAT CORMORANT (R2): 1 imm off G 19 Dec (JeB, AGu, CW, 6+ oth obs, phs), first for RCBC.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 41 Spt 5 Dec (AGu, BriM); 23 IB – Newport marina 12 Jan (RSp), last higher count for season.

Great Egret: Conesus In WMA 2-4 Dec (OA, 9+ oth obs, phs), ties Reg record late

Turkey Vulture: max 49 T Lima 8 Jan (DT), good winter count.

Golden Eagle: CHCBC 26 Dec (sev obs), CBC first; T Ogden, MONR 26 Feb (DT); few winter reports.

Northern Harrier: max 35 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 70 eBird lines many loc Jan; 45 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: 209 eBird lines many loc Jan; 153 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Northern Goshawk: ED 25 Jan (CW), passing bird, reports few now.

Bald Eagle: 281 eBird lines 96+ loc Dec; 345 eBird lines many loc Jan; 282 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Nations Rd IBA 30 Dec (JMon); N Wolcott, WAYN 2, 12, 20 Feb (W&MR); Nations Rd IBA LIVI 20 Feb (KCl); Parker Hill Rd, T Sparta, LIVI 21 Feb (KCl).

Rough-legged Hawk: 39 rep, ~14 ind 15+ loc 5-31 Dec; 84 rep, ~16 ind 17 loc Jan; 57 rep, 22+ ind 18+ loc Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 77 RCBC 19 Dec; 49 CHCBC 26 Dec; good counts.

Snowy Owl: 40 rep, ~15 ind 19 loc Dec; 2, 8:25 AM & 3:20 PM, off East Manitou Rd overlook 19 Dec (RSp), different birds hunting over open water about 1 mile offshore, *intro*; 43 rep, 14 ind 15+ loc Jan; 41 rep, 12+ ind 10 loc Feb.

Long-eared Owl: M (OW) 6 Jan (JiM); BB area 22-23 Jan (QM, ES); M (OW) 20, 27 Feb (6+ obs); scarce in winter.

Short-eared Owl: max: 10 Nations Rd IBA 5 Feb (MT).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT); total 17 ind M (OW) Feb (BBRR counters), highest for a Feb, *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 197 RCBC 19 Dec, CBC record high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~25 ind 25 loc Dec; 55 rep, ~36 ind 33+ loc Jan; 20 rep, 12 ind 11 loc 1-23 Feb, drop off late.

American Kestrel: 57 rep, ~34 ind 29+ loc Dec; 77 rep, ~33 ind 31 loc Jan; 47 rep, 21 ind 14+ loc Feb.

Merlin: 54 rep, ~49 ind 45 loc Dec; 43 rep, 41+ ind 36+ loc Jan; 28 rep, 22 ind 22 loc Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: 26 rep, ~21 ind 18 loc Dec; 26 rep, 16+ ind 15 loc 4-31 Jan; 26 rep, ~12 ind 12 loc 7-22 Feb.

Northern Shrike: 36 rep, ~17 ind 15 loc Dec; 30 rep, ~11 ind 11 loc 1-22 Jan; 7 rep, ~6 ind 3 loc Feb.

American Crow: max **35,471** RCBC 19 Dec, new CBC high, Douglas Bassett tallied 34,900 of these at Frontier field; 1200 T Fairport 30 Jan (D&ER), good count; 900 LB Farm, T Savannah, WAYN 19 Feb (B&LG), interesting gathering site.

Fish Crow: 6 OB area 30 Dec, month's max; 10 Northgate Plaza, G 1 Jan, month's max; total 12+ ind 8+ loc Feb, spreading out more.

Black-capped Chickadee: 1194 eBird lines Dec; 1417 eBird lines Jan; 1429 eBird lines Feb; illustrates many reports for common birds; down from 2021.

Tufted Titmouse: max **190** CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; 952 eBird lines Jan; 1015 eBird lines Feb.

Horned Lark: max 150 Church Rd, H 23 Jan, good count.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Tryon P – N, Irondequoit 17 Dec (SG); York Rd, T Leroy 2 Jan (NK); Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 7 Feb (MGU); usually scarce in winter.

Bohemian Waxwing: 3 nr Newco Dr, H 31 Dec (AGu, LBer, KH); 1 nr Newco Dr, H 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, CW), continuing; only reps.

Cedar Waxwing: max 140 nr Newco Dr, H 31 Dec (AGu), generally scarce this winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 218 eBird lines Dec; 313 eBird lines Jan; 276 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru, but well down from 2021.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 793 eBird lines Dec; 945 eBird lines Jan; 905 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

Winter Wren: 62 rep, ~58 ind 39 loc Dec; 37 rep, 25 ind 18 loc Jan; 6 rep, 5 ind 5 loc 1-19 Feb; many for winter.

Marsh Wren: total ~14 ind, 9 loc 5-29 Dec; total ~5 ind, 5 loc 1-16 Jan.

Carolina Wren: max **49** CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high.

Gray Catbird: total 8 ind 7 loc 8-28 Dec; total ~7 ind 6 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.

Eastern Bluebird: max **131** Conesus-Hemlock CBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; 24 nr Newco Dr, H 3 Jan (AGu), many for loc & date.

