

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2022 began with unseasonably warm temperatures that eventually gave way to Winter Storm *Elliott* which brought crippling, white-out blizzard conditions to the Buffalo area from the 23rd to the 25th; 22.3" of the month's 64" fell on the 23rd during this storm. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 32.0° F, 0.6° above average, and 64" of snowfall was 39" above normal. January was more subdued compared to December with a mean temperature of 32.8°, 7.3° warmer than usual, and a total snowfall of 14.7", nearly 12" less than normal. February continued with a "milder than normal" trend with a mean temperature of 32.1°, which was 5.7° above normal. Rainfall was 2.80", 0.31" below normal, and the 7.3" of snowfall was 10.8" less than usual.

The deadly December blizzard was also harsh on birds caught in its path, although it is impossible to know how widespread the mortality was. Gull carcasses scattered along the Buffalo waterfront gave an indication of the storm's wrath. Once it was safe to resume local travel, Tom Kerr got out and freed some gulls that were still alive despite being buried in icy snow for several days; it took a lot of chiseling and warm water to extract the birds. There was an increase in waterfowl and other bird species that made their way to rehabbers; however, no formal tally was made. Additional reports I'm aware of included gulls being forced down into suburban yards by the conditions and birds found frozen in roosting spots such as a Cedar Waxwing in a woodpile. Undoubtedly there were many more stories. Those that could fill their feeders reported extremely high visitation during and after the blizzard.

The mild February weather allowed waterfowl to get an early start on migration. Some geese, swans, dabblers, and diving ducks appeared much earlier than usual. There was even a notable movement in the first full week of February. Small numbers of Snow Geese were seen through early January and then a few good counts (for Region 1) were made in late February with a maximum of 250 in Shelby. Greater White-fronted Goose has become more regular in winter, with typical reports now coming in late December and into early January, with presumed return migrants already in early February, such as one found at Barcelona Harbor on 6 February this year. The maximum count for Cackling Geese was 24 at Barcelona Harbor on 6 February. Tundra Swans continue to winter in the hundreds on the Niagara River, and some northbound migrants were evident in February. A Whooper Swan took to Barcelona Harbor in February; however, its behavior of allowing close approach and looking for food from humans revealed this to be an escaped bird rather than a vagrant, wild bird.

It was a good winter for the *Aythya* species on the Niagara River, with maximum Canvasback and Greater Scaup counts in the thousands, Redheads up to one thousand, and Ring-necked Ducks present in better winter numbers than usual. The female **Tufted Duck** continued from late November on the Buffalo waterfront with the last sighting on 12 February. A drake Barrow's Goldeneye was a great find by Gary Bletsch at Lake Erie SP, especially considering there have been few Regional reports on Lake Erie for this species. A Harlequin Duck at Point Breeze on 25 December was the only report for the season.

Eared Grebes were observed by many birders, with one continuing from late November to 7 December at Buffalo Harbor, and one found by Gary Bletsch at Barcelona Harbor that was present through February after initial discovery on the 10th.

The **Rufous Hummingbird** at Karen Miller's feeder in Great Valley was seen through 22 December. A Common Gallinule found on New Year's Day at Batavia WWTP provided a very rare winter report, and undoubtedly the same bird was sighted there on 19 February, giving hope that it survived the winter. Sandhill Crane is another species continuing to increase in winter; in recent years, some flocks have been seen moving south in December and even early January, while apparent northbound migrants showed up in February.

Five shorebird species made the winter season compilation, with Killdeer lingering and then making an earlier return in February than most years. Dunlin were sighted on the rocky ledges off Niagara Falls SP through 16 January, while 1-2 Purple Sandpipers were observed on the rocky spit in Buffalo Harbor a few times in February. American Woodcocks returned by 21 February, while a Wilson's Snipe lingered to mid-December.

For the second year in a row, birders were treated to **Razorbills** at the mouth of the Niagara River. Though the Canadian side reported up to two individuals for nearly the entire month of December, the New York side from Fort Niagara SP only reported them from 4-7 December.

