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The KINGBIRD

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COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) RANGE EXPANSION ONTO THE ERIE/ONTARIO LAKE PLAIN OF NEW YORK STATE

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During much of the historical era, from the late 19th through mid 20th Centuries, the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) was absent from most of New York State and quite rare even in the most remote parts of the Adirondack Mountains (Bull 1974). More recently, the New York State population has expanded dramatically, increasing at a rate of 9% per year from 1966-2015 (Sauer et al. 2017). During this period, however, nesting reports have generally remained restricted to locations of higher elevation such as the Allegheny and Tug Hill Plateaus, and Catskill and Adirondack Mountains (Boarman and Heinrich 1999, USDA NRCS 2006, McGowan 2008, eBird 2012). In the Niagara Frontier region of southeastern Ontario and western New York, Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) emphasized the species' rarity but noted a definite migration presence during April and October. Here we report the first documented nestings by Common Ravens on the Erie Ontario Lake Plain, the area of low topographic relief along the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shorelines.

The Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shorelines are also known as the Erie/Ontario Lake Plain Ecoregion of New York State (herein referred to as the Lake Plain). Ecoregions are areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources (USEPA 2016). The Lake Plain Ecoregion in New York includes portions of Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties (Fig. 1, p.133; Bryce et. al. 2010). A small part of Cayuga County is also in the Lake Plain, but we did not discuss Cayuga County in this report due to its relatively small amount of area that falls within the Lake Plain Ecoregion.

Prior to 2017, there were three previously known nests within the Lake Plain, all dating from after the 2000-2005 census period of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (McGowan and Corwin 2008). One nest, in Erie County, was located at the Huntley Station power plant in Tonawanda and was first reported in 2011. The other two nests were in Monroe County. The first

Monroe County nest was reported in 2011 and was located at Mendon Ponds County Park in Mendon (eBird 2012). The second Monroe County nest was first reported in 2015 and was located near the smokestacks of Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation's Russell Station in Greece, NY.

During the 2017 breeding season five new Common Raven nests were documented within the Lake Plain of New York. These nests were located in Erie, Niagara, Monroe, and Wayne Counties. One of the Erie County nests was located on the exterior stairway of an abandoned building on the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation Lackawanna Plant in Buffalo (Figs. 2 & 3, p. 134). A second Erie County nest location was identified in the Buffalo Crushed Stone quarry in Lancaster. The Niagara County nest was located in a tower of the coal generation station at the Delphi Plant in Lockport (Bob Elam, pers. comm.). The Monroe County nest was located on the superstructure of a railroad truss bridge over the Erie Canal in Pittsford (Fig. 4, p. 134). The Wayne County nest was in a New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) salt barn in Sodus (Figs. 5 & 6, p. 135).

There were also several reports of probable nests in the Lake Plain counties starting in 2013. However, due to their unconfirmed status, the locations are not included in this report. The probable nest locations were generally associated with larger natural areas (NYPA Reservoir, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Thousand Acre Swamp, and Webster Park), landfills (High Acres and Niagara County) and power plants (Ginna). We propose that the new nest locations are indicative of Common Raven's breeding range expansion onto the Lake Plain of New York State since the publication of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State.

At the time of this writing there have been eight nest sites of Common Raven documented on the Lake Plain (Table 1), whereas up to 2005 there were no Common Raven nests documented on the Lake Plain (McGowan 2008). This coincides with documented southward breeding expansion of Common Raven in Ontario, Canada (Peck 2005). Additionally, Common Raven sightings reported to Cornell's eBird database have been steadily increasing for the Lake Plain counties as a whole (Fig. 7, p. 136; eBird 2017). The increasing raven population (Sauer et al. 2017), the increase in eBird reports, several new nest locations, and the documented southward expansion of Common Raven in Ontario suggest the species is expanding its breeding range in New York State and nesting occurrences are likely to become more common on the Lake Plain.

Common Ravens prefer heavily contoured landscapes (e.g., cliffs), which provide thermals for long-distance foraging; and also areas with cliffs, trees, or human structures necessary for nesting (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). In contrast, the Lake Plain is relatively flat. The expansion of the Common Raven's nesting range into what was previously considered sub-optimal habitat may be attributed to saturation of territories in optimal habitat or the natural adaptability of a highly adaptable species.

Table 1: Summary Table of Common Raven Nest locations in the Erie/Ontario Lake Plain.

Nest Site Name	Location	Description	Year*	Additional Notes/Observations
Huntley Station Power Plant	Tonawanda, Erie Co.	Somewhere on the grounds of the power plant.	2011	Confirmed nesting reports are only available in eBird for 2011, 2014 and 2015. Current status unknown.
Mendon Ponds County Park	Mendon, Monroe Co.	In a spruce tree along Quaker Pond trail within the County park.	2011	A pair has nested every year since 2011 and are reported year-round in the area.
Russell Station	Greece, Monroe Co.	In the smokestack area of power plant.	2015	Nest was last reported in 2016. Russell Station was demolished in 2016.
Bethlehem Steel Corp. Lackawanna Plant	Buffalo, Erie Co.	On an exterior stairwell of an abandoned building.	2017	Raven chased the nesting peregrine pair who had occupied this site since 2013.
Stone Quarry	Lancaster, Erie Co.	Adult observed carrying food or nesting material toward stone quarry during breeding season.	2017	Only one report made for the location on 27 April, 2017.
Delphi Plant	Lockport, Niagara Co.	Near the smokestack tower of the coal generation station.	2017	Pair was first observed in the area in 2015. Probable nesting in 2016. Confirmed nest in 2017 season, with three fledglings observed.
Pittsford Railroad bridge over Erie Canal	Pittsford, Monroe Co.	Top of superstructure where several beams come together.	2017	Fledged 3 young in 2017.
Sodus Salt Barn	Sodus, Wayne Co.	Top of the frame arch inside the NYSDOT salt barn.	2017	Fledged 5 young in 2017. Nest fell down at end of 2017 breeding season.

* First year nesting behavior was confirmed.

All but one (Mendon Ponds Park) of the recent nests on the Lake Plain were constructed on or within manmade structures. These new nest locations support Boarman and Heinrich's (1999) account that ravens are adaptable, use a diversity of nest substrates, and benefit from resources provided by human activities. Range expansion into more densely human populated areas along the Lake Plain will likely lead to more opportunities for raven-human interactions, and possibly potential conflicts, in the future.

Additional Observation Information for the Sodus Salt Barn Nest:

NYS DOT workers observed nest building attempts by the Common Ravens early in 2017. The workers noted that sticks dropped during nest-building attempts were not retrieved by the ravens. After what appeared to be many failed attempts at nest building, it was thought the ravens had moved on. In April the Sodus work crews relocated to a different maintenance facility for summer work activities. The gates and buildings at the Sodus facility were locked, and there was little to no human activity in the area. However, the front of the salt barn is always open for the ravens to access (Fig. 5).

In early May, a State of Emergency was declared due to historically high water levels in Lake Ontario. The Sodus NYSDOT facility was re-opened due to the emergency and became the headquarters for the Army Reserve sandbag-making operation. On 4 May 2017 the raven nest was discovered in the roofing frame of the salt barn. The Sodus salt barn nest was precariously built, wedged between cross beams of the barn's frame (Figs. 5 & 6). Five chicks were observed in the nest during feedings.

The adult ravens appeared to actively forage along the railroad corridor immediately adjacent to the NYSDOT property. After a food drop for the nestlings, one of the adults would often fly over the rail corridor and return to the nest within a few minutes with another food item, while the other adult was still visibly perched on a nearby telephone pole. This was observed several times over the nestling stage. On 26 May, the adult ravens started to leave food on the floor within the barn instead of bringing it to the nest.

The first chick observed to fledge the nest was recorded on 2 Jun. A second chick fledged on 3 Jun. Shortly after the second chick fledged, the nest fell down. Two other birds that were still in the nest managed to fly off without obvious injury. The fifth chick was not seen on the nest after 1 Jun but was observed outside of the salt barn and is presumed to have fledged prior to 2 Jun.

The NYSDOT work crews kept an eye out for the young as they left the nest and avoided any harmful interactions. The pair managed to raise and fledge five chicks despite the intensive amount of human activity associated with the sandbagging operation that occurred in close proximity to the salt barn and surrounding buildings.

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WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2018

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At least 345 volunteers went into the field 11-26 January 2018 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged 924 party-hours and counted 310,605 waterfowl. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

An examination of weather records from Buffalo, Ithaca, Plattsburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Islip showed that New York State experienced a prolonged spell of sub-freezing temperatures during the last week of December 2017 and the first week of January 2018 leading to the freezing of still water, slow-moving water and shallow moving water. Two or three days of warmer weather reaching into the 50s F immediately preceded the beginning of the official count period, 13-21 January. Snow and cold returned on 13 January, so the extent of frozen water continued to be the same through the count period. Other than the first day of the count, snow was not much of a factor in terms of limiting volunteer participation.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2018 numbers with the average numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 310,605, was more than 73,000 fewer than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. The difference was spread across all the major groupings of waterfowl—geese, swans, dabbling ducks, non-anseriformes waterfowl—except diving ducks which were counted in higher numbers in 2018. The pre-count freeze seems to have most affected the shallow water feeders, the geese, swans, dabbling ducks, and coots. Sometimes snow cover affects the geese, swans, and dabbling ducks which also forage in corn fields, but there was little snow cover in most of the state prior to and during the count.

eBird (2018) data show that both Snow and Canada Goose numbers dropped precipitously during December. There was an uptick in eBird's Canada Goose numbers the week of the count, but this may have been the effect of January Waterfowl Count volunteers submitting counts to eBird. Mute, Trumpeter, and Tundra Swan numbers were all less in 2018 than in the average 2001-2010 counts. The difference of more than 600 Mute Swans accounts for most of the swan decline.

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2018 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, Gr. White-fr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Snow	0	0	1,150	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,072	2,223
Ross's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Canada	2,976	2,563	25,652	2,086	2,675	116	68	1,504	14,398	42,644	94,682
Cackling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	9
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,212	17,567	18,779
Swan, Mute	8	259	54	6	34	48	0	0	155	497	1,061
Trumpeter	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Tundra	332	0	312	0	1	4	0	0	0	6	655
not to species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	57	61
Gadwall	12	6	50	4	2	0	2	0	241	1,118	1,435
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
American	2	0	25	2	0	0	0	0	82	719	830
Am. Black Duck	83	100	598	199	90	23	130	74	772	5,941	8,010
Mallard	1,321	1,811	5,596	1,513	2,106	72	1,343	841	4,033	7,427	26,063
Mallard X Black	1	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	45	59
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	339	339
Northern Pintail	4	2	7	1	1	0	0	2	8	96	121
Green-winged Teal	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	102	115
Canvasback	5,181	1	632	0	3	0	0	0	65	57	5,939
Redhead	598	34	30,928	45	1,157	4	0	1	11	25	32,803
Ring-necked Duck	20	0	3,732	3	12	0	6	0	36	154	3,963
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup, Greater	9,311	877	547	0	114	0	0	0	2,846	18,174	31,869

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser	916	30	1,545	0	16	0	1	0	139	860	3,507
not to species	6,120	50	498	0	30	50	2	0	0	8,393	15,143
Eider, King	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Common	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,206	4,206
Harlequin Duck	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9
Scoter, Surf	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	868	871
White-winged	348	120	90	1	24	2	0	0	7	1,683	2,275
Black	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,254	1,255
not to species	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,028	1,029
Long-tailed Duck	863	2,393	41	9	233	261	0	0	211	6,178	10,189
Bufflehead	1,956	16	243	3	40	29	81	0	637	4,581	7,586
Goldeneye, Co.	2,918	1,049	2,041	18	659	946	2,121	212	174	973	11,111
Barrow's	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	10
Merganser, Hooded	41	1	106	77	68	7	28	33	163	1,101	1,625
Common	396	1,269	2,005	199	1,663	552	165	38	668	175	7,130
Red-breasted	1,543	2,270	504	0	620	8	1	0	124	1,414	6,484
Ruddy Duck	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	18	894	922
Loon, Red-throated	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	30	44
Common	2	1	5	0	0	1	4	0	19	249	281
Grebe, Pied-billed	0	1	11	0	3	0	0	0	2	4	21
Horned	1	3	36	0	15	0	25	0	16	140	236
Red-necked	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	7
Eared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-cr.	2	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	63	76
Great	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	67	96
American Coot	4	6	625	1	1	0	0	0	4	212	853
Other/Unidentified	5,522	6	15	0	0	112	0	0	21	933	6,609
TOTALS	40,485	12,885	77,064	4,173	9,584	2,239	3,982	2,705	26,110	131,378	310,605

All dabbling duck species, except Wood Duck, contributed to the 2018 dabbler count being lower than the 2001-2010 average. All regularly occurring non-anseriformes species contributed to the lower 2018 count for that grouping. These include Red-throated and Common Loons, Pied-billed, Horned, and Red-necked Grebes, and Double-crested and Great Cormorants.

Volunteers found slightly more diving ducks in 2018 than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, scaup, and Long-tailed Duck accounted for this increase. All other diving duck species numbers were lower in 2018 than the 2001-2010 average.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

Tundra Swan had a sharp decrease in numbers since the 2017 count, from 1443 to 655. This was the lowest count for this species since 2005. The drop may be part of a new downward trend for this species or simply the result of a cold period preceding the count.

The Canvasback count was only about half of the 2017 count, but still higher than the 2016 count. The count of 5939 was a little more than one-third of the 2001-2010 average.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2018, possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Long-term increases can be surmised in this way for Snow Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases can likewise be surmised for American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup, Common Merganser, and Great Cormorant.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2019 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information (and also the historical data) is available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be:

2019 – January 19-27 (target date Sunday, January 20)

2020 – January 18-26 (target date Sunday, January 19)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2018 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The Regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Jim Landau	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Thomas Bell	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Bill Ostrander
5	Bill Purcell	10	Ronald Borque

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IN MEMORIAM BERNA B. LINCOLN

Long-time Federation of NY State Bird Clubs and NY Ornithological Association leader Berna B. Lincoln passed away November, 2017 in Somers, NY. Her service to our organization dates from 1978 when the former Berna Weissman joined the Federation. Her first official position was as Recording Secretary in 1984, and over that decade she served as Vice-President and President. In 1990 she began a 10 year stint as Treasurer, followed by several terms as a director and chair of the Finance Committee.

However, these formal titles were only a part of Berna's contributions. Her behind-the-scenes work as circulation manager was likely the most time consuming and perhaps important job for NYSOA. Berna single-handedly kept membership records, received dues payments, prepared mailing lists and membership reminders, dealt with printers, fulfilled merchandise orders and

generally served as the interface between the organization and members. This effort required a sharp, organized, detail-oriented mind, which Berna fortunately possessed.

Other less visible tasks included proof-reading NYSOA publications including *The Kingbird* and *Bull's Birds of New York State*, published in 1998. She was named Associate to the Editor for the latter book.

Berna initiated the county listing project in 1992, intended to "stimulate more interest in birding, but especially to encourage birders to better appreciate New York's diverse birding habitats." County listing remains a popular activity today.

Berna had large roles in both NY State Breeding Bird Atlases, serving as a Regional coordinator in the 1980-85 survey, and on the Steering Committee and Records Review Committee for the second Atlas. County coordinator Barbara Butler noted, "She was tireless in attending to block assignments, reviewing reports, and encouraging better block coverage."