Hermit Thrush: 36 rep, ~34 ind 22+ loc Dec; 40 rep, ~33 ind 26 loc Jan; 15 rep, ~12 ind 10 loc 2-22 Feb; usually scarce in win.

American Robin: max 1880 BB-ES 30 Jan (CW), high for date.

American Pipit: BB-ES 19 Dec (RB, ph, GL, JuW); BB – Buttonwood Crk 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW); scarce in winter.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 nr Newco Dr, H 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW), only rep.

Common Redpoll: monthly max: 90 DEP 18 Dec (AGa); 120 H 4 Jan (ABl); 60 Newco DR, H 13 Feb (RB, LBer).

Red Crossbill: HB-WE 21 Dec (CW); max 20 Hoffman Rd, Irondequoit 8 Jan (LBer).

White-winged Crossbill: WP 8 Dec (NU).

Pine Siskin: max: 50 W 27 Feb (AGa).

Lapland Longspur: max 17 Church Rd, H 17 Jan (AGu).

Snow Bunting: 155 BB-ES 30 Dec (NK); 220 T Groveland, LIVI 19 Jan (J&KG); max 350 T Groveland, LIVI 10 Feb (J&KG).

Chipping Sparrow: Quaker Rd, Scottsville 9-27 Dec, 7-27 Jan (BHaa, ph); Hoffman Rd, Irondequoit 16 Jan (CW); T Webster 5 Feb (RSp); usually scarce in winter.

Field Sparrow: Poplar Hill Rd, T Lima 26 Dec (RB, JuW, RRe); BB-ES 31 Dec (DSt); 4 NMWMA (MR) 8 Jan (DSH); total 5 ind 4 loc 2, 18-20 Feb (5obs); usually scarce in winter.

Fox Sparrow: MP 1 Dec (DHo); Burger P, G 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW); 1-2 MP 15-30 Jan (J&TV, 16 oth obs, phs); Hogan Pt, G 20, 24 Jan (DT); 5 rep 1-2 ind MP 2-11 Feb (sev obs); usually scarce in winter.

American Tree Sparrow: max 110 T Mt Morris, LIVI 20 Jan (DT) & Church Rd, H 21 Jan (AGu).

Dark-eyed Junco: monthly max: 40 DEP 23 Dec (JSI); 82 T Leroy, GENE 21 Jan (DT); 57 LB Farm, WAYN 19 Feb (B&LG).

White-crowned Sparrow: max 31 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; 30 Chase Rd, H 15 Jan (R&SSp, ph); 132 eBird lines Feb.

White-throated Sparrow: max 62 T Leroy, GENE 21 Jan (DT); 609 eBird lines Feb.

Savannah Sparrow: total ~13 ind 9 loc 3-27 Jan (10+ obs); Nations Rd IBA, LIVI 9 Feb (RGar); usually scarce & local in winter.

Swamp Sparrow: no rep Feb.

Eastern Towhee: E Henrietta Rd, MONR 15-20 Jan (EP, DG, BCar); Beardsley Rd, T Perry, WYOM 15 Feb (CSm).

Eastern Meadowlark: Nations Rd IBA 3 Dec (CHi); Rush-Henrietta TLR, MONR 19 Jan (BCar).

Baltimore Oriole: 1 ad m E Swamp RD, T Conesus, LIVI 1 Jan (NK); 1 ad m H of Newark, WAYN 3-4 Jan (NHAr); 1 ad m home 5-10 Jan (JLan).

Red-winged Blackbird: monthly max: 500 Butcher Rd, T Parma 19 Dec (R&SSp); 185 Munger Rd, T Clarendon, GENE 24 Jan (DT); 100 Quaker Rd, Scottsville 24 Feb (BHaa); low numbers thru.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 450 Smith Rd, T Pittsford 11 Dec (MT).

Rusty Blackbird: Church Trail, G 19 Dec (CW); Genesee Valley Greenway, T Leicester, LIVI 21 Dec (OA); Dansville, LIVI 17 Jan (OA); 1-2 Old Duck Inn, T Galen WAYN 26 Jan, 3 Feb (DO); T York, LIVI 18 Feb (LT); scarce in winter.

Common Grackle: max 200 T Rush, MONR 29 Dec (SSh), low max.

blackbird sp: max 650 River Rd N of Rt 5, LIVI 5 Jan (NK).

Black-and-white Warbler: Abraham Lincoln P, T Penfield 4 Dec (SG, AGu, JiM, TN), second latest Reg.

Common Yellowthroat: NMWMA (Deep Muck) 1 Dec (SPod), late.

Yellow Warbler: IBO 8 Dec (NU), Reg record late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 19 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; total ~17 ind 16 oth loc Dec (20+ obs); 11 rep, 16+ ind 11 loc Jan; 7 rep, 1-3 ind 4 loc 1-21 Feb (5 obs); often scarce in winter.

Northern Cardinal: 1116 eBird lines Dec; 1668 eBird lines Jan; 1800 eBird lines Feb; many reports.

PAINTED BUNTING: 1 ad m Webwood Circle, G 11-14 Dec (Mary Hadley, 93+ oth obs, phs), second Reg record, *intro*.