Juvenile Black-legged Kittiwakes made a nice showing this winter, with reports from all three months either in Lake Erie or along the Niagara River. A nice count of 3,000 Bonaparte's Gulls was made from Lewiston along the river, though this pales in comparison to the 10,000+ counts made last year. The same location also produced an impressive count of 12 Little Gulls on 16 January. A handful of Thayer's subspecies of Iceland Gulls were reported during the winter season as well as several Glaucous Gulls. High counts of 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Niagara Falls SP and 40 Great Black-backed Gulls from Woodlawn Beach SP were the dark-mantled gull highlights. For the first time in three years, there were no accepted Slaty-backed Gull reports in the Region.

The highlight of the winter gull season was an adult **Common Gull** that Willie D'Anna picked out of a group of Ring-billed Gulls roosting on ice floes on Lake Ontario at Olcott on 12 February. As you can tell by the photos and description on his eBird checklist (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S128210469>), this was not an easy identification! Willie carefully observed the necessary field marks, later aided by photographs, and got the word out to the local birding community. That he found it on a Sunday morning with pleasant weather allowed many birders to make the chase. That the gull chose to stay put for hours allowed many birders to be successful in the chase, further aided by Willie and others

helping to pick the bird out of the large gull flock. The few previous Regional sightings of this Eurasian species, as well as its North American counterpart Short-billed Gull, were not as cooperative and were only seen by very few.

Black-crowned Night-Herons hung around into mid-December with the last report on 13 December. Some Great Blue Herons will overwinter, with most reports along or near the Niagara River.

Up to eight Black Vultures were seen at the usual Lewiston location where a lot of birders can count on getting their annual “tick” for this otherwise rare species for the Region. Turkey Vultures were reported throughout the winter months with a new roosting area in Newfane producing some high counts of up to 28 individuals. It remains to be seen if any Black Vultures decide to join this group in the coming years if the roost persists. The only Golden Eagle report of the winter came from Cattaraugus County on 7 February by Jeff Reed. Gale VerHague found a juvenile Northern Goshawk in Chautauqua County on 11 January, a species that has become increasingly rare in the Region. Rough-legged Hawks were fairly reliable during winter with six, 13, and 15 locations reported of individual birds in December, January, and February, respectively.

Reports of the winter owls were scarce in the Region this winter season. There were no Northern Saw-whet Owl reports, only one Long-eared Owl report (Niagara County), and just two Snowy Owl reports, both from Erie County. Short-eared Owls were a bit more cooperative, though only single-bird reports from a handful of mostly regular locations.

There were only two reports of overwintering Red-headed Woodpeckers, both in January. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continued their trend of increased winter reports with five counties reporting one to two birds during the winter months. Willie D’Anna had an impressive count of 21 Northern Flickers at Krull CP on 8 January.

Northern Shrikes were fairly reliable, with an impressive 18 locations reported in December and seven and eight reports of one each in January and February, respectively. An impressive count of 2,750 American Crows came from Buffalo on 11 January, and it is noted that rarely do any birders take the time to count or even estimate the large crow flocks that roost in the city. A handful of Fish Crow reports came from the Buffalo area, where this species is becoming more common, and included a maximum count of 31 on 6 December. Common Ravens are also on the rise in the Region and a maximum count of eight in Buffalo is testament to this trend.

There were numerous Horned Lark reports throughout the winter with several double-digit counts and a maximum count of 135 from Erie County on 25 February. There were four reports of Lapland Longspurs in each of the three winter months, with the highest count of six coming from Orleans County on 27 February. There were several reports of 100+ Snow Buntings from several counties in the Region, with a maximum of 250 reported from Orleans County on 7 February.

Bohemian Waxwings have been difficult to find in the Region in recent years; however, repeated checks of a large Cedar Waxwing flock feeding in Bradford pear trees in Niagara County eventually paid off on 16 January when Joel Strong found a Bohemian Waxwing in the mix. Winter and Carolina Wrens made a nice showing during the winter season and a late Marsh Wren was reported on 5

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December. A handful of Gray Catbirds were reported in December and one was reported as late as 16 January. Brown Thrasher, a rare winter species, was reported as late as 16 December in Allegany County. Another “half-hardy” species, Hermit Thrush, was reported in December and February.