She also contributed some significant bird finds, including the first state record California Gull in 1978, the second state record Yellow-nosed Albatross in 1976, and a Sooty Shearwater on the Hudson River following passage of Hurricane David in 1980.

Former President Valerie Freer recalled that Berna and Stan Lincoln (also a large figure in Federation/NYSOA history) arrived at a 1991 Federation board meeting a little late and in a happy mood, and announced that they had just been married! As noted in Stan's memoriam in 2015, "Stan and Berna together were an even stronger presence and sustaining force for the organization. Their long time collaboration has served the organization well over many years. In 1998, Stan and Berna received the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Federation and NYSOA. Stan and Berna took many birding trips around the country in their camping van, listing along the way."

Berna Lincoln was the institutional memory for NYSOA for many years and the organization would not and cannot be the same without her. We thank Berna for her love of birds, for her commitment to NYSOA and for her friendship. Our deepest condolences go to Berna's family.

Andrew Mason and Barbara Butler



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After a snowless November, we were reminded in December 2017 what a harsh winter was like, with plenty of arctic air masses and lake effect snowfalls. The mean temperature was 25.4°F, 4.7° below normal, and the coldest December since 2000. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 2.93", 0.96" less than usual, with 33.7" of snow, 6.3" more than usual, with 14 days with at least one inch of snowfall. The New Year started with a record low temperature on 1 January and then a roller coaster weather ride that included blizzard conditions on the 2nd, a sharp warmup that brought flooding from the rapid snowmelt, and then several cold fronts and snowfalls. The mean temperature was 24.2°, 0.7° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.73", 0.55" above normal, with 31.2" of snow, 5.9" above normal. Lake Erie reached the freezing temperature by 2 January. February's mean temperature was 31.9°, 5.6° above normal, with an average first two weeks and then very warm over the last two weeks of the month. The monthly precipitation was 3.61", 1.12" above normal, with 18.1" of snowfall, 0.8" above normal.

The harsh weather in December and January affected some CBCs and seemingly brought birder effort to less than usual. The warmup in the second half of February brought some of the first spring migrants, such as waterfowl, Killdeer, American Robins, and blackbirds, among others.

Among the many geese that came through in the latter half of February were more **Greater White-fronted Geese** than usual. There were multiple reports spanning four counties with a maximum of 12 geese in Hartland. There were two separate sightings of a **Ross's Goose** in late February, with one at Hartland and the other at Iroquois NWR. The passage of Tundra Swans was especially strong on 28 February, with counts in the hundreds from several locations and greater than 2,300 as viewed from Buffalo Harbor.

Nice finds among waterfowl included a **King Eider** at Fort Niagara SP in January and up to five **Harlequin Ducks** continuing above Niagara Falls as viewed from Three Sisters Islands. It has been a delight to have the "harleys" become so regular here in recent years. Alec Humann picked out a **Trumpeter Swan** among the many Tundra Swans around Beaver Island SP. It was then viewed throughout the winter.

At least three **Black Vultures** overwintered in the Lewiston area, which marks the seventh consecutive winter for this species in the area. Turkey Vultures were found in Lewiston as well as a few other locations, as it is becoming less rare during the winter season, even in a cold winter like this one.

The largest winter count of Bald Eagles was 18 near Dunkirk Harbor in February. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was photographed in Ellicottville on

New Year's Eve by Gary Hallick for the only winter report. There was a moderate presence of Rough-legged Hawks and an impressive number for wintering Red-shouldered Hawks, with sightings from many more locations than usual. David Crowe photographed a **Golden Eagle** in Wellsville on 21 February. It is hard to say if it was a wintering bird or moving north with the late February warm spell.

Paul Hess counted 21 **Sandhill Cranes** in Alabama in early December. He also had the first crane arrival, sighting two at Iroquois NWR on 27 February. There were single reports of Wilson's Snipe and **American Woodcock** in December, while woodcocks returned in late February for the second year in a row.

Gull numbers and diversity were unexceptional, at least for Niagara River standards. The cold conditions pushed most of the smaller gulls south by early in January. A juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Niagara Falls on 1 December was the only notable find.

Easily the most amazing find this season was an **Inca Dove** in Tom Simmons' Celoron backyard. The dove stuck around for just over one week and made infrequent feeder visits. If accepted by NYSARC, this will be a first State record. Inca Dove has developed a relatively light pattern of vagrancy to the Midwest, and there are also a few other records in the east.

A good number of **Snowy Owls** were around this winter, with reports from many locations and a maximum of four around Buffalo Harbor. **Short-eared Owls** were found at nine locations, most of which were locations of previous sightings. There was only one **Long-eared Owl** report.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** took up winter residence near the nature center at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, allowing many birders to have a nice look. The species was found at three other locations as well. It was a decent winter for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports, with two to five per month. Sue Barth picked out a **Bohemian Waxwing** in a group of Cedar Waxwings in Boston on 21 January, which marks a rare sighting away from the Lake Ontario Plain. One at Fort Niagara SP in late December fit better within the usual context for sightings of this species.

Even in colder winters there are "half hardy" species to be found, perhaps in increasing numbers over time. Reports this winter included Eastern Towhee and Fox Sparrow both at four locations, three Chipping Sparrow reports, and one report each for Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Up to 22 Yellow-rumped Warblers were found on the Oak Orchard CBC, and they were present throughout the winter at Buckhorn Island SP. Up to ten Rusty Blackbirds also frequented the woods at Buckhorn Island SP this winter. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, photographed visiting a feeder in Jamestown, was unusual for December.

Lapland Longspurs were found in a number of locations in low numbers, as well as being reported with a few counts between 30 and 50 on the Lake

Ontario Plain. Three American Pipits flying over Buffalo Harbor on 24 February were early arrivals.

It was not a good winter for finding northern finches, with just scattered reports of **Pine Siskins**, more so in the Southern Tier, and two reports of lone **Common Redpolls**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: N Collins ERIE 3 Dec; BuSP 25 Dec; 4 Centerville ALLE 26 Dec; 2 Dunkirk CHAU 30 Dec; arr 3 Hartland NIAG 23 Feb; max 8 Batavia GENE 24 Feb.

Ross's Goose: Hartland NIAG 22 Feb (JS ph); INWR 28 Feb (PH, CM ph); has become annual as spring migrant.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 7, 10, 12 Hartland NIAG 22, 23, 27 Feb (WD, PM); 3 Yates ORLE 25-26 Feb; max 23 Shelby ORLE 27 Feb (DSh); Somerset NIAG 28 Feb; 7 Alexander GENE 28 Feb (ED, DB); 4 Attica WYOM (ED, DB, SB, TK) 28 Feb; excellent spring showing.

Cackling Goose: six Dec rpts; DH 23, 27 Jan (GV), only Jan rpt; max 18 Somerset NIAG 28 Feb (WD).

Mute Swan: singles reported from five locs.

Trumpeter Swan: BuSP 8-14 Dec, 8-28 Jan, 13, 15 Feb (AH), likely same bird; 6 Sheridan CHAU, DH 1-24 Feb (GV); only reports.

Tundra Swan: 210 BuSP 11 Dec; 131 NF 28 Jan; max 2328 BufH, 400 N Collins ERIE, 357 Attica WYOM, 325 Hartland NIAG, 310 BWWTP 28 Feb, big flight day.

Wood Duck: five Dec rpts; FLC 3, 15 Jan; Tift NP 28 Jan; arr 2 Newstead ERIE 1 Feb.

Gadwall: 52 Tift NP 1 Dec; 50 NFSP 7 Jan; arr 5 Pomfret CHAU, 14 INWR 21 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: 8 NFSP 6 Jan; max 97 INWR 21 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 30 NFSP 8 Jan.

N. Shoveler: max 23 BWWTP 9 Dec; BuSP 23 Jan, only Jan rpt; arr 3 DH 22 Feb.

N. Pintail: 1, 6 DH 8, 24 Jan; arr 8 Newstead ERIE 1 Feb; 285 INWR 21 Feb; max 420 Hartland NIAG 27 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: three Jan rpts; arr 5 Orchard Park ERIE, 2 INWR 21 Feb.

Canvasback: max 7500, 8700 BuSP 10, 24 Jan (AH); 3000 BeSP 28 Jan.

Redhead: 198 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec; max 500, 800 BufH 16 Dec, 10 Jan; 500 BuSP 23 Jan; 250 DH 22 Feb; 88 BWWTP 28 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 102 BuSP 14 Dec; 3 Carlton ORLE 13 Jan; arr 4 Wilson NIAG 21 Feb; max 674 INWR 28 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 3500 BufH 4 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 1023 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec (WS); 25 BufH 20 Jan; 50 BeSP 28 Jan; arr 86 BWWTP 28 Feb.

King Eider: Buffalo NR 9 Dec (TK, SS); FNSP 20 Jan (CW); only reports.

Harlequin Duck: up to 5 NFSP thru 23 Feb, regular at this location in recent winters.

Surf Scoter: 7 FNSP 3 Dec; PB 17 Dec; BuSP 29 Dec; FNSP 17 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 142 FNSP 20 Jan.

Black Scoter: max 6 FNSP 3 Dec; BufH 6 Dec; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 275 Lewiston NR 20 Jan; max 300 BufH 26 Feb.

Bufflehead: 195 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec; max 200 BufH 10 Jan; arr 19 BWWTP 28 Feb.

Com. Goldeneye: 132 Ellery ChauL 2 Dec; 675 Grand I NR 20 Jan; max 1200 BuSP 15 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: max 250 Mayville CHAU 11 Dec (WA).

Com. Merganser: 128 Cassadaga L CHAU 3 Dec; 500 Buffalo NR 11 Jan; arr 44 BWWTP 22 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: 500 LBSP 3 Dec; max 600 Buffalo NR 9 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: max 96 BWWTP 3 Dec; 5 N Collins ERIE 3 Dec; BuSP 1 Jan; BufH 22-30 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 5 Feb; arr 14 BWWTP, N Collins ERIE 28 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: BeSP 20 Dec, only Dec rpt away from L Ontario; PB 11 Jan; BufH 4 Feb; max 7 Wilson NIAG 17 Feb.

Com. Loon: BufH 9, 11 Jan, 10 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: ChauL 8 Feb, only report beyond Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 21 DH 1 Dec; N Collins ERIE 27 Feb, only inland report.

Red-necked Grebe: Buffalo NR 1 Dec; Wilson NIAG 4 Dec; Grand Island NR 9 Dec; BuSP 9,

14 Dec, 8 Jan, 12 Feb; BufH 11 Jan; only reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: BufH 12, 17 Dec; 1, 1 WoBSP 28 Dec, 28 Jan; only reports.

Black Vulture: 8, 3 Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec, 1 Jan, overwintered for at least 7th consecutive year; Wilson NIAG 16 Dec; 2 Youngstown NIAG 26 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: 5 Wilson- Lake Plains CBC 16 Dec; 31 NF CBC 27 Dec; 2 Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 30 Dec; 5 Lewiston NIAG 5 Jan; arr Newfane NIAG 14 Feb.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: 5 Caneadea ALLE 14 Jan; 7 Fredonia CHAU 18 Jan; max 18 DH 2 Feb (GV).

N. Goshawk: Ellicottville CATT 30, 31 Dec (GH), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from four Dec, ten Jan, seven Feb locs; good winter season showing.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 Dayton CATT 3 Feb; moderate presence.

Golden Eagle: Wellsville ALLE 21 Feb (DC ph.), winter reports increasing near PA border.

Am. Coot: max 60 DH 24 Dec; arr BWWTP 28 Feb.

Sandhill Crane: max 21 Alabama GENE 4 Dec (PH); arr 2 INWR 27 Feb.

Killdeer: three Dec reports; arr 3 Portland CHAU 20 Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: Ischua CATT 24 Dec (JR), rare in winter, only report.

Am. Woodcock: last Poland CHAU 29 Dec (VM); arr N Harmony CHAU 25 Feb (KV), early.

Black-legged Kittiwake: juv NF 1 Dec, only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 1000 FNFS 2 Dec, 1000 DHSP 8 Dec; mostly absent on NR by early January.

Little Gull: NFSP 3 Dec; DH 19 Dec; Lewiston NR 1 Jan; few reports.

Iceland Gull: max 9 DHSP 1 Feb; 6 BufH 27 Feb; relatively low numbers.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 10 NFSP 17 Jan; relatively low numbers for recent years.

Glaucous Gull: 3 NFSP 17 Jan; max 4 BufH 10 Feb; not reported in high numbers.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 250 DH 18 Jan (GV); 130 BeSP 16 Feb.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

INCA DOVE: Celoron CHAU 4-12 Dec (TS! NYSARC), remarkable feeder visitor, State first if accepted by NYSARC, *intro*.

Snowy Owl: widespread reports; max 7 BuFH 5 Dec.

Long-eared Owl: Barre ORLE 29 Dec, only report.

Short-eared Owl: 2 Bethany GENE 7, 14 Dec; 2, 4, 4 Shelby ORLE 8 Dec, 13 Jan, 24 Feb; 2, 1 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 9, 18 Dec, 5 Jan; Ellery CHAU 17 Dec; max 6 Royalton NIAG 22 Dec; 4 INWR 28 Dec; Kiantone CHAU 9 Jan; Hartland NIAG 9 Jan; Lockport NIAG 11 Jan.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FNSP thru 1 Jan; RWNP 31 Dec thru; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 9 Jan thru; Carlton ORLE 12 Jan; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: five Dec rep; four Jan rep; two Feb rep; increasingly reported in winter.

Merlin: reported from 10 or more loc each month.

Peregrine Falcon: increasingly reported.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: moderate to good showing this winter.

Com. Raven: continue increasing rep in northern portion; no longer rare anywhere in Reg.

Horned Lark: max 225 Oakfield GENE 15 Dec.

Winter Wren: 7 NF CBC 27 Dec; only three other Dec rep.

Hermit Thrush: St. Bonaventure CBC 17 Dec, only report.

Am. Robin: max 300 BeSP 18 Feb.

Gray Catbird: Tiff NP 28 Feb, only report.

Am. Pipit: arr 3 BuFH 24 Feb (JRB), early.

Bohemian Waxwing: FNSP 27, 28 Dec (JK); Boston ERIE 21 Jan (SB), rare away from L Ontario.

Cedar Waxwing: uncommon this winter.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 10 Yates ORLE 24 Dec; 3 Wellsville ALLE 27 Dec; max 50 Somerset NIAG (SS, JK) 28 Dec; 33 Porter NIAG 14 Feb (DSh); reported from four other loc in small numbers.

Snow Bunting: 300 Wilson NIAG 16 Dec; max 400 INWR 22 Dec; 294 Independence ALLE 25 Dec; 300 Porter NIAG 1 Jan; 300 Carlton ORLE 25 Jan; 250 Barre ORLE 29 Jan.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 22 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; three other Dec rep; 1-3, 12 BuSP 1-30 Jan, 15 Feb (AH, CK).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Ellery CHAU 16, 31 Dec; 2 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; Colden ERIE 1 Jan; Lockport NIAG 8, 16 Jan; only reports.

Chipping Sparrow: BuSP 9 Dec; Orangeville WYOM 23, 24 Dec; Portland CHAU 16-26 Feb (CH), early arrival or wintering?

Field Sparrow: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 27, 29 Dec, only report.

Savannah Sparrow: 3 Batavia GENE 9 Dec (DB), only report.

Fox Sparrow: RWNP 11 Dec; JAS 17 Dec; Gerry CHAU 17 Dec; Gaines ORLE 16 Jan; not as widespread as previous winter.

Swamp Sparrow: BuSP 1 Jan; TBNP 28 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 7, 7 Portland CHAU 10 Dec, 16 Feb.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (R1): Jamestown CHAU 17 Dec (TL ph.), rare in winter.

Red-winged Blackbird: 32, 17 Tonawanda ERIE 17 Dec, 31 Jan; 75 Lockport NIAG 4 Feb; arrived in large numbers during late Feb warmup.

E. Meadowlark: Shelby ORLE 17 Jan (CM), rare in mid-winter.

Rusty Blackbird: up to 10 wintered BuSP thru; 27 Ellicott CHAU, JAS 17 Dec; only reports.

Com. Grackle: 11 loc Dec and Jan, more than usual; arrived in Feb warmup.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 350, 286 Alabama GENE 15, 22 Dec; 18 Lancaster ERIE 10 Jan; arrived in Feb warmup.

Purple Finch: max 17 Jamestown CHAU 17 Dec; 14 Wellsville ALLE 8 Feb.

Com. Redpoll: Orangeville WYOM 4 Dec; Portland CHAU 22 Feb; only reports.

Pine Siskin: 17 Orangeville WYOM 24 Dec; 23 Gerry CHAU 30 Dec; 18 Bolivar ALLE 13 Jan; 15 Whitesville ALLE 17 Jan; 31 N Harmony CHAU 11 Feb; 17 Lakewood CHAU 18 Feb; max 37 BMAC 22 Feb; not widespread this winter.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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A see-saw winter, with periods of cold and substantial snowfall followed by warmth and melting back to bare ground and even green grass. This provided variable and interesting weather. Snow depth on the ground was never great for long this winter. December started with six days above normal, then an arctic surge to below freezing every night through mid-month, so that by Christmas Bird Count (CBC) time most bays and ponds were totally frozen. A brief thaw 18-23 December was followed by snow 23-25 December and a white Christmas. Temperatures averaged 26.0°F, 4.8° below normal, for the coldest December since 2000. Precipitation was 2.24", 0.39" below normal, but snowfall added up to 34.7", 12.9" above normal. There were 11 days with 1" or more snowfall and six lake effect snow events, bringing snowfall to points east and southeast of Lake Ontario to well above the official total.

January continued the cold of December through the first week, then jumped to well above normal. Arctic cold and snow followed from 12-18 January, then a longer warm stretch lasting to month's end. Temperatures averaged 25.0°, 0.3° above normal. Records were set in both directions, with a record low high of 5° on the 5th and a record high low of 44° on the 11th followed by a record high of 60° on the 12th. Precipitation totaled 3.11", 0.72" above normal, with 32.9" of snowfall, 4.7" above normal. But things varied, with 2-3" of snow each day 4-6 January, heavy rain 11-12 January, then cold and 12.8" of snow on 13 January. After that, < 1" of snow until 6.7" from 29-30 January.

February was again WARM, the second warmest on record following last year's warmest. Temperatures averaged 33.6°, 7.2° above normal. Record highs were set at 71° on the 20th, 67° on the 21st, and 64° on the 28th. There was also a record high low on the 20th. This also included a cold start for the first week and a half of the month. Precipitation totaled 2.15", 0.20" above normal, with snowfall 15.7", 5.8" below normal. The snow arrived in three events over 6-7 and 9-10 February, with only 0.8" over the rest of the month. There was some rain or snow on all but three days of the month, but the last half of the month brought a preview taste of spring.

Records in general suggest strong effects from the weather, in the CBCs and waterfowl count to half hardies dropping from 16 species in December to ten in January then to seven in February. February brought a clear early spring movement starting on about the 18th, with 20 February and after, and especially 28 February, bringing many early arrivals. The month's eBird downloads were about 17,111 for December, 27,816 for January, and 19,348 in February for a total of 64,275 for the season. The January total is boosted by birders starting

their new year-lists and February by the Great Backyard Bird Count, while in December many of the CBC records are not entered into eBird. Data from listservs, the various counts, and private contributions are included in this summary.

The three local CBCs provided an illustration of weather effects. After a short warm spell, early December's cold froze most of the bays, ponds, and smaller lakes. Then, on the specific dates, first we had heavy snow in the hills south of Rochester on 16 December for the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC. Observer turnout was reduced, but those out worked hard, especially compiler Douglas Bassett, and 66 species were tallied, with five Green-winged Teal as a new species and 12 Cackling Geese and 18 Gadwall as new high counts. The next day, the Rochester CBC saw better weather, but the lack of open water resulted in a low average count of 91 species, with two more added during the count week. Record highs were set for King Eider (2), Red-breasted Merganser (2165), Red-necked Grebe (10), Bald Eagle (7), Snowy Owl (5), Red-bellied Woodpecker (192), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (28). However the overall number of individuals dropped substantially when the usual flight of American Crows to roost in the circle could not be located. A week later back in the Finger Lakes area south of Rochester, the Conesus-Hemlock CBC on 23 December started with steady light rain increasing through the morning, changing briefly to freezing rain, then to steady snow for the afternoon. Still observers turned up a high average 87 species, with five more added during count week. A House Wren coming to a feeder was new for the count, and record highs were set for Wood Duck (5) and Northern Shoveler (3). On into January, again early cold closed up all but the largest lakes, and with waterfowl season still open, snow, cold, and wind resulted in the lowest total counted in 30 years, only 12,885 individuals, though 29 species was still decent variety.

Moving on to working through the various families, we start with all the really expected waterfowl reported, though numbers were low through December and January and on until a burst of arrivals in February's taste of early spring. Still, there were some good counts early, with many Cackling Geese in December, good swan counts, several good counts for Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser, and a couple of good Red-necked Grebe counts in early December. King Eider was present again through most of the season, Harlequin Duck in December through early January, and female Barrow's Goldeneye near Rochester in January and at Sodus Point in February. Late February brought a large influx of waterfowl, mostly to the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County but also elsewhere, with good numbers of Greater White-fronted Goose, large numbers of Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, some large puddle duck numbers, and record early arrival dates for Wood Duck and Eurasian Wigeon. Diversity remained low. Other interesting waterbird notes included few loons and Double-crested Cormorant on Irondequoit Bay, with good monthly maxima for winter of 23, 9, and 32 for the three months, respectively. Those cormorants were joined

by the Region's ~21st **Great Cormorant** record, an immature found at the old Newport House marina on Irondequoit Bay on 30 December by Candy Giles and Kim Hartquist and seen there daily until 11 January and again on 17 January, and afterward from 19-28 January at Sodus Point, Wayne County. 46 Great Blue Herons in a farm field near Caledonia on 9 December was a surprise for Mike Wasilco. Afterwards numbers seemed low except for occasional good counts at the Caledonia Fish Hatchery.

The Braddock Bay hawkwatch started on 27 February, with this year's official counter Greg Lawrence. The 27th brought the first Black Vulture of the year, and, with a good migration day on the 28th, the watch tallied a good 167 raptors in those two early days. Some good counts were also noted for other early migrants, including waterfowl, gulls, Killdeer, and two Common Ravens. Bald Eagle numbers were good all season in many areas but especially at Irondequoit Bay, where up to 28 individuals were counted from single points on several days and a rare-for-winter immature Golden Eagle was reported off and on through most of the season. Another interesting raptor was a Red-shouldered Hawk found at Hogan Point in Burger Park on 1 January by Dave Tetlow and seen by many there all month. Northern Goshawk was reported only on 10 December and 3 January. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were scattered and moderate through the season. The regular falcons saw American Kestrel relatively scarce through the season and Merlin and Peregrine Falcon in numbers typical of recent winters. The bird of the season was the Region's first **Crested Caracara** not even seen by any birders but captured on a trailcam at the home of Paul McNamara in the Town of Ontario in Wayne County on 1 February.

This season, there were no reports of the usual Virginia Rail from Mendon Ponds Park or elsewhere, and American Coot numbers were low. Sandhill Crane lingered in record high numbers for our Region, with up to 107 in the NMWMA along Armitage Road, Wayne County on 2-3 December, though even higher counts were tallied nearby in Region 3. Nine cranes were seen near the Village of Honeoye on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC on 23 December, then three were seen at Taylor Marsh nearby on 18 February, one each at three locations in the NMWMA on 24-28 February, and five in the Town of Wolcott, Wayne County on 28 February.

Shorebirds were scarce, as in most years in winter. Killdeer lingered to 9 December and arrived for spring at a record early date of 20 February in both West Walworth, Wayne County, found by Mike Gullo, and Nations Road, Livingston County, found by Nick Kachala. Wilson's Snipe on 26 December and 12 January were at late dates, and American Woodcock was first reported at Hogan Point on 23 February by Dave Tetlow and then in the NMWMA area on 28 February, both early but not unprecedented dates.

An unusually long-staying immature Black-legged Kittiwake from 11-21 December at Sodus Point provided a good chance for many to see and photograph the species. It is usually seen in the Region as individuals passing

along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Bonaparte's Gull peaked at an unusually low maximum of 70 on 9 December, and after that there was only one report of five at West Port Bay, Wayne County on 30 January. With few Bonaparte's around, it is no surprise that one Little Gull on 27 January at Sodus Point was the only other rarer small gull reported. There were good numbers of our regular winter gulls—Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous. These were noted in numbers at Irondequoit Bay, the piers at the Genesee River mouth, Braddock Bay, and the Mill Seat Landfill in the Town of Riga. The February thaw exposed a major fish die-off in Irondequoit Bay, and gulls congregated there, with maxima there later in the month of 4600 Herring, 11 Iceland, three Lesser Black-backed, five Glaucous, and 272 Great Black-backed Gulls, the latter counted by Greg Lawrence on 24 February. Interestingly, no longer considered a species, only one report appeared as Iceland (Thayer's) Gull seen and photographed by Andy Guthrie at the end of East Manitou Road on 28 January.

Moving on to the non-passerine landbirds, an elusive Eurasian Collared-Dove at the Greenwell Farm in the Town of Hamlin was only reported on 17 and 30 December and 3 January. This year we have more than the usual interesting owl news. There was a good total of 86 Eastern Screech-Owls on the Rochester CBC and even 26 on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, which is due mainly to only very light rain for those out in the 3 AM time frame. A major Snowy Owl invasion can be summarized in 43+ individuals at 28+ locations in December, 40+ at 26+ in January, and 21+ at 20+ in February. The usual DEC Short-eared Owl surveys were conducted biweekly when weather allowed and produced a steady 1.5-2.0 birds per site surveyed through the season, a bit lower than last year later in the season. In January, all observers reported about 24 Short-eared Owls from 12 locations. Long-eared Owl is rarely reported in winter and especially other than on CBCs, so two reports from the Nunda area, Livingston County on 11 January and 20 February were interesting. Similarly for a N. Saw-whet Owl in the Town of York, Livingston County, seen and heard by Jim Kimball on 20 February. N. Saw-whet Owls were located on 3, 8, 20, 25-26, and 29 December in the usual Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Road, and the spring owl survey there began in late February and located two on 26 February and one on the 27th. Belted Kingfisher is often scarce in this season, so ten at eight locations in January was good, with still eight in seven locations in February. Red-headed Woodpecker was found all winter in the usual locations in Hamlin Beach State Park, with the maximum six there on 3 December. The only other report was one in Albion, Orleans County on 12 January. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker could be the "poster child" for this winter's effect on half hardies—14 at 10 locations in December, seven at seven locations in January, and only two reports in February.

After a warm fall and a warm start to very early December, the list and numbers of half-hardy lingerers were high, 16 species, including: Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Eastern Towhee,

Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Details may be found in the species section. By January, the list was down to nine species, but a Fox Sparrow found in Ellison Park, Town of Penfield by Lauri Mattle and Jim Miles on 20 and 21 January was added. By February, numbers of all such species had dropped, and the list of half-hardies was down to seven species, with Fox Sparrow still present to 10 February and a Tree Swallow, likely a migrant, reported with the big movement on 28 February. Generally, numbers were low for typical winter species, with examples of peaks: only 160 American Robins in February (only 80 in the earlier months), 95 Cedar Waxwings, and the only big blackbird counts totaling 3000 each of Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle on Wiley Road in the NMWMA by Deborah Dohne with the migration on 28 February. White-crowned Sparrow counts were high, with maxima of 68 on Cook Road, Town of Hamlin on 1 January by Andy Guthrie.

The possible winter irruptives were scarce, though Northern Shrike was present all season with 13-17 individuals reported each month. Fish Crow continues as a localized resident, with a maximum of 19 near North Gate Plaza in the Town of Greece on 9 January by Dave Tetlow and regular reports from Bob Dobson, a nearby resident. Red-breasted Nuthatch had very few double digit reports, though it would take quite a bit of work to clearly separate the effects of low numbers from reports at many separate sites versus larger areas. The only Bohemian Waxwing was one seen in Hamlin Beach SP by Dave Tetlow on 10 January. The only real passerine rarity reported was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird seen on Huston Road in the Nations Road area, Livingston County on 27 January. Large quantities of spruce cones gave hope to arrival of winter finches, but nothing really materialized beyond some Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins, with modest peaks in January, and a lone Evening Grosbeak in December.

Species totals for the months and their 10-year averages were: December – 136 (130.5), January – 129 (126.3), and February – 128 (116.0). Species of special note included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, **Great Cormorant**, Golden Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, **Crested Caracara**, Orange-crowned Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Time for another brief reminder touching on why one might want some summary when there is the eBird database available. A simple question like "How many Bald Eagles were in the Region in January?" is very difficult to answer. The eBird download has 350 "records" = lines, if I was totally accurate in eliminating the data from parts of counties not in Region 2. Next, start by just looking at Irondequoit Bay. Over the month there were 219 "records" from 13 different named sites around the Bay, though some of the sites are essentially the same, just assigned different names. The highest number of individual Bald Eagles seen at one time from one spot was 28, with several 27s. So how many

Bald Eagles were seen on just this Bay? Trying to work through even this one species takes quite a bit of time and the best I could come up with is about 91 birds? Clearly almost anyone else working through this will make different judgment calls and arrive at a different number. It is not an exact process, but without a try we have no idea of the number from just looking at the raw data. Gathering lots of data is “good”, but without some effort at trying to analyze it, it is not very useful and maybe even confusing.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB - HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawkwatch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 23 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **G** – T Greece; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB - NH** – Irondequoit Bay near Newport House Marina, MONR; **IB - S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **LSLCBC** – Letchworth-Silver L CBC on 16 Dec; **MP** – Mendon Pond 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 (SM)** – Savannah mucklands area along Rt 31 SE of Savannah; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor; **RCBC** – Rochester CBC on 17 Dec; **SBotP** – Sandy Bottom P, T Honeoye, ONTA; **SPt** – Sodus Pt., WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **WWTP** – waste water treatment plant; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 6-8 BB 15-17 Feb (8 obs); IB – LaSalle landing 18 Feb (PMar); 2 T Leicester, LIVI 24 Feb (RSt); 6-11 NMWMA (CR) 24 Feb (14 obs); 9 BB- HW 27 Feb (GL, *et.al.*); 2 T Webster 28 Feb (JiM, JWi).