In stark contrast to the 2021-2022 winter season, the 2022-2023 season had numerous Evening Grosbeak reports, the majority of which came from the southern counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany. Many of these were double digit counts, with a maximum count of 41 from Allegany County on 5 January. Common Redpolls were scarce in the Region with only a handful of reports, the highest of which was 30. Similarly, there were few Pine Siskin reports and, sadly, no crossbill or Pine Grosbeak reports.

Sue Barth added a great first for Erie County when she spotted a rare **Lark Sparrow** at Woodlawn Beach SP on 21 December. Though the bird flew out of sight, Sue quickly got the word out and was joined by other birders to scour the surrounding area. It was soon relocated, visiting a nearby bird feeder in the adjacent neighborhood where it was seen by many elated birders over the next two days before the blizzard struck. Other sparrow highlights included a White-crowned Sparrow considered an intergrade of the expected Eastern form and the Gambel’s form, found by Shelley Seidman on 5 December. Celeste Morien hosted a long-staying “Oregon” Junco at her home in Orleans County from late December to mid-January. Expected sparrow species lingered into winter, including a single report of Eastern Towhee (January) and likely overwintering Savannah Sparrows.

Tim Liguori photographed a late-staying Baltimore Oriole visiting his Wellsville home from 12-25 December, possibly unable to migrate due to an injured (drooping) wing. Other, more expected blackbirds remained into December and January, including a handful of December Rusty Blackbird reports. Blackbirds arrived in February this year. Shelley Seidman and Peg Clukey photographed a late Orange-crowned Warbler at Fort Niagara SP on 8 December and a handful of Yellow-rumped Warbler reports into December and January are the only warbler highlights from the winter.

CONTRIBUTORS

Devin Banning, Sue Barth, Gary Bletsch, Brad Carlson, Julia Chojnacki, Roger Clark, Peg Clukey, Willie D’Anna, Katelyn Davis, Dean DiTommaso, Carol Hardenburg, Chris Hollister, Andy Guthrie, Matt Kauffman, Tom Kerr, Hans Kunze, Tim Liguori, Karen Miller, Phil Mills, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, Rob Mrowka, Ben Nieman, Karen Przybycien, Jeffrey Reed, Shelley Seidman, Rob Sielaff, Joel Strong, Dennis Thomas, Matthew Vanderheyden, Gale VerHague, Jim Wetwoods, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **Bond L CP** – Bond L CP, NIAG; **BuffH** – 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; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **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; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft NP, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

Snow Goose: 8 Tonawanda ERIE 8 Dec; 6 Elma ERIE 31 Dec; 6 Rushford ALLE 2 Jan; Orchard P ERIE 10 Jan; 45 Warsaw WYOM 11 Feb; 175 Yates ORLE 27 Feb (WD); max 250 Shelby ORLE 28 Feb (CM).

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 8 Sheridan CHAU 31 Dec (GV); 2 Lyndonville ORLE 8, 15 Jan (JS); arr Barcelona Harbor CHAU 6 Feb; max 8 TWMA 24 Feb (PY).

Cackling Goose: 22 Lyndonville ORLE 10 Dec (JS); 10 Bond L CP 20 Dec; 19 N Collins ERIE 1 Jan; max 24 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 6 Feb (KD, DB); 12 Somerset NIAG 16 Feb; 10 TWMA 27 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 3000 Lyndonville ORLE 27 Feb.

Mute Swan: 8 Lewiston NR 19 Dec; max 15 PB 27 Dec.

Trumpeter Swan: 1, 2, 5 INWR 2 Dec, 7 Jan, 22 Feb, only loc with reports.

Tundra Swan: 179 NF 12 Dec; 42 Dayton CATT 28 Dec; 73 New Hudson ALLE 28 Dec; max 307 BeSP 31 Jan; 188 INWR 16 Feb; 82 ACNC 26 Feb.

Wood Duck: four Dec reports; four Jan reports from different locations; arr 2 Silver Creek CHAU 29 Jan; max 16 Cuba ALLE 28 Feb.