Snow Goose: 200 NMWMA (CR) 5 Dec; last 11 Lyons WAYN 21 Jan (DWh, DDo); arr 1, 30, 75 NMWMA (3 loc) 20 Feb; max 50,000 NMWMA (Railroad Rd) 21 Feb (KGa); 15000-20000 Wiley Rd, T Savannah 28 Feb (DoC, DDo).

Ross's Goose: arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 24 Feb (GD); HB 25 Feb (GL); 3 NMWMA (SM) 26 Feb (W&MR); NMWMA (VDS) 27 Feb (GD).

Cackling Goose: 18 rep, 39 ind 12 loc 1-28 Dec; max 15 TCEA 1 Dec (MW); 2 T Caledonia 10 Jan (MW), only Jan rep; 18 rep, 31 ind 14 loc 15F-28 Feb; 10 BB-HW 28 Feb.

Canada Goose: max 10395 BB-HW 28 Feb (GL, *et.al.*).

Mute Swan: max 207 IB-N 17 Jan (JBo, RSp).
Trumpeter Swan: 25 NMWMA (CR) 2 Dec; 18 NMWMA (T Savannah) 15 Jan; max 28 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Feb (W&MR).

Tundra Swan: 63 CL 20 Dec; max 327 BB-HW 28 Feb (GL, *et.al.*); 234 MP 28 Feb (PMar); 308 NMWMA (CR) 28 Feb (GD).

Wood Duck: 5 CHCBC 23 Dec (JK, AC), CBC record high; Hemlock L 1 Jan; Van Lare WWTP, ROCH 8 Jan; arr 2 Kings Bend P, T Pittsford 18 Feb (BCar), Reg record early.

Gadwall: max 128 Round Pd Greece 3 Dec (CW); 100 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (GL, LM, JiM); 94 BB-HW 28 Feb (GL, *et.al.*), good counts.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 3 m NMWMA (CR) **24 Feb** (GD), record early; 1-2 NMWMA (CR) **24F**-28 Feb (13+ obs).

Am. Wigeon: max 54 Round Pd Greece 3 Dec (CW); arr 1, 2 BB, 16 Feb (AGU, BriM); max 1200 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JGK).

Am. Black Duck: max 400 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JMcGo).

Mallard: max 800 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JMcGo).
Nations Rd IBA 15 Jan (MW); relatively scarce all season.

N. Shoveler: 1 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2 Jan (DTe), scarce in winter; arr 1-5 sev loc 21 Feb, early.

N. Pintail: 3-4 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 1-2 Feb (R&SS, DTe); BB 15 Feb (sev), early; 1500 NMWMA (SM) 21 Feb 21 Feb (MG, *et al.*); max 5000 NMWMA (CR) 25 Feb (JMcGo), high count.

Green-winged Teal: 5 Silver L 23 Dec (DB), new CHCBC; 11 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2 Jan (DTe), scarce in winter; arr 3 Kings Bend P, T Pittsford 16 Feb (PMar), early.

Canvasback: many reports, but most 1-2 ind; max 17 BB 21 Feb.

Redhead: max 3000 CL 9, 20 Dec; 580 IB – N 4 Feb, later season peak with CL mostly frozen.

Ring-necked Duck: 150 Hemlock L 1 Jan, in small open spot; max 200 NMWMA (CR) 23 Feb, low max.

Greater Scaup: max 550 SPT 21 Jan, low max.

Lesser Scaup: max 100 IB – N 18 Dec, low max.

King Eider: 1 imm m off sites from BB to IB on S shore of lake Ontario 9, 18, 30 Dec, 7-10, 21, 28 Jan, 4-11 Feb, many obs & ph; 1 f off Irondequoit & Webster 18, 21 Dec; 1 imm m+5 f mouth of Genesee R 9-12 Jan; 1 imm m SPT 27-29 Jan, 1-6 Jan.

Harlequin Duck: 1 f IBO 17, 24 Dec, 4 Jan (JiM, C&JG, KSc, NM); 2 m West Port Bay WAYN 15, 21 Dec (W&MR).

White-winged Scoter: max 195 off sand Bar P, Webster 21 Dec, low; generally scarce.

Black Scoter: max 33 off E. Manitou Rd, Greece 2 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: 974 off Irondequoit 9 Dec; max 1500 off E. Manitou, Greece 24 Jan; 620 off Rigney Bluff, Greece 21 Feb; good monthly peaks.

Bufflehead: max 150 CL 9 Dec (TB, CG, KSu).

Com. Goldeneye: max 500 IBO 20 Jan (TL).

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 f off E. Manitou Rd, Greece 1 Jan (KH, PMar, 10 oth obs) & 5 oth loc 1, 14, 25-29 Jan (8 obs); 1 f SPT 3-12 Feb (JMcGo, 16+ oth obs).

Hooded Merganser: max 245 CL 21 Dec (MW).

Com. Merganser: max 678 IB 17 Jan (JBo, RSp); 600 IB – N 17 Feb (RSp).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2375 B. Forman P, Pultneyville WAYN 2 Dec (JeB, CW); 2195 HB 3 Dec (JeB, CW, AGU).

Ruddy Duck: max 7 Round Pd, Greece 3 Dec, scarce this winter.

Red-throated Loon: max 24 Sandbar P, Webster 2 Dec.

Com. Loon: max 26 SPT 2 Dec.

Horned Grebe: max 34 B. Forman P, Pultneyville WAYN 2 Dec (JeB, CW), low max.

Red-necked Grebe: 732 HB 2 Dec (AGU); max 866 HB 9 Dec (AKr, GL); good counts; IBO 9-23 Jan (KGr, mob); 5 HB 18 Feb (BCar, AGU); scarce midwinter.

Double-crested Cormorant: 23 IB – NH 1 Dec (JiM); 9 IB – NH 3 Jan (DSh); max 32 G – Rigney Bluff 21 Feb (KG); good numbers for winter.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 imm IB (mostly at Newport House marina) 30 Dec – 11, 17 Jan (CG, KH, 75+ oth obs, many ph), 21st Reg record; 1 imm SPT 19-28 Jan (MG, 30+ oth obs, ph), same individual.

Great Blue Heron: max 46 T Caledonia 9 Dec (MW), flock in the corner of a cornfield.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): arr BB - HW 27 Feb (AGU, GL, *et al.*), early.

Turkey Vulture: 34 Pittsford 6 Dec; 32 T Riga 29 Jan; max 67 BB – HW 28 Feb.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Bald Eagle: approx. 72 ind Dec; 350 lines eBird Jan; max single location 28 IB 11 Jan (PMar, AP); 172 lines eBird Feb.

N. Goshawk: 1 imm BB 10 Dec (CW, AGU); 1 T Gates 3 Jan (LBr); now scarce any time.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles 5 loc LIVI Jan (KC, TB); 1 G – Hogan Pt 1-31 Jan (DTe, mob), interesting loc; ~ 9 ind 3 loc Feb; max 5 BB – HW 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: ~ 13 ind 11 loc 2-27 Dec; ~ 24 ind 17 loc Jan; ~ 24 ind 16 loc Feb; max 8 BB (HW) 27 Feb (MT).

Golden Eagle: 1 imm IB 5, 17, 30-31 Dec, all Jan & 4-20 Feb (mob); rare in winter.

Virginia Rail: no reports.

Am. Coot: max 60 CL 9 Dec, low.

Sandhill Crane: max 107, 105 NMWMA (AR) 2, 3 Dec (JL, DNu); 84, 90 NMWMA (SM) 5 Dec (MG, W&MR); 9 CHCBC –

Honeoye Crk WM 23 Dec (KK, MM, WS), CBC record high; 3 Taylor Marsh ONTA 18 Feb (KK); 1 NMWMA (3 loc) 24-28 Feb (5 obs); 5 T Wolcott WAYN 28 Feb (W&MR).

Killdeer: last T Livonia LIVI 9 Dec (KK); arr Nations Rd IBA (NK) & near West Walworth WAYN (MG) **20 Feb**, record early.

Wilson's Snipe: last NMWMA (MR) 26 Dec (BCar), late; T Ogden MONR 12 Jan (DTe), scarce midwinter.

Am. Woodcock: arr G – Hogan Pt **23 Feb** (DTe), early; NMWMA (Wright Rd) 28 Feb (KG), early.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R2): 1 imm SPT 11-21 Dec (JWi, 27+oth obs, many ph), unusually long staying.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 70 IB-S 9 Dec, low max; last 5 West Port Bay WAYN 30 Jan (W&MR).

Little Gull: 1 ad SPT 27 Jan (BP), only rep.

Ring-billed Gull: max 2150 G - Salmon Crk 3 Dec.

Herring Gull: 3000 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 22 Dec; max 4600 IB 24 Feb (GL).

Iceland Gull: ~ 24 ind 10 loc Dec; max 11 Millseat Landfill, T Riga 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 43 ind 18 loc 2-27 Jan; 9 BB 27 Jan (AGu); ~ 37+ ind 18 loc Feb; max 11 IB 24 Feb (GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ~ 22 ind 13 loc Dec; max 6 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 22 Dec (Brim); 10 ind 7 loc 7-28 Jan; ~ 23+ ind 15 loc Feb.

Glaucous Gull: ~ 15 ind 8 loc 2-29 Dec; max 7 Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 26 ind 16 loc 2-27 Jan; ~ 16 ind 9 loc 4-26 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 272 IB 24 Feb (GL), high count.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Greenwell farm, Hamlin 17, 30 Dec, 3 Jan (MG, JiM, AGu), site of most records recent yrs

E. Screech-Owl: 86 RCBC 17 Dec; 26 CHCBC 23 Dec, in spite of light rain.

Snowy Owl: ~ 43 ind 28+ loc Dec; ~ 125 rep, 40+ ind 26+ loc Jan; 21+ ind 20+ loc Feb.

Long-eared Owl: Dalton Rd, T Nunda LIVI 11 Jan (S&TG); T Nunda 20 Feb (JK); few rep in winter.

Short-eared Owl: 6 Nations Rd IBAT Avon 10 Dec; ~ 24 ind 12 loc Jan; 9 Nations Rd IBA 10, 14 Jan; max 12 Nations Rd IBA 2 Feb (CGo).

N. Saw-whet Owl: singles Owl Woods, Manitou 3, 8, 20, 25-26, 29 Dec (AGu, CW, DHo, CGi, LH, GL, JOD), ph, usually few rep

in Dec; T York, LIVI 20 Feb (JK), seen & heard; arr 2 Owl Woods, Manitou 26 Feb (8+ obs), 1 still seen next day.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 HB 3 Dec (JeB, AGu, CW, JD), present in park most winters, 1-4 there rest of season; Carlton T P ORLE 12 Jan (DBe), only other rep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~ 14 ind 14 loc 3-31 Dec; 7 ind 7 loc Jan; 3 ind 2 loc 2-13 Feb; good numbers for winter;.

CRESTED CARACARA: T Ontario WAYN 1 Feb, 1st Reg record, captured on trailcam at home of Paul McNamara.

Am. Kestrel: totals - 17 in Dec, 14 in Jan, and 12 in Feb; slow decrease thru.

Merlin: totals – 15 in Dec, 27 in Jan, and 14 in Feb; good for winter.

Peregrine Falcon: totals – 11 in Dec, 11 in Jan, and 13 in Feb; max 3 IB – NH 8 Jan, seen by many observing Great Cormorant.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: HB 9 Dec (LoK, AL, GL), rare in winter.

N. Shrike: ~ 13 ind 10 loc Dec; ~ 21 ind 17 loc Jan; ~ 13 ind 11 loc 2-23 Feb.

Am. Crow: max 700 Lehigh Station Rd, T Henrietta 1 Feb, winter roost not located and counted this year.

FISH CROW (R2): max 19 G - Northgate Plaza 9 Feb (DTe), now the peak wintering location.

Horned Lark: max 250 H - Moscow Rd 30 Dec; 200 H – West Fork 14 Jan; good counts.

Tree Swallow: last 7 West Port Bay WAYN 8 Dec (W&MR), late; arr NMWMA (CR) 28 Feb (JWi), early.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 HB 10 Jan, few double digit counts all winter.

HOUSE WREN (R2): T Richmond, ONTA (F&EJ), at feeder, 1st for CHCBC, record late.

Winter Wren: 26+ ind 13 loc 2-29 Dec; 12 ind 11 loc Jan; 5+ ind 5 loc 3-21 Feb.

Marsh Wren: total 6 ind 5 loc 2-10 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: total 64 ind 22+ loc Jan, decent number.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: MP 27 Dec (CGo); Flint Hill Cemetery MONR 20 Jan (RSt); scarce in winter.

Hermit Thrush: 8 ind 4 loc 8-30 Dec; 3; 1 WP 20; 21 Jan; MP 1, 9 Feb, good winter numbers.

Am. Robin: Lehigh Valley Trail, T Rush 14 Feb, low max.

Gray Catbird: 5 ind 3 loc 1-23 Dec; BB 3 Jan (R&SS); Beechwood SP WAYN 8 Jan (MG); G

11 Jan (DTe); Manitou – Owl Woods 17 Feb (AGa); scarce in winter.

Am. Pipit: last Reed Rd ONTA 24 Dec (BH, ph).

Bohemian Waxwing: HB 10 Jan (DTe), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 95 HB 3 Dec, low numbers this winter.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 15 H 13 Feb, low max, again scarce all season.

Snow Bunting: max 500 H – Moscow Rd 14 Jan (JiM, LM); 300 H 11 Feb (AGu).

Orange-crowned Warbler: G – Church Trail 2, 9 Dec (CW, JeB).

Com. Yellowthroat: Conesus Inlet 6 Dec (MW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 14 G – Church Trail 10 Dec (AGu, CW); 12 G – Beatty Pt 17 Dec (GL); 11 oth rep, 6 oth ind 6 loc 3-23 Dec; 13 ind 5 loc 2-29 Jan; 10 G – Church Trail 10 Jan (GL), max for month; 2 G – Church Trail 3 Feb (AGu); 2 Gosnell Big Woods, Webster 11 Feb (RN); 4 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 17 Feb (RSt); good showing for winter.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: G – Church Trail 2 Dec (CW); WP 9 Dec (RSp).

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 80 WAYN 8 Jan, low.

Chipping Sparrow: T Livonia LIVI 22 Dec (J&BV); T Lima LIVI 9 Jan (SSt); rare in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: 1-6 Perry Rd LIVI 24 Dec, 1-16 Jan; N Wolcott WAYN 27 Dec (W&MR); scarce & local in winter.

Fox Sparrow: Ellison P, T Penfield 20-21 Jan, 10 Feb (JiM, LM), rare in winter.

White-throated Sparrow: max 25 MP 25 Jan, low max.

White-crowned Sparrow: 22 H – Cook Rd 28 Dec (AGu); max 68 H – Cook Rd 1 Jan (AGu); good numbers for winter.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 47 Riverside Cemetery, Rochester 2 Dec, low max.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 3000 NMWMA (Wiley Rd) 28 Feb (DDo); low numbers most of season.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2): m Huston Rd LIVI 27 Jan (Tuck).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 HB 3 Dec; G – Beatty Pt 9 Dec; 3; 2 DEP 1; 2 Jan (R&SS; DTe); Honeoye Falls 16-18 Jan (BCar); MP 7 Feb (PMar); typically overwinters in small numbers.

Com. Grackle: max 3000 NMWMA (Wiley Rd) 28 Feb (DDo), low numbers most of season.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 450 T Caledonia LIVI 21 Jan (BCar).

Com. Redpoll: max 64 HB 10 Jan (MG); 2 H 23 Feb, only Feb rep; scattered few rep this winter.

Pine Siskin: max 37 T Canadice ONTA; small numbers thru.

Evening Grosbeak: Beechwood SP 9 Dec (MG), only report.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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December 2017 was colder than normal in Ithaca. The month's average low temperature was 18.5°F, 3° below normal. The average high was 32.1°, 4.7° below normal. Precipitation totaled 1.32", 0.08" less than normal. The 9.5" of snowfall was 3.1" less than normal. The maximum accumulation was 3". January was colder than normal, with an average low of 9.9°, 5.5° below normal and the average high of 29.3°, 2.0° below normal. January was wetter than

normal, with 2.38" of precipitation, 0.3" more than normal. Snowfall was 13.8", 3.8" below normal with a maximum accumulation of 8". February was warmer than normal. The average low was 21.2°, 4.7° above normal, and the average high was 39.1°, 5.1° above normal. February was only slightly wetter than normal, with 2.03" of precipitation, 0.05" more than normal. Snowfall was 1.4" less than normal with 12.8" total. The maximum accumulation was 6".

Five Ross's Geese and six White-fronted Geese at Stewart Park, Ithaca, attracted many birders on 24 December. Ian Davies picked out a total of 31 Cackling Geese among flocks of Canada Geese migrating over the Town of Danby on 27 February. Swan numbers peaked in December with high counts for Mute and Trumpeter Swans. Northern Pintail and Gadwall numbers peaked in early December. Migrating American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Red-breasted Merganser took advantage of the warm February weather to attain high winter counts. Diving duck numbers peaked in January, including high counts for Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Merganser. There was also a high count of Horned Grebes on Cayuga Lake in late January.

Unusual waterfowl species were: **Tufted Duck** present on Cayuga Lake in early January; two Surf Scoters on Cayuga Lake in mid-December, an individual on Seneca Lake in December and January, and one or more individuals on Cayuga Lake in January and February; and two Black Scoters on Cayuga and Seneca in December and one on Cayuga Lake in January.

One of the three Cattle Egrets that first appeared at Goose Haven in Seneca County in October continued through 7 December. Four Black Vultures appeared in Ithaca 20 December and became regular visitors to the Stevenson Road compost piles in the Town of Dryden through the rest of the season. Golden Eagle was observed in Tompkins County throughout January. Those reported in the Region in February were likely to have been migrants.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge hosted high counts of Northern Harriers and American Coots in early December. A record high 123 Sandhill Cranes was counted nearby in the Town of Tyre. One lingered in Schuyler County until 22 December, and migrants were first observed in Chemung County on 20 February.

A Killdeer at Myers Point in mid-December was the only report until the first migrant was reported in the Town of Danby on 20 February. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Harris Park 9 December. The last fall report of American Woodcock was 1 December. Migrants began to arrive 24 February. Wilson's Snipe was observed in Montezuma NWR in early December and in the Town of Montour on 27 December.

Thirteen Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Stevenson Road compost piles and four Glaucous Gulls at Van Cleef Lake in Geneva were seasonal high counts. Bonaparte's Gull was reported on Cayuga Lake on 9 December and at Lakefront Park, Geneva on 4 January. Dave Kennedy found the rarest gull, a **Slaty-backed**, at Van Cleef Lake. The bird lingered for four days.

There was a good incursion of Snowy Owls into the Region, with many reports near the north ends of the Finger Lakes and just a few scattered reports in the rest of the Region. A count of five at the Finger Lakes Regional Airport was the highest count. Small numbers of Short-eared Owls were reported in the Region, with the greatest concentration between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes.

Observers reported high counts of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Northern Flicker. The Region's only reported Red-headed Woodpecker overwintered in Cornell University's Palmer Woods.

Among resident passerines, observers reported high counts for White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter and Carolina Wrens, and Dark-eyed Junco. Reports of lingering passerines were widespread including multiple reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, American Pipits, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Field Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, and Rusty Blackbirds. Also lingering were Marsh Wrens at Montezuma NWR, Brown Thrasher in Horseheads, Common Yellowthroat at Montezuma NWR, and an Eastern Meadowlark at Lott Farm in Seneca County.

The most unusual passerine species was the **Green-tailed Towhee** at feeders in the Town of Montezuma. This is the second Regional record. The previous record was of a bird in Ithaca in 1963 which was also the first New York State record.

Other than Pine Siskins, winter finches were scarce. Steve Kelling reported Evening Grosbeak in the Town of Caroline in early December and a Pine Grosbeak there in February. The three reports of Common Redpoll came from Cayuga, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties. Chris Wood reported the only Red Crossbills, two in Bear Swamp in Cayuga County.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CayL** – Cayuga L; **CC** – Cascadilla Creek, TOMP; **FLRA** – Finger Lakes Regional Airport, SENE; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt., TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SRCP** – Stevenson Road Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TIth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLed** – T Ledyard, CAYU; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE; **TTy** – T Tyre, SENE; **WTP** – Willard Town P, SENE.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: max and last 6 StP 24 Dec (mob), late; arr MNWR 17 Feb.

Snow Goose: max 50,000 T Varick SENE 25 Feb; 50,000 MNWR 27 Feb; 50,000 TSF 28 Feb.

Ross's Goose: max 5 StP 24 Dec (mob), high; last StP 26 Dec (mob), late; arr Savannah Mucklands SENE 20 Feb (MR, WR), early.

Cackling Goose: max 31 T Danby TOMP 27 Feb (ID), high.

Mute Swan: max 26 SenL, City of Geneva 30 Dec (CJ), high.

Trumpeter Swan: max 20 MNWR 2 Dec (JL), high.

Tundra Swan: max 1350 TSF 9 Dec.

Gadwall: max 1300 MNWR 5 Dec (mob), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr SenL SP 19 Feb (DK), early; Savannah Mucklands SENE 21-22 Feb; StP 22-25 Feb; CayL, TSF 24 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: max 225 MNWR 2 Dec (JB, CW), high.

N. Shoveler: max 47 MNWR 2 Dec; arr 3 StP 21 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 9500 MNWR 25 Feb (JM), high.

Redhead: max 32,000 CayL, TIth 2 Jan (JM), high.

TUFTED DUCK: CayL, TIth 1-3 Jan (SKr, mob); CayL, Aurora 7 Jan (JM, ph).

Greater Scaup: max 2500 Farley's Pt CAYU 15 Jan (GVH, CW), high.

Lesser Scaup: max 2800 Farley's Pt CAYU 16 Jan (JB, GVH, CW), high.

SURF SCOTER (R3): 2 Sheldrake Pt SENE 11-18 Dec (KK, TL, DMo); WTP 21 Dec-22 Jan (TL); StP 1 Jan (SHe, KMcGo!); CayL, TLed 20 Jan (SBi, BW); StP 3 Feb (SBi); Sheldrake Pt SENE 27 Feb (MH).

White-winged Scoter: max 57 WTP 22 Jan (DK, TL), high.

BLACK SCOTER (R3): 2 StP 10 Dec (JGK); 2 WTP 21 Dec (TL); MyPt 7 Jan (JGK).

Long-tailed Duck: max 28 Hog Hole TOMP 1 Jan (PR, KR), high.

Com. Merganser: max 1200 SenL SP 15 Jan (TL), high.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 300 Sheldrake SENE 24 Feb (TL), high.
Horned Grebe: max 43 CayL, TLed 28 Jan (AMi, DN), high; 40 StP 19 Dec (TL).
CATTLE EGRET (R3): Goose Haven SENE thru 7 Dec (mob).
BLACK VULTURE (R3): 4 Tlth 20 Dec (TSch); 1-4 SRCP 21 Dec thru (mob).

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: max 17 MNWR 6 Dec (DS), high.
N. Goshawk: Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 19 Dec (CW); SRCP 26 Jan (DF, CW), only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Durfee Hill TOMP 27 Feb (ID), high.
GOLDEN EAGLE (R3): T Lansing TOMP 7 Jan (MC); TDry 10 Jan (CHA, JI!, WM); Boyer Creek Farm Hawk Watch TOMP 27 Jan (SKe); TCar 28 Jan (JGe!); T Woodhull STEU 31 Jan (KRe!); arr Pirozzollo P CHEM 17 Feb (MFr, SG), early; Cornell University 28 Feb (LCh, JC).
Am. Coot: max 800 MNWR 9 Dec (mob), high.
Sandhill Crane: max 123 TTy 3 Dec (mob), record high; last SenL, T Dix SCHU 22 Dec; arr Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum CHEM 24 Feb (CW), early.
Killdeer: MyPt 17 Dec; arr T Danby TOMP 20 Feb.
PECTORAL SANDPIPER (R3): Harris P CAYU 9 Dec (JM!), late.
Wilson's Snipe: MNWR 2 Dec (JB, CW); T Montour SCHU 27 Dec (MSchi).
Am. Woodcock: last SW 1 Dec (CW), late; arr & max 3 Caswell Road Grasslands TOMP 24 Feb; TDry 24 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 12 CayL SENE 9 Dec (JM, LS); East Shore P TOMP 9 Dec (TA); 2 Lakefront P SENE 4 Jan (TL).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 13 SRCP 2 Dec (KMcGo), high.
SLATY-BACKED GULL: Van Cleef L SENE 16-19 Feb (DK, ph!, mob).
Glaucous Gull: 4 Van Cleef L SENE 3 Feb (mob), high.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 289 Pine St Bridge STEU 16 Dec, low.
Snowy Owl: max 5 FLRA 24 Feb (mob), high.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 T Phelps 2 Jan; 6 FLRA 24 Feb.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R3): Palmer Woods TOMP 1 Dec thru (mob).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2-3 T Enfield TOMP 31 Dec-15 Jan (PR), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 23 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 13 TDry 1 Jan (DMo), high.
N. Flicker: max 13 MNWR 17 Feb (DN), high.
Merlin: max 3 Cornell University 20 Feb (KV), high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: max 2 TFay 14 Feb.
Blue Jay: max 60 TFay 30 Dec.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 29 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.
Brown Creeper: max 5 MR 20 Dec, low.
Winter Wren: max 3 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 22 Dec (CW), high.
MARSH WREN (R3): MNWR 2 Dec (JB, CW); MNWR 9 Dec (JM, LS).
Carollina Wren: max 5 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 3 Dec (BO); 5 MyPt 11 Jan (CW), high.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: May's Pt SENE 1 Dec-12 Jan (DK, ph, MG!); TFay 7-9 Dec (DK, ph); TFay 13 Feb (DK, ph); T Varick SENE 2 Dec (DK, ph); TLed 28 Jan (JB, CW!).
Hermit Thrush: T Lodi SENE 1 Dec (TL); Tlth 1 Jan (SJH); West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 1 Jan (AP); Coombs Hill CHEM 9 Jan (WB); Danby State Forest TOMP 18 Feb (DG).
Am. Robin: max 100 TTy 24 Jan, low.
Gray Catbird: Ludovico Trail SENE 4 Dec (DK); SW 5 Dec-9 Jan (mob, ph!); BLNA 27 Jan (TSch!); Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 19 Feb (JS, ph!).
BROWN THRASHER (R3): Horseheads Dump 1 Jan (PMe, BO!, JO).
Am. Pipit: max 8 BLNA 9 Dec.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R3): SW 16 Feb (WH!).
Cedar Waxwing: max 125 Newfield 23 Feb, low.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: max 1580 T Ledyard TOMP 7 Jan (JM), high.
COM. YELLOWTHROAT (R3): MNWR 18 Dec (JA, LiMo!).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 StP 18 Feb.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE: T Montezuma CAYU 10-16 Feb (DC, ph!; mob).

E. Towhee: TDry 1 Jan (MScha); TDry 13 Jan (KMcGo); Tlth 28 Jan (JGK); TCar 13 Feb (AMi).

Field Sparrow: T Springport CAYU 10 Dec (mob); TTy 18 Dec (DK); max 2 TTy 20 Dec (DK), high; T Brutus CAYU 16 Jan (KB); Farleys Pt CAYU 20 Jan (mob); Long Pt SP 28 Jan (JB, CW).

Savannah Sparrow: Bolton Pt TOMP 1 Jan (KMcGo); TTy 3 Jan (DK); BLNA 20 Jan (KR); FLRA 21 Jan (BH); BLNA 24 Jan (JM); Lott Farm SENE 9 Feb (DD).

FOX SPARROW (R3): SW 4 Dec (MC, JM); TDry 13 Dec (ASp); TDry 24-27 Feb (JF); MyPt 28 Feb (CW).

Song Sparrow: max 38 CC 1 Jan (JF), high.

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 BLNA 24 Feb (TSch), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 12 T Covert CAYU 14 Feb.

White-throated Sparrow: max 30 T Montezuma CAYU 11 Feb (JM), high.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 169 T Fayette 30 Dec (EBS), high.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50000 MNWR 25 Feb (MSche), high.

E. Meadowlark: Lott Farm SENE 12 Jan (JA, LiMo); arr MR 24 Feb (CW), early; MNWR 28 Feb (GDa).

Rusty Blackbird: max 12 SW 10 Dec.

Com. Grackle: max 9000 MNWR 25 Feb (JM), high.

PINE GROSBEAK (R3): TCar 21 Feb (SKe).

House Finch: max 49 T Fayette 30 Dec, low.

Red Crossbill: 2 Bear Swamp CAYU 27 Jan (CW).

Com. Redpoll: Allens Pt CAYU 1 Jan (JB, CW); MR 14 Jan (JB, CW); 2 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 19 Jan (MFi).

Pine Siskin: max 70 TCar 14 Jan (CW), high.

EVENING GROSBEAK (R3): TCar 3 Dec (SKe).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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The mean temperature was slightly above normal for the 2017-18 winter season, while precipitation was average and snowfall was below normal. Data from the Binghamton National Weather Service station was used as a proxy for Region 4. However, there can be wide variation in snowfall totals throughout the Region, with higher elevations receiving more along with easterly locations during nor'easter storms. February in particular was unseasonably warm, with a high temperature of 69°F on the 21st and the fourth highest monthly average temperature on record. For the winter period, the mean temperature was 25.3°, 0.6° above normal. Total precipitation was 7.61", 0.02" above normal. Snowfall was 46.3", 10.8" below normal. Snowfall from the beginning of the season (1 July) to the end of February was 48.1", -15.8" below normal. Average snow depth was 2", 2" below normal. There were no large snow storms during the

winter period, with maximum 24 hour totals of 5.5" on 13 Jan and 7 Feb. Maximum snow depth was 10" for 9-10 Feb.