Northern Shoveler: max 54, 13 BWWT 8 Dec, 11 Jan; 2 Unity I NR 31 Jan.

Gadwall: 25 BeSP 16 Dec; 6 ACNC 13 Jan; 25 BWWT 12 Feb; max 40 Chautauqua CHAU 27 Feb.

American Wigeon: 12 NF 9 Dec; 6 PB 25 Dec; 2 Tonawanda NR 11 Jan; 2 BWWT 24 Jan; max 30 Clay Pd WMA CHAU 28 Feb.

Mallard: max 310 DH 14 Dec.

American Black Duck: 20 Celoron ChauL 28 Dec; 20 Grand I NR 23 Jan; 18 DH 4 Feb; max 25 CSWMA 18 Feb.

Northern Pintail: 8 Dayton CATT 9 Jan; 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Jan; 21 DH 10 Feb; 17 BufH 20 Feb; max 50 INWR 20 Feb; 33 Cuba ALLE 27 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 11 Cuba ALLE 5 Dec; BeSP 2 Jan; Lackawanna ERIE 9, 28 Jan; 4, 3 Wellsville ALLE 31 Jan, 9 Feb; Tonawanda NR 6 Feb; max 15 CSWMA 26 Feb.

Canvasback: 1500 BuSP 29 Dec; max 7000 NF 30 Dec; 80, 400 DH 8 Jan, 10 Feb; 3828 BeSP 16 Jan.

Redhead: 937 Ellery ChauL 5 Dec; 200 NF 10 Dec; 20 BWWT 1 Jan; 320 BufH 1 Jan; max 1000 BeSP 2 Jan; 250, 450 DH 18 Jan, 10 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 100 BufH 4 Jan; 10 BWWT 11 Jan; 15 DH 22 Jan; 38 INWR 20 Feb; 100 WFWMA 28 Feb; max 180 Jamestown ChauL 28 Feb.

Tufted Duck (R1): late Nov.

Greater Scaup: 281, 350, 550 DH 16 Dec, 10 Jan, 10 Feb; 1500 NF 30 Dec; max 2000, 2000 BufH 11 Jan, 12 Feb; 250 FNSP 26 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 253 Ellery ChauL 9 Dec; 50 BufH 11 Jan; 10 BWWT 11 Jan; 40 BeSP 12 Jan; 35 DH 23 Feb; 50 Jamestown ChauL 25 Feb.

King Eider: no reports.

Harlequin Duck: PB 25 Dec (BC, RC), only report.

Surf Scoter: 3 DH 2 Dec; BWWT 5 Dec; max 4, 2, 2 FNSP 8 Dec, 7 Jan, 18 Feb; 1, 1 EvSP 10 Dec, 15 Jan; 2 BeSP 3 Jan; PB 14 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: max 200, 410 FNSP 16 Dec, 22 Jan.

Black Scoter: DH 2 Dec; max 5, 2 FNSP 6 Dec, 18 Feb; 2 EvSP 15 Jan; BufH 2, 20 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: 200 FNSP 16 Dec; 360 Lewiston NR 25 Jan; max 500 BufH 11 Feb.

Bufflehead: 250 Chautauqua ChauL 2 Dec; max 1500 BufH 10 Dec (MV); 261 BeSP 16 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: 500 NF 7 Jan; max 1000 BufH 11 Jan; 500 BuSP 6 Feb.

Barrow's Goldeneye: LESP 6 Feb (GB ph!), rare; few previous sightings on L Erie.

Hooded Merganser: 192 Celoron ChauL 3 Dec; max 220 Dayton CATT 6 Dec; 180 DH 14 Dec.

Common Merganser: 200 Dayton CATT 2 Dec; 160 NFSP 22 Dec; max 1000 Buffalo NR 6 Feb (MK).

Red-breasted Merganser: 250 GHSP 8 Jan; 340 NF 15 Jan; 715 EvSP 15 Jan; max 5000 BufH 30 Jan; 300 Buffalo NR 6 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: 26 Dayton CATT 2 Dec; max 48, 4, 3 BWWT 5 Dec, 1 Jan, 20 Feb; 14, 35 DH 31 Dec, 10 Jan; 15 BeSP 2 Jan; 2 Celoron ChauL 10 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 136 Sinclairville CHAU 4 Jan (GV).

Ruffed Grouse: eight reports for season, all So. Tier.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 3 Andover ALLE 15 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 Cassadaga L CHAU 4 Dec.

Horned Grebe: 16 Sturgeon Pt CHAU 7 Dec; max 25, 17 FNPS 16 Dec, 15 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 8 Feb; Rushford ALLE 24 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: Cassadaga L CHAU 1 Dec; 1, 2 PB 4 Dec, 22 Jan; 2 DH 10 Dec; 1, 1 BufH 4, 28 Jan; 2 FNPS 15 Jan; max 5 Somerset NIAG 16 Feb.

Eared Grebe: Buffalo NR thru 7 Dec, continuing from late Nov; Barcelona Harbor CHAU 10-28 Feb (GB, mob).

Rock Pigeon: max 212 Grand I ERIE 18 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 70 Ellery CHAU 23 Feb.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Great Valley CATT thru 22 Dec (KM), continuing from Nov.

Common Gallinule: BWWT 1 Jan – 19 Feb (HK, CM), very rare in winter.

American Coot: max 104 Cassadaga L CHAU 4 Dec; 51 DH 1 Jan; 10 BWWT 23 Jan.

Sandhill Crane: 5 Dayton CATT 10 Dec; max 40 Fredonia CHAU 10 Dec (Cha); 5 Buffalo ERIE 26 Dec; 10 N Collins ERIE 1 Jan; 7, 2 ACNC 7 Jan, 21 Feb; 4 JWWMA 28 Jan; 2 CSWMA 18 Feb; 4 Conewango CATT 25 Feb; INWR 26 Feb.

Killdeer: W Seneca ERIE 1 Dec; 2 Porter NIAG 4 Dec; INWR 8 Dec; arr 6 Portland CHAU 12 Feb.

Dunlin: 5, 2, 2 NFSP 8, 29 Dec, 16 Jan; only location.

Purple Sandpiper: 1, 2 BufH 6, 28 Feb (PY); only location.

American Woodcock: arr 2 Sinclairville CHAU 21 Feb (DT); Forestville CHAU 26 Feb (GV).

Wilson's Snipe: last Ischua CATT 17 Dec (JR).

jaeger species: Buffalo NR ERIE 3 Dec (RS, BN).

RAZORBILL: 1-2 FNPS 4-7 Dec (mob, ph!).

Black-legged Kittiwake: BufH 1 Dec (SS, PC); Fredonia CHAU 3 Dec (KP); 1, 1 NPP 21 Dec, 11 Feb; BeSP 2-31 Jan (JW, mob); BufH 1 Feb, 15-16 Feb (RS, SS, mob); all juvs.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 800, 3000 Lewiston NR NIAG 10 Dec, 24 Jan; 625, 450 Buffalo NR ERIE 19 Dec, 28 Jan.

Little Gull: 2, 1 Buffalo NR ERIE 3 Dec, 9 Jan; max 12, 5 Lewiston NR NIAG 16 Jan, 7 Feb (AG, BM).

COMMON GULL: Olcott NIAG 12 Feb (WD, mob, ph!), very rare!, *see intro*.

Herring Gull: max 1500 DHSP 24 Jan.

Iceland "Thayer's" Gull: NPP 4, 18, 28 Dec; 1, 1 NFSP 5 Dec, 16 Jan (TK, AG, BM); WBS 28 Jan (SB); Olcott NIAG 13 Feb (PM, WD).

Iceland Gull: Celoron ChauL 3 Dec; PB 4 Dec; 4, 8 NFSP 20 Dec, 20 Feb; 7 FNPS 24 Jan; 2 DH 28 Jan; 3 WBS 29 Jan; max 11 DHSP 5 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5 ChauL CHAU 2 Dec; max 21, 16, 10 NFSP 17 Dec, 16 Jan, 13 Feb; 3 Lewiston NR NIAG 31 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: 2 NPP 4 Dec; 1, 2 NFSP 16 Dec, 5 Feb; Olcott NIAG 20 Dec; five Jan reports 1-2 each; 2 Lewiston NR 4 Feb; 2 Buffalo NR 14 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 40 DH 15 Feb; max 40 WBS 20 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: max 5, 6 FNPS 4 Dec, 7 Jan; 3 Wilson NIAG 17 Dec; PB 25 Dec; BeSP 29 Dec, 12 Feb; 3, 1 GHSP 8 Jan, 16 Feb; 3 Olcott NIAG 26 Jan.