December started relatively warm and snow free, with the first trace of snow on 8 December. The middle of the month turned colder, with snow nearly every day from 10-18 December. Most ponds and lakes were frozen over by the middle of December. The end of the month was unseasonably cold with small amounts of snow 22-31 December, but with a maximum snow depth of only 4" on 31 December. It was the fifth driest December on record, with 1.41" of precipitation, 1.42" below normal. The mean temperature was 23.8°, 3.5° below normal. January started out very cold with winter lows of -7° on 1 and 7 January. There was at least a trace of snow most days from 1 to 9 January. A January thaw occurred on the 11-12th, with a high temperature of 60°. The warm-up was followed immediately by the first moderate storm of the season, with rain, freezing rain and then 5.5" of snow. This resulted in a Region-wide abundance of birds coming to feeders. Temperatures turned mainly warmer in the second half of the month, eroding much of the snow cover. January's mean temperature was 21.3°, 0.9° below normal. Snowfall was 14.9", 7.3" below normal. Early February saw average temperatures with snow most days, building to a maximum depth of 10" on 10 February. Temperatures were significantly above normal through the end of the month, with 20-21 February above 60° and four other days above 50°. The mean temperature for the month was 30.9°, 6.2° above normal. The month ended snow free. The first large flocks of early migrants arrived on 15-16 February.

One of the predictions for the 2017-18 winter was for a sizable irruption of Snowy Owls. While this was borne out by many reports across the State, Region 4 seemed to be an exception. There was only one documented report in the Laurens area of Otsego County on 9-10 December. There were rumors of other Snowy Owls in Region 4, but details such as date/time or photographs were not available. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence for many of the sparsely birded areas of Region 4.

Another big story for this winter was the abundant food crop, particularly conifer cones. Some have described it, in general, as the best in decades across NYS. In my own observations, cones seemed particularly abundant on various spruce species, white pine, larch/tamarack, and Eastern hemlock. For deciduous trees, yellow and black birch and some ash and maple species had an excellent seed crop. The overall abundant natural food supply was probably connected with the observation of many winter bird feeders with bird numbers way down. This seems to have merit from observations that when a winter storm hit on 13 January with freezing rain and then 5+ inches of snow, suddenly large numbers of birds arrived at feeders across the Region. In particular, there was a Region-wide explosion of Pine Siskin reports on that date.

Some highlights from 2017 Christmas Bird Counts for circles predominately in Region 4 are:

Binghamton CBC 16 December. 58 species reported (58 avg). Unusual – Chipping Sparrow, Gray Catbird, and Tundra Swan. High counts for Bald Eagle (23), Common Grackle (7), Dark-eyed Junco (600), Fox Sparrow (6), and Hooded Merganser (194).

Oneonta CBC 16 December. 49 species reported (44 avg). Notable – Northern Goshawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Rusty Blackbird. High counts – Sharp-shinned Hawk (5) and Red-bellied Woodpecker (12).

Owego CBC 30 December. 50 species reported (49 avg). Unusual – Red-breasted Merganser and Red-shouldered Hawk.

Sherburne CBC 16 December. 49 species reported (50 avg). Unusual – Gray Catbird.

Upper Delaware CBC 31 December. New CBC coordinated by Pamela J. Peters. 48 species reported. Notable – American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

The abundance of natural food and the extensive warm-ups in January and February, leaving no snow cover, make it difficult to evaluate the relative abundance of species that we consider winter migrants. It's easier to spot birds like Horned Lark when there is extensive snow cover and a nice spread of manure on a field. Other species did not have as great a need to visit bird feeders, when the natural food supply and temperate weather made it easy to forage. So on that note, American Tree Sparrow and Purple Finch were reported widely, but numbers seemed down. Snow Bunting and Horned Lark were reported in good numbers, with an impressive 750 buntings in Springfield Center, Otsego County on 3 February and 250 larks in Harford, Cortland County on 17 February. There were several reports of rare Lapland Longspur in the towns of Oxford, Chenango County; Hamden, Delaware County; and Cortlandville, Cortland County. Pine Siskins were reported in very good numbers across the Region. Common Redpolls were very scarce, with just a handful of sightings of very small numbers. Northern Shrikes were also scarce, with most reports in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties. Rough-legged Hawks were fairly common in the western and central parts of the Region. There were no reports of Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, or White-winged Crossbill. Red Crossbills were reported in small numbers, by Matt Young, in the conifer plantations of northern Chenango County. Matt conducts research on crossbill subspecies migration and other behaviors.

The unusual weather brought many unusual sightings over the winter period. Many waterfowl either lingered or made mid-winter appearances. Of note for mid-winter sightings were: Snow Goose in Chenango and Tioga Counties; Gadwall in Broome and Delaware Counties; American Wigeon in Chenango; N. Pintail in many locations; Green-winged Teal, likely overwintering in Chenango; Canvasback in Broome and with extended stay at Confluence Park, Owego, Tioga County from 26 January to 27 February; Greater Scaup in Broome and Delaware; Lesser Scaup in Broome and Otsego; Long-tailed Duck

in Broome; Red-breasted Merganser in Broome and Delaware; Red-throated Loon in Broome; Pied-billed Grebe in Delaware and Otsego; Horned and Red-necked Grebe in Delaware and Broome.

Overwintering half-hardies included: Winter Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Fox Sparrow. Other notable lingering birds were: Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, and White-crowned Sparrow. Additional unexpected mid-winter appearances included: Field Sparrow, American Woodcock, and Savannah Sparrow.

There were several rare species reported in the Region this period. A Ross's Goose was seen flying with Canadas at Carantouan Greenway, Wildwood Nature Reserve, Tioga County on 12 January. This is the second eBird record for the species in Tioga. A Greater White-fronted Goose was associating with Canadas around Whitney Point Reservoir, Broome County in early December. A single bird was also reported on 26 February in Candor, Tioga County. Cackling Goose was reported in several locations: at Stupke Pond, Cortland County on 5 December and 27 Feb; at Cannonsville Reservoir, Delaware on 17 December, and in the town of Virgil, Cortland on 12 December. Additional rare species include: Northern Goshawk (Delaware, Chenango, and Tioga Counties); Short-eared Owl at North Spencer Marsh and Nichols, Tioga; Northern Saw-whet Owl, Aquaterra Park, Broome, N. Spencer Marsh, Jam Pond, Chenango, and several locations in Delaware; and a Peregrine Falcon seen in Homer, Cortland County on 18 February (rare in the Region outside Binghamton).

Tom Salo again provided information relative to the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS) camera trapping activities. Sites started operating in late December after the close of the southern zone muzzle-loading deer season. Bald Eagles were common at some sites, with a high of 20 individuals some days in Burlington. Common Raven were present in large numbers (>50) at Burlington and Middletown. **19 winter resident Golden Eagles were photographed at six sites from late December through February;** the number of individual Golden Eagles was the highest in nine years of camera trapping. Over that period we have averaged six sites per season in Delaware and Otsego Counties. Golden Eagles are regular in Otsego County, however, they appear in greater numbers at sites further south. The highest numbers of individuals have been at sites in SE Delaware County. The site in the Town of Middletown recorded nine of the 19 eagles this season. This quantity is based on a cursory examination of daily photos. With 500-600 photos per day, a more exact number will require the examination of tens of thousands of photographs. The first bird photographed at that site was a Golden Eagle on 21 December, 2017. This bird did not return. That is not uncommon; however, the timing raises the possibility that this individual was a late migrant as opposed to a winter resident. A site in the Town of Franklin, also Delaware County, had the second highest number—four.

Elsewhere, Golden Eagles made appearances at four Otsego County sites. Some of these birds fed for several days but none persisted longer than that. One of the GPS-tracked birds that had been trapped in SE Delaware County in 2017 returned directly to the site where it was trapped, and remained all winter. Another Golden Eagle was observed and photographed by Kyle Dudgeon harassing Bald Eagles at the site in Burlington. This bird was never photographed at the camera trap. In recent years we have observed several Golden Eagles very near the Burlington site that did not scavenge at the bait.

In total, 121 species were reported in Region 4 during the winter season.

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PHOTO GALLERY
WINTER 2017-18



Mew Gull, Oswego River, Minetto, *Oswego*, 18 Jan 2018, © Jay McGowan.



Mountain Bluebird, Democrat Pt., *Suffolk*, 17-26 Dec 2017 (here 24 Dec), © Karen Fung.



Green-tailed Towhee, Town of Montezuma, *Cayuga*, 10-16 Feb 2018 (here 14 Feb), © Sue Barth.



Inca Dove, Celoron, *Chautauqua*, 4-12 Dec 2017 (here 8 Dec), © Celeste Morien.



Graylag Goose, Mattituck, *Suffolk*, 30 Jan 2018, © Derek Rogers.



Crested Caracara, Ontario, Wayne, 1 Feb 2018. Trailcam photo courtesy Paul McNamara.



Harris's Sparrow, Altamont, Albany, 16-24 Feb 2018 (here 24 Feb). © Joe Wing.



Figure 1. Map of NY Ecoregions (coded by color) transposed over New York State county boundaries (County names italicized). From Bryce, et al. 2010. This and the following figures refer to the article on pp. 94-98.



Figures 2 & 3. Bethlehem Steel nest site, Lackawanna, NY, April 2017. Photos courtesy of NYSDEC.



Figure 4: Railroad bridge over the Erie Canal in Pittsford, NY. Photo courtesy of Sarah Piecuch, NYSDOT.



Figure 5 (Top): Common Raven nest inside NYSDOT Salt Barn. Sodus, NY, 23 May 2017. View from approximately 500 feet away. Photo: Sarah Picuch, NYSDOT.

Figure 6 (Bottom): Juvenile Common Ravens getting ready to fledge, 2 June 2017. Photo courtesy of Scott Robinson, NYSDOT.

Common Ravens Reported To eBird/County/Year

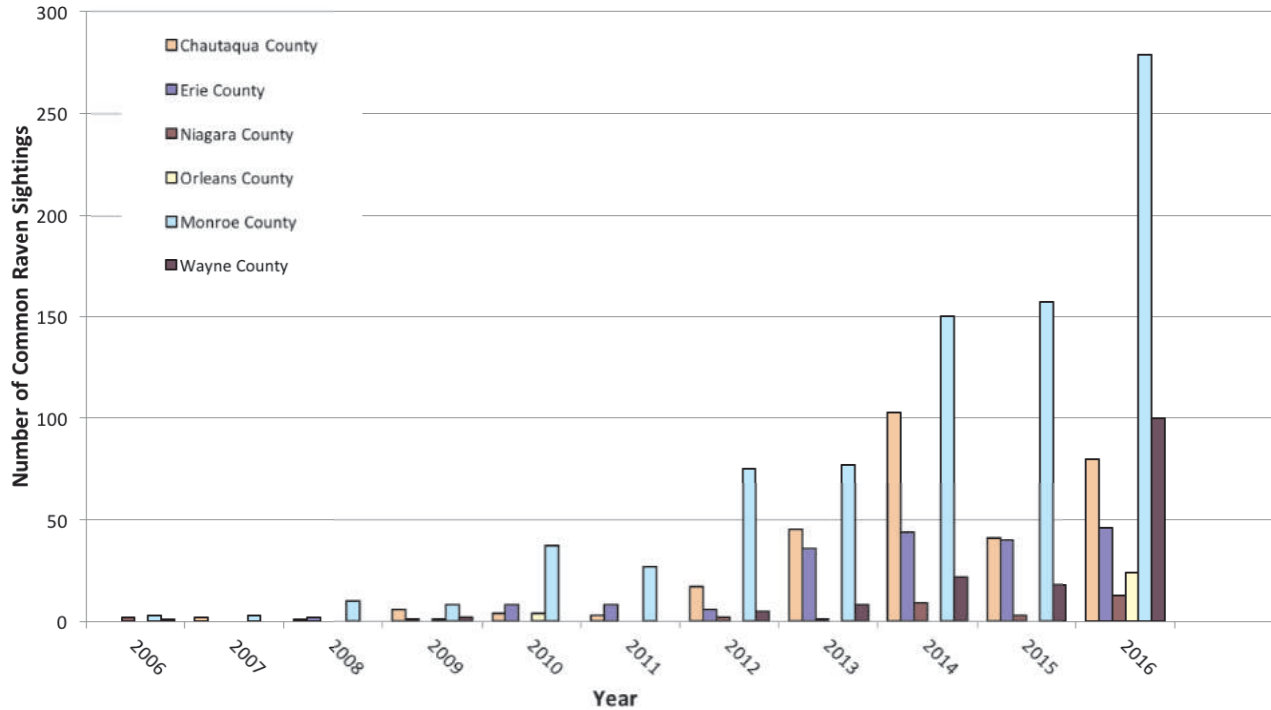


Figure 7. Number of Common Raven sightings reported to the eBird database for the Erie/Ontario Lake Plain counties from 2006-2016 (eBird Basic Dataset).

Russ Smiley, Linda Smith, Joshua Snodgrass, Rod Spangle, Cynthia Staley, Shirley Stout, Brian Sullivan, Suzanne Summers, Amy Swarr, Patricia Thorpe, Sarah Toner, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Alison Van Keuren, Evelyn Vavra, Lance Verderame, Anthony Vicente, Kai Victor, Matthew Voelker, Fred von Mechow, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Dan Watkins, Drew Weber, Jonathan Weeks, Inga Wells, David Wheeler, Brian Whipple, Glenn Wilson, Mark Witmer, Colleen Wolpert, Chris Wood, Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BPd** – Boland Pd; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChLk** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DeLR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **Dpk** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMT** – Franklin Mtn, T Davenport, DELA; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **Lime** – Lime Hollow, T Cortlandville, CORT; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtLk** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **Pres** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly); **SkLk** – Skaneateles L (SE), T Scott, CORT; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle County P, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R4): WPres 1-8 Dec; Candor TIOG 26 Feb.

Snow Goose: max 800 Campville TIOG 24 Feb; last WPres 14 Dec; early 14 Lime 8 Feb; major arr mult loc 21 Feb; a few sightings mid-winter CHEN, CORT, & TIOG.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R4): CG 12 Jan.

Cackling Goose: 2 StPd 5 Dec; T Virgil CORT 12 Dec; CRes 17 Dec; rare.

Canada Goose: max 3200 ULCP 12 Dec.

Tundra Swan: scarce CVSP 16 Dec; 6 Deposit DELA 25 Feb; 2 ULCP 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: last Lime 9 Dec; arr CRes 17 Feb, early.

Gadwall: max 17 ULCP 25 Feb; HCP 26 Dec-12 Jan; overwintered CRes; more frequent winter sightings.

Am. Wigeon: max 15 ULCP 28 Feb; rare mid-winter 2 T Sherburne CHEN 16 Jan; arr 2 CG 22 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 150 Cres mult dates.

Mallard: max 418 DeLR 6 Jan.

N. Shoveler: last Lime 5 Dec; arr 15 SusRB 26 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 28 ULCP 24 Feb; arr 2 CaHo 18 Feb; unusual # winter sightings.

Green-winged Teal: Blanding Rd wetlands T Sherburne CHEN, unusual, likely overwinter; HCP 26 Dec-1 Jan; 2 Lime 10 Feb; arr Barton TIOG 20 Feb.

Canvasback: HCP 10 Jan; 2 CaHo 25 Jan; CoPk 26 Jan-27 Feb; rare.

Redhead: max 46 OtLk 14 Feb; T Sherburne CHEN 25 Jan, rare; overwintered several locations.

Ring-necked Duck: max 100 ALK 8 Dec; unusual, overwintered sev loc.