Common Loon: 3 ChauL CHAU 8 Jan; four other Jan reports one each; FNPS 12 Feb; Tiff NP 13 Feb.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 40 Buffalo NR 1 Dec; 15 Tonawanda NR ERIE 11 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: max 31 Tonawanda NR ERIE 18 Dec.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 3 BufH 13 Dec.

Black Vulture: 6, 8, 6 Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec, 2 Jan, 20 Feb; regular location.

Turkey Vulture: max 28, 16, 28 Newfane NIAG 17 Dec, 7 Jan, 12 Feb, new roost; 22 Lewiston NIAG 16 Jan; Holland ERIE 28 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 30 Jan; 10 Somerset NIAG 14 Feb; early Feb arrivals.

Golden Eagle: Great Valley CATT 7 Feb (JR), only report.

Northern Harrier: max 5 JWWMA 9 Dec.

Northern Goshawk: imm Stockton CHAU (GV, ph!); few reports in recent years.

Bald Eagle: max 8 Dayton CATT 10 Dec; 5 Cherry Creek CHAU 9 Jan; 5 BeSP 9 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: East Aurora ERIE 24 Dec; Hamburg ERIE 14 Jan; Tift NP 19 Jan; 13 reports Feb, one each.

Rough-legged Hawk: six reports Dec, 13 reports Jan, 15 reports Feb, one each.

Snowy Owl: BufH 2 Dec; Buffalo Airport ERIE 30 Dec; only reports.

Long-eared Owl: Krull CP 19 Dec (TK), only report.

Short-eared Owl: Cambria NIAG 17 Dec; Alfred ALLE 10 Jan; Shelby ORLE 11 Jan; BufH 28 Jan; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 4, 12 Feb; Somerset NIAG 25 Dec; mostly regular locations.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Carlton ORLE 11 Jan; LESP 12 Jan; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 East Bethany GENE 14 Dec; Krull CP 17 Dec; AmSP 19 Dec, 1 Jan, 7 Feb; BMAC 7 Jan; Cherry Creek CHAU 9 Jan; Orchard P ERIE 3 Feb; Orangeville WYOM 19 Feb; consistent with increase in winter reports.

Northern Flicker: max 21 Krull CP NIAG 8 Jan (WD).

Northern Shrike: 18 reports Dec; seven reports Jan; eight reports Feb, one each.

American Crow: max 2750 Buffalo ERIE 11 Jan.

Fish Crow: max 31, 4 Buffalo ERIE 6 Dec, 3 Jan; 2 Cheektowaga ERIE 8 Dec; 12, 6 Tift NP 16 Dec, 2 Feb.

Common Raven: max 8 Buffalo ERIE 21 Dec.

Horned Lark: 47 Kiantone CHAU 23 Dec; 35 Bethany GENE 28 Dec, 15 Jan, 25 Feb; 50 Oakfield GENE 30 Dec; 45 Shelby ORLE 4 Feb; 100 Wilson NIAG 25 Feb; max 135 Newstead ERIE 25 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BWWT 5 Dec; Batavia GENE 18 Feb (JC); only reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: Somerset NIAG 16 Jan (JS, WD, ph!), few reported in recent years.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Somerset NIAG 16 Jan.

Winter Wren: good showing each month; max 2 BeSP 3 Dec.

Marsh Wren: last INWR 5 Dec (Cho), late.

Carolina Wren: seemingly in good numbers consistent with other recent seasons.

Gray Catbird: four Dec reports one each; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 16 Jan.

Brown Thrasher: Alfred ALLE 16 Dec, rare in winter.

Eastern Bluebird: max 16 Sheridan CHAU 8 Dec; 12 Evans ERIE 4 Feb.