Greater Scaup: DelR 26 Dec-14 Jan; CaHo 6 Jan; HCP 8-12 Jan; arr OtLk 20 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: ChRB 26 Dec-11 Feb, arr CaHo 19 Feb.
Surf Scoter: 2 WPres 2-6 Dec, rare.
White-winged Scoter: 2 ChRB 31 Dec-3 Jan, unexpected loc & date.
Black Scoter: SusRB 1 Dec, rare, late.
Long-tailed Duck: last 4 OtLk 1 Dec; SusRB 12-20 Jan, rare.
Bufflehead: max 90 OtLk 15 Dec; mid-winter sightings mult loc.
Com. Goldeneye: max 42 OtLk 15 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 60 HCP 26-27 Dec.
Com. Merganser: max 200 WPres 11 Dec.
Red-Breasted Merganser: scarce, scattered sightings in expected loc – reservoir outlets, main rivers.
Ruddy Duck: last WPres 18 Dec.
Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce, consistent sightings NSpM otherwise scattered.
Ruffed Grouse: max 7 Lime 5 Feb; widespread but limited sightings.
Wild Turkey: max 104 Springfield Center OTSE 3 Feb.
Red-throated Loon: PRes 10-17 Dec; OtLk 14 Dec; ChRB 11 Feb; rare.
Com. Loon: max 5 OtLk 9 Dec; 2-5 OtLk 9-21 Dec; WPres 6-11 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: OtLk 1 Dec, late; PRes 2 Dec, late; OtLk 10-15 Jan; PRes 1-13 Jan; SusRB 12 Feb; rare mid-winter.
Horned Grebe: PRes 1-7 Jan; ChRB 8 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: CRes 17 Dec; PRes 7 Jan; 2 SusRB 12 Feb; rare.
Double-crested Cormorant: late 2 WRes 12 Dec, late; arr CoPk 25 Feb.
Great Blue Heron: a few overwintered.
Turkey Vulture: late 4 Vestal BROO 26 Dec, late; Lime 15 Feb, early.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: 12 Burlington OTSE 17 Feb. max at site; max 23 BCBC 16 Dec; fairly common thru Region.
N. Harrier: fair # reports thru.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: few scattered thru.
Cooper's Hawk: max 12 BCBC; fairly common throughout.
N. Goshawk: FMt 1 Dec; CRes 1 Dec; Bowman Lake SP CHEN 24 Feb; T Spencer TIOG 28 Feb; rare.
Red-shouldered Hawk: scarce; a few scattered reports thru.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 31 OnCBC 16 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: fairly common, higher #s west & central in Region.
Golden Eagle: max 7 FMt 1 Dec; a few scattered sightings outside Catskills; summary of camera trapping data from Tom Salo, *intro*.
Am. Coot: max 66 OtLk 8 Feb; overwinter OtLk; rare elsewhere, CRes 17 Dec; SkLk 16 Dec
Killdeer: arr sev loc 21 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: T Nichols TIOG 15 Jan; T Owego TIOG 23 Jan; rare mid-winter; arr ULCP 28 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: WRes 2 Dec, late.
Ring-billed Gull: max 700 WRes 9 Dec.
Herring Gull: max 190 Plymouth Res. Chen 3 Dec.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Lime 3 Jan & 19 Feb; 3 DPK 24 Feb; Cortland CORT 25 Feb; rare.
Greater Black-backed Gull: 9 Cortland Gravel Pits 16 Dec; Lime 3-4 Jan; West Rd CORT 2 Feb; Lime 10 & 19 Feb; 7 Cortland 25 Feb; rare.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Mourning Dove: max 81 T Sherburne CHEN 16 Dec.
E. Screech-Owl: NSpM 10 Dec-3 Jan; T Sherburne 17 Feb thru; CVSP 30 Dec-15 Jan; T Colchester DELA 21-27 Jan; AqPk 21 Jan; underreported.
Great Horned Owl: few rep underreported.
Snowy Owl: T Laurens OTSE 9-10 Dec, only report.
Barred Owl: few rep, underreported.
Short-eared Owl: T Nichols TIOG 10 Dec; NSpM 21-26 Jan.
N. Saw-whet Owl: AqPk 4-7 Jan; T Hancock DELA 16 Jan; T German CHEN 20 Jan; NSpM 22-29 Jan; T Colchester DELA 27 Jan; rare.
Belted Kingfisher: max 6 BCBC 16 Dec; arr mult loc 20 Feb.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 15 OwCBC
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: rare overwintered T Scott CORT; Downs ville 31 Dec-7 Jan; arr CaHo 20 Feb.
N. Flicker: scarce, a few scattered sightings throughout.
Am. Kestrel: uncommon, a few appeared to overwinter; T Bainbridge CHEN; T Spencer TIOG.
Merlin: scarce, a few reports throughout.
Peregrine Falcon: rare 2 Binghamton thru; T Sanford BROO 3 Feb; T Homer CORT 18 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: late ULCP 3 Dec.
N. Shrike: scarce, mostly BROO, CHEN, & TIOG.
Fish Crow: max 35 Vestal BROO 26 Dec; along ChRB & SusRB thru, becoming more common.
Com. Raven: max 42 OTSE, at eagle survey sites; fairly widespread thru.
Horned Lark: max 250 Harford CORT 17 Feb; most sightings BROO & CHEN.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 Preble CORT 1 Feb; widespread but few rep.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Aqpk 21 Jan.
Winter Wren: overwintered CVSP; BUNP 4 Jan; a few scattered sightings Feb; rare in winter.
Carolina Wren: fairly common; most sightings BROO & TIOG.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 T Cortlandville CORT.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: no reports.
E. Bluebird: max 12 Lime 9 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: Victory St. Marsh BROO 21 Jan, rare in winter; arr Lime 27 Feb.
Gray Catbird: BUNP 2 Dec; BCBC 16 Dec; SCBC 16 Dec; rare in winter.
N. Mockingbird: a few reports BROO & CORT.
Cedar Waxwing: max 160 ULCP 21 Jan; most in BROO & TIOG.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 1-2 T Oxford CHEN 9 Jan & 22 Jan; 2 T Hamden DELA 21 Jan; 3 T Cortlandville CORT 24 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 750 Springfield Center OTSE 3 Feb; fairly widespread.
Pine Warbler: ULCP 3 Dec, rare in winter.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Downsville DELA 2 Dec, rare in winter.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 46 ULCP 16 Feb; widespread.

Chipping Sparrow: Castle Creek BROO; Lisle BROO 15 Dec; 3 Spencer TIOG 2-3 Jan; rare in winter.
Field Sparrow: 2 T Barton TIOG 10 Feb, only rep.
Fox Sparrow: last Swift Rd T Chenango BROO 16 Dec; Sanford BROO 18 Jan-11 Feb; T Colchester DELA 22 Dec & 2 Feb; 2 NSpM 19 Feb; possibly overwintering birds rare.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 78 OwCBC 30 Dec, abundant.
White-crowned Sparrow: T Nichols TIOG 30 Dec, rare in winter.
White-throated Sparrow: max 12 T Greene Chen 2 Jan.
Savannah Sparrow: rare Murphys Pits T Vestal BROO 29 Jan, rare in winter.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce, a few overwintered at wetlands in BROO, CHEN, & TIOG.
N Cardinal: max 18 Vestal BROO 4 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: unusual overwinter Castle Creek BROO; a few scattered sightings Jan; arr 6 T Union BROO 16 Feb, early.
Brown-headed Cowbird: a few overwintered, sev loc; arr 17 Feb, early.
Rusty Blackbird: no reports.
Com. Grackle: unusual, a few scattered mid-winter reports; arr BpD 15 Feb.
House Finch: max 30 CoPk 30 Dec.
Purple Finch: max 10 ULCP 21 Jan; widespread in small #s.
Red Crossbill: scarce, reported in higher elevation conifer plantations by Matt Young, *intro*.
Com. Redpoll: max 6 Rosebloom OTSE 24-25 Dec; Lime 11 Jan; Downsville DELA 13 Jan; 5 T Middlefield OTSE 4 Feb; T Cortlandville CORT 24 Feb.
Pine Siskin: fairly common; max 82 T Scott CORT 16 Dec.
Am. Goldfinch: max 110 T Oxford CHEN 17 Jan.
Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The winter of 2017-'18 came on fast and hard. Many of the Region's ponds and lakes froze up tight during the second week of December. Serious snow accumulations were a factor by the end of the second week and bone-chilling cold arrived in the final week of the month. In Syracuse the mean temperature for December was 24.1°F, which is 5.3° lower than normal. Temperatures in Old Forge in the Adirondacks bottomed out at -30° on 28 December. In Syracuse the snowfall total for the month was 34.2", only 1.5" higher than the average. January was cold and snowier than December, with a mean temperature in Syracuse of 21.5°, 2.1° below the historical average. In Verona, taking part in the Oneida CBC on 1 January, Bill Purcell reported a temperature of -20°. On the same day, in Old Forge, Gary Lee's thermometer read, -32°. In Syracuse, snowfall for January measured 44.5", which is 10" above normal. The arctic trend reversed in February, with a substantial late-month thaw. The average temperature for the month was 32.2°, 6.3° higher than normal. Snowfall in Syracuse measured 23.6", which is 1.7" lower than average for the month.

Harsh conditions and early freeze-ups of many water bodies pushed most geese out of the Region during the second week of December, which is somewhat earlier than usual. This made waterfowl relatively scarce for the Region's CBCs. However, by mid-December the snow did serve to concentrate songbirds at feeding stations. In late December and early January, reports of grounded loons, grebes, and some diving ducks began coming in from the Region's wildlife rehabilitators. Oneida Lake froze at least by the end of December as did Otisco Lake and about two-thirds of Skaneateles Lake. On 19 February the maximum amount of ice coverage recorded on Lake Ontario was 82%. A warm up during the last week of February and winds from favorable directions held the promise of an early spring, or at least that's how some birds interpreted it. Waterfowl, some raptors, American Woodcocks, and blackbirds poured into the Region.

Waterfowl numbers and diversity were for the most part unremarkable this season. Away from the eastern portion of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge that lies within Region 5, dabbling duck numbers were low. Diving ducks concentrated in expected ice-free havens such as the Oswego River and Harbor and parts of Onondaga and Skaneateles Lakes. Single **Greater White-**

fronted Geese were found at several locations, including Cazenovia and Onondaga Lakes. On 4 December David Wheeler reported a possible Barnacle x Cackling Goose hybrid. The bird was associating with three Cackling Geese on Cazenovia Lake. Most likely the same bird had been seen in mid-November on Seneca Lake. 850 Redheads at Skaneateles Lake on 20 January was a good count for the location. A maximum number of 1082 Redheads tallied at Onondaga Lake on 19 February was even more impressive. Other *Aythya* species were not as remarkable, and modest high counts came from bays on Lake Ontario. Wheeler found six Black Scoters together on Onondaga Lake on 24 December, an excellent count for the spot. None were adult males. In February, Long-tailed Ducks were found in large rafts at Oswego Harbor and Fair Haven. Bill Purcell found two female King Eiders at Oswego on 3 January. 203 Hooded Mergansers at Sandy Pond on 9 December is notable, as is 200 at Onondaga Lake on 17-20 December. 2500 Common Mergansers were tallied at Onondaga Lake on Christmas Day. As mentioned above, this was not a good winter for loons. Fast-forming ice puts them in real jeopardy. Reports of several groundings came from the Region's wildlife rehabilitators. Known casualties are likely representative of a larger hidden toll.

Two wintering **Black Vultures** joined the usual Turkey Vultures in the Jamesville area this winter. The vultures are attracted to the county compost pile and roadkill dump near the old quarry. Tony Shrimpton has for several years observed the birds at their roost site in Fayetteville. This year he noted the Black version were indeed accompanying Turkey Vultures on their daily commute. Black Vulture as a winterer is an interesting phenomenon also noted in the Ithaca area and Niagara River—might they be harbingers of a year-round resident population developing in Region 5? Despite the harsh weather, five Turkey Vultures were found by Ernest Williams and party while participating in the Clinton CBC in the towns of Kirkland and Marshal on 16 December. The birds continued through the season. At the same time other typical wintering raptors like Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Northern Harrier were thin on the ground and even missing from some traditional areas. Reports of Golden Eagle, including several adults, came from nine areas. Wintering Golden Eagles in the Region are typically juveniles. On 28 February, eight each of Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks migrated past Derby Hill.

A Purple Sandpiper was found at Oswego Harbor on 28 December but not seen again. A late American Woodcock was found on 17 December; February birds are early spring migrants. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** found by David Wheeler and Deborah Dohne at Onondaga Lake on 17 December was unusual for that site. After the unusually cold weather of early January, massive numbers of gulls began to collect at Onondaga Lake and along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers. While on a non-birding visit to Oswego on 16 January, Wheeler found a second Regional record **SLATY-BACKED GULL** on the Oswego River. He had no scope or camera with him at the time, but was able to contact Mary Magistro who arrived in minutes with proper optics. The gull was subsequently

seen at several sites along the Oswego and Seneca Rivers through 7 February and is likely the same bird sighted thereafter on Van Cleef Lake in Seneca Falls (R3). On 18 January a Regional first **MEW GULL** was identified by Jay McGowan on the Oswego River in Minetto. The rarity was first seen sleeping on the ice above the dam and was picked from a flock of Ring-billed Gulls when it briefly raised its head and revealed its short bill. The bird remained at the site for two days and was viewed and photographed by many birders who noted its most conspicuous feature to be a pink wash to the underparts. A consensus formed that the bird was likely of the European form called “Common Gull” rather than the subspecies of western North America. A notable maximum number of 16 Iceland Gulls was tallied on the Seneca River at Baldwinsville on 3 February. Gregg Dashnau noted the spot became exceptional after January's deep freeze, and kept careful daily watch of the goings-on and reported banded gulls.

There were less than twenty reports of Eastern Screech-Owls this period. Wildlife Rehabilitator Jean Soprano received one that was struck by a vehicle in Baldwinsville on 12 February. There were several other reports of vehicle impacts involving other owl species. Soprano reported four cases of Snowy Owls being struck by vehicles and one instance of an individual that had become trapped inside a building in Syracuse. This seems a high number of casualties. A decent maximum of four Snowys was reported at Oswego Harbor on 5 December. One birder speculated that the lack of them in Fairfield (Herkimer County) could be related to the area's large number of wind turbines. There were only three reports of Short-eared Owls this period. None lingered. Individual Northern Saw-whet Owls were found in Remsen and Clay. One Red-headed Woodpecker was photographed at Verona Beach State Park on 1 January, while a pair wintered at a New Haven property owned by Dave Babb. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers came from 14 locations. Only a few of those occurred in February. As referenced above, American Kestrels were somewhat harder to come by this winter. There were also relatively few reports of Merlins in January. Perhaps the harsh December compelled them to move further south. Peregrine Falcons were reported primarily from expected locations. Resident pairs in Syracuse and Utica were in place through the period. The Utica pair purportedly dealt with more than one interloper in February. One banded adult female engaged in a ledge display with the resident male on 21 February. According to the intruder's band information, she originated from a nest in Springfield Massachusetts and was banded in May of 2016. The same individual was photographed in Rome on 9 September, 2017.