Hermit Thrush: Sturgeon Pt ERIE 7 Dec; RWN 13, 20 Dec; Ellery CHAU 21 Feb; only reports.

American Robin: max 150 LBSP 11 Jan; 120 Collins ERIE 29 Jan; 150 Lyndonville ORLE 11 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: 13, 20, 30 Machias CATT 26 Dec, 24 Jan, 11 Feb (RM); 36 Sinclairville CHAU 29 Dec; max 41 Alfred ALLE 5 Jan; 34 Olean CATT 18 Jan; 8 Holland ERIE 22 Jan; 13, 16 Alfred ALLE 4, 20 Feb; 16 Independence ALLE 12 Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: no reports.

House Finch: max 86 Shelby ORLE 3 Feb.

Purple Finch: max 7 Mayville CHAU 26 Jan.

Common Redpoll: max 30 Krull CP 27 Dec; 2, 1, 1 Rushford ALLE 27 Dec, 22 Jan, 19 Feb; Carlton ORLE 15 Jan; LBSP 18 Jan; few reports.

Red Crossbill: no reports.

White-winged Crossbill: no reports.

Pine Siskin: max 17 Wilson NIAG 2 Dec; 8 Birdsall ALLE 17 Dec; 2 Buffalo 5 Feb; Orangeville WYOM 16 Feb.

American Goldfinch: max 68 Orangeville WYOM 16 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: four Dec reports one each; four Jan reports 1-3 each; Olcott NIAG 12 Feb; 5 Porter NIAG 25 Feb; 4 Somerset NIAG 25 Feb; max 6 Yates ORLE 27 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 200, 225 Bethany GENE 15 Jan, 4 Feb; 75 Holland ERIE 28 Jan; 40 Forestville CHAU 28 Jan; 45 Freedom CATT 28 Jan; 45 BufH 30 Jan; 100 Shelby ORLE 4 Feb; max 250 Yates ORLE 7 Feb; 110 Somerset NIAG 25 Feb.

LARK SPARROW: WBSP 21, 22 Dec (SB, mob, ph!), rare.

Chipping Sparrow: three Dec reports one each.

Field Sparrow: Belfast ALLE 13 Feb; Ellery CHAU 23 Feb; only reports.

Fox Sparrow: Buffalo ERIE 1 Dec; BMAC 17 Dec; only reports.

American Tree Sparrow: max 51 Porter NIAG 25 Feb.

“Oregon” Junco: Medina ORLE 23-27 Dec, 10, 15 Jan (CM, ph!), uncommon.

White-crowned Sparrow “Gambel’s intergrade”: Buffalo ERIE 5-8 Dec. (SS ph!), rarely documented.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 6 Bethany GENE 28 Dec; Corfu GENE 17 Feb; Porter NIAG 17 Feb.

Savannah Sparrow: Yates ORLE 28 Dec; max 7 Yates ORLE 16 Jan (WD), apparently overwintering.

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 INWR 5 Dec; BeSP 29 Dec; OOWMA 30 Dec; INWR 11 Feb.

Eastern Towhee: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 2 Jan, only report.

Baltimore Oriole: Wellsville ALLE 12, 16, 25 Dec (TL, ph!), late.

Red-winged Blackbird: 10 Buffalo ERIE 24 Jan; 5 BuSP 29 Jan; arrived early February.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 34 Grand I ERIE 2 Jan; max 45 Portland CHAU 4 Jan; 41 Oakfield GENE 7 Jan; 20 Pomfret CHAU 23 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: Amherst ERIE 19 Dec; Clarence Erie 25 Dec; Shelby ORLE 28 Dec; arr Ellery CHAU 21 Feb.

Common Grackle: three Dec reports one each; four Jan reports 1-2 each; arrived mid-February.

Orange-crowned Warbler: FNSP 8 Dec (SS, PC, ph!), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: BufH 2 Dec; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 7 Dec; 2 Forestville CHAU 8 Dec; BufH 12 Dec; BuSP 11 Jan; only reports.

EXOTICS

Whooper Swan: Barcelona Harbor CHAU 20 Feb thru (mob), tame individual.