Northern Shrikes were reported from some of the expected areas, but none were reliable finds. A maximum number of 21 Common Ravens in Dolgeville on 17 December was notable as were the 16 tallied in the Town of Nelson on 26 January. The species' presence in Region 5 continues to increase. Numbers of wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches were good in appropriate habitat due to the Region's significant cone crop. Single Hermit Thrushes were reported from four areas. At Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland, one was seen on multiple

occasions from 14-31 December. It was often seen associating with Eastern Bluebirds as they partook of the fruit from winterberry bushes. A juvenile **Indigo Bunting** was seen and photographed at a Syracuse bird feeder on 30 December. There were no subsequent reports of the bird. Significant numbers of blackbirds began returning in the last week of February as did many ducks. Winter finches were largely a disappointment for most of us. However, those that didn't mind traveling to the outskirts of the Region—both north and south—were occasionally rewarded for their efforts. There were five reports of Common Redpolls including from New Woodstock, where 12 were counted on 19 December. By mid-February small flocks of Red Crossbills started being reported in the Adirondacks and in the Adirondack foothills; no doubt taking advantage of the area's substantial cone crop. Observers were often seeing the crossbills as they grittled on roadsides. There were no reports of Evening Grosbeak.

Development of the west shore and inner harbor area of Onondaga Lake continues. Tall hotels and residences near completion and the long strip on Van Rensselaer St. is being graded and prepared for construction. What fate lies for the fields on Solar St.? While the lands adjacent to the lake continue to be altered in too many places and ways to list, the lake itself is hopefully cleaner and continues to be incredibly important to wintering and migratory waterfowl. Deborah Dohne kept almost daily track of the goings-on and documented them in eBird and in a winter-season summary she provided the *Kingbird* Regional report editors. After the extreme weather of January, Onondaga Lake began attracting large numbers of our three common gull species, including 229 Great Black-backed Gulls counted on 19 February. This is by far the largest concentration of the species in our area. Common Merganser counts numbered in the 1000-2500 range for much of the period and were joined by about 100 Red-breasted Mergansers, a much bigger number than typical for the lake. Dohne also observed 1000+ Redhead and many scaup during February and noted 600 Mallards on 19 January. The impressive concentration of waterfowl held three Snowy Owls through much of the season. They were often seen standing on the ice and flying to shoreline perches.

A total of 129 species and four hybrids was found this period, which is four less than the most recent decade's average. The highlights included: Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, **Black Vulture**, **Golden Eagle**, Red-shouldered Hawk, Purple Sandpiper, American Woodcock, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, Bonaparte's Gull, **MEW GULL**, **SLATY-BACKED GULL**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Snowy Owl**, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, **Indigo Bunting**, and Red Crossbill.

The winter season produced 36,336 eBird records, which were processed by Swan Hummingbird v4.02.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Brewerton; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **Canas** – Canastota; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **MNWR east** – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **Skana** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan/Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Cazenovia 4 Dec (DW); OnonL 20, 28 Jan (MN, DW, DD); Fulton 20, 27 Jan (SR, mob).

Snow Goose: last 8 Cross Lake 30 Dec; arr 1200 Tully 21 Feb; max 18000 Cato 28 Feb.

Cackling Goose: max 9 Port Byron 28 Feb; seven other reports of singles.

Barnacle Goose x Cackling Goose: Cazenovia 4 Dec (DW), putative.

Canada Goose: 2500 WP 3 Dec; max 2650 DH 28 Feb.

Snow Goose x Canada Goose: Bville 4 Jan (KB).

Mute Swan: 16 OLC 8 Jan; max 63 FH 17 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 8 FH 20 Dec; 4 OLC 1 Jan; 4 Brew 18 Feb; several other locs.

Tundra Swan: max 130 PPt 6 Dec; 112 Port Byron 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: max 11 TR 25 Feb; 7 DH 28 Feb; very few in Dec.

Gadwall: max 49 FH 8 Dec; 12 OLC 19 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: 75 Port Byron 24 Feb; max 140 MNWR east 26 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: 37 Mohawk 18 Dec; 33 Bville 4 Jan; max 50 OnonL 28 Feb.

Mallard: max 800 OnonL 17 Dec; 630 Bville 4 Jan.

Am. Black Duck x Mallard: OswH 16 Jan.

N. Shoveler: last 3 OLC 18 Dec; arr OLC 7 Feb; 7 WP 3 Dec; 10 Canas 9 Dec;

N. Pintail: last 7 WP 12 Dec; arr 9 Canas 25 Feb; max 2800 MNWR east 26 Feb (BP), great number.

Green-winged Teal: max 6 WP 6 Dec; last 3 WP 12 Dec; arr 2 Richfield Springs 12 Feb; low numbers.

Redhead: 580 FH 20 Dec; 850 Skan 20 Jan; max 1082 OnonL 19 Feb (DD), good number.

Canvasback: 10 Brew 24 Feb; max 14 OnonL 28 Feb; small numbers from three other locs.

Ring-necked Duck: max 475 WP 6 Dec; 175 Brew 24 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 450 FH 13 Feb; 300 OswH 14 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 143 Oswego 17 Dec; 60 OnonL 28 Feb; relatively poor numbers.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 240 OswH 10 Feb.

Aythya species: max 500 SVB 9 Dec & 500 OnonL 25 Feb.

King Eider: 2 f. Oswego 3 Jan (BP, ph), one remained thru 9 Jan; f. Phoenix 7 – 11 Jan (GD, mob, ph).

Surf Scoter: OswH 19 Jan – 10 Feb; Fulton 25 – 26 Jan; Scriba 19 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 97 OswH 23 Feb.

Black Scoter: max 6 OnonL 24 Dec; Skan 20 Jan; OswH 25 Jan; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 250 OswH 3 Feb; max 800 FH 13 Feb (KM), good number.

Bufflehead: max 50 Tuscarora Lake 2 Dec; 31 Port Ontario 25 Feb.

Com. Goldeneye: max 295 FH 20 Dec; 220 Brew 24 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: max 203 SP 9 Dec (BP); 200 OnonL 17 – 20 Dec (DD, DW), great numbers.

Com. Merganser: 2000 Cross Lake 23 Jan (KM); max 2500 OnonL 25 Feb (DWe); good numbers.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 455 OswH 20 Dec; 122 DH 17 Jan.

Ruddy Duck: max 6 WP 1 Dec; last 2 OnonL 20 Dec; arr 2 Brew 21 Feb; very low numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 Canas 1 Jan; singles 8 locs.

Ruffed Grouse: max 3 Norway 13 Dec & OF 16 Dec & Fabius 21 Jan; 2 WP 26 Feb.

Wild Turkey: 43 Dolge 27 Dec; 52 DB 3 Jan;

max 54 Richland 17 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: max 4 FH 3 Dec; OswH 20-24 Feb; only reports.

Com. Loon: max 5 OswH 4 Dec; 4 OnonL 24 Dec; Rome 27 Dec (JS), grounded; Boonville 31 Dec, vehicle impact; Remsen 11 Jan (JS), vehicle impact; low numbers.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 OnonL 9 Dec & 6 OLC 11 Feb; almost all reports from OnonL.

Horned Grebe: 3 FH 3 Dec; max 10 OnonL 12 Jan; Hannibal 7 Jan (JS), expired; Camden 8 Jan (JS), expired.

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 FH 3 Dec & 3 OswH 9 Dec; OswH 6 Jan (JS), grounded; reports from three other locs.

Double-crested Cormorant: 45 OnonL 2 Dec – 9 Jan; max 54 Bville 8 Feb.

Great Blue Heron: 6 Bville 14 Jan; max 9 OLC 29 Jan.

BLACK VULTURE (R5): Fayetteville 4 Dec (DJW); Jamesville 15 Jan (DW); max 2 Jamesville 1 Feb thru (KM, DD, mob). Seen roosting with Turkey Vultures in Fayetteville (TS).

Turkey Vulture: 5 Kirkland 16 Dec (EW), unusual wintering loc; 34 Jamesville 17 Feb; max 65 DH 28 Feb.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Golden Eagle: singles, including several ads from nine locs, all but one apparently wintering.

Bald Eagle: max 40 Cross Lake 23 Jan (KM); 22 Bville 15 Jan; 22 Memphis 26 Jan.

N. Harrier: max 2 Tully 9 Dec; singles from 17 other locs: few in Jan.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 DH 28 Feb; widespread reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 GLSP 2 Dec; 2 Manlius 6 Dec; max 3 CM 16 Dec; 2 Marcellus 30 Dec; 2 DeRuyter 25 Jan; 2 DH 28 Feb.

N. Goshawk: ad. Mindenville, HERK 14 Feb; ad Remsen 17 Feb; only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: SFNS 19 Jan; 2 Lafayette 11 Feb; max 8 DH 28 Feb; only reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: 6 Richfield Springs 17 Feb; max 23 DH 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 Middleville 17 Feb; 3 Richfield Springs 17 Feb; max 8 DH 21 Feb; relatively few reports from expected areas.

Am. Coot: max 28 OnonL 9 Dec; last GLSP 29 Dec; arr Oswego 24 Feb.

Killdeer: last 2 OnonL 9 Dec; arr OLC & TR 21 Feb; max 5 Meridian 28 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: Oswego 28 Dec (JG, ER,

ph), late.

Am. Woodcock: CM 16 Dec (DN); arr TR 27 Feb, only reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake: OnonL 17 Dec (DD, DW).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 OneiL 9 Dec; last OnonL 22 Jan; only two other reports.

MEW GULL (R5): Minetto 18-19 Jan (JM!, mob, ph), 1st Reg rec.

Iceland Gull: max 16 Bville 3 Feb (GD); most consistent presence on the Seneca River at Bville.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1500 SVB 6 Dec & 1500 Port Byron 22 Feb.

Herring Gull: 1500 SVB 6 Dec; max 3000 Bville 21 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 5 Bville 22 Jan; OnonL mid-Jan thru.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (R5): Oswego 16 Jan (DW!, mob, ph); individual seen from Fulton to OswH on Oswego river and on Seneca River at Bville, last seen at Bville 7 Feb, 2nd Reg rec, *intro*.

Glaucous Gull: max 4 Oswego 16 – 18 Jan & 4 Bville 9 – 10 Feb; last OLC 23 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: 125 Bville 10 Feb; max 229 OnonL 19 Feb.

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull: Fulton 1 – 3 Feb; Phoenix 14 Feb, same individual.

Gull species: max 1000 OnonL 28 Jan.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 300 Lakeland 21 – 24 Jan; 225 Tully 17 Feb.

Mourning Dove: max 128 Dolge 21 Jan.

E. Screech-Owl: 3 HI 18 Dec; max 4 Skan 31 Dec; 3 South Bay 1 Jan; Bville 12 Feb (JS), vehicle impact; singles from 13 other areas.

Great Horned Owl: 2 TR 8 Dec; 2 Nelson 14 Dec – 28 Jan; Syr 11 Jan (JS), vehicle impact; 2 SNC 13 Jan.

Snowy Owl: Ilion 2 Dec (DS), vehicle strike, treated and released; max 4 OswH 5 Dec; Syr 6 Dec (JS), died from injuries; Bville 24 Dec (JS), vehicle impact; Syr 27 Dec (JS), trapped in building; Syr 2 Jan (JS), injured; 3 Solvay 18 Jan thru.

Barred Owl: 2 Vienna 1 Jan; 2 TR 27 Feb; singles at eight other locs.

Short-eared Owl: arr Syracuse Airport 16 Dec; Pompey 26 Feb; Tully 11 Jan; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Remsen 26 Dec; Clay 23 – 27 Feb; only reports.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 OnonL 20 Dec; 2 Richfield Springs 21 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: VB 1 Jan; 2 NH Dec thru; only reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 7 Fayetteville 16 Dec & 7 SH 11 Feb; 5 BLNC 6 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 Syr 16 Dec; singles at 13 other locs; four reports in Feb.

Downy Woodpecker: max 8 RCFS 17 Dec; 7 SP 22 Feb.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Dolgeville 16 Dec – 4 Jan; SP 22 Feb.

N. Flicker: 4 FH 8 Dec; max 5 Syr 3 Jan; 4 TR 27 Feb.

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 Sterling 21 Dec; 2 Skan 31 Dec; 2 SH 9 Jan; 2 GLSP 11 Feb; 2 TR 27 Feb.

Am. Kestrel: max 2 Mindenville 30 Dec; 2 OnonL 17 Feb; 2 DH 28 Feb.

Merlin: 2 DH 27 Feb; singles at more than 15 other locs; few reports in Jan.

Peregrine Falcon: pairs hold territory Syr & Utica thru; singles at five other locs; max 3 Utica 21 Feb (MP, ph), pair interact with banded ad f. interloper, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: around 20 reports of singles mostly in expected areas.

Blue Jay: max 31 Syr 15 Feb; 20 Westmoreland 19 Feb; 16 Dolge 23 Feb.

Am. Crow: 4152 DH 21 Feb; max 10000 Syr 26 Feb.

Fish Crow: 2 Bville 18 Dec – 12 Jan; max 5 Syr 20 Jan.

Com. Raven: 11 Fairfield 10 Dec; max 21 Dolge 17 Dec (BLH), good number; 16 Nelson 26 Jan.

Horned Lark: 70 Paris 15 Dec; max 175 Lebanon, MAD 16 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 60 New Woodstock CBC 29 Dec; 46 Forestport 17 Feb.

Tufted Titmouse: max 9 SFNS 16 Dec; 7 Fayetteville 26 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 Boylston 9 Dec (BP), good number; 8 Forestport 17 Feb.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 8 SFNS 16 Dec; max 14 HI 12 Feb.

Brown Creeper: 2 BLNC 9 – 24 Dec; 2 Kirkland 16 Dec; 2 Vienna 1 Jan; 2 GLSP 17 Feb.

Winter Wren: Belgium 15 Dec; CM 16 Dec; BLNC 21 Dec; OnonL 12 Jan – 18 Feb; CM 15 Feb.

Carolina Wren: 2 Fayetteville 16 Dec – 26 Feb; 2 Cazenovia 4 Feb; 2 Manlius 21 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 Gray HERK 2

Feb; max 8 Elbridge 18 Feb.

E. Bluebird: 9 Marcellus 31 Dec; max 10 RCFS 17 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: Hastings 8 Dec; SFNS 14 – 31 Dec; RCFS 17 Dec; SSSP 13 Feb.

Am. Robin: 70 Camillus 25 Jan; max 146 DH 28 Feb.

Gray Catbird: Fayetteville 16 Dec; Canas 1 Jan; DeWitt 12 Feb; only reports.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Syr 9 Jan; 2 Fayetteville 21 Dec; no reports east of Oneida Lake.

European Starling: 1000 SH 11 Jan; 450 Elbridge 18 Feb.

Cedar Waxwing: 100 SFNS 24 Feb; max 120 DH 28 Feb.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 3 Paris 16 Dec; max 4 DB 1 Jan; 3 Canas 1 Jan; 3 Fabius 8 Jan; last Van Buren 22 Jan.

Snow Bunting: 150 Marshall 3 Jan; 220 Fabius 27 Jan; 400 SH 29 Jan;

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 RCFS 17 Dec & FH 3 Jan; Bville 10 Feb; only reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 34 Verona 1 Jan; 37 Dolge 7 Jan.

Fox Sparrow: SH 2 – 5 Jan, only report.

Song Sparrow: 3 SFNS 16 Dec – 10 Feb; max 5 Clay 15 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: SFNS 14 – 15 Dec; Dolge 21 Jan – 16 Feb; N Bridgewater (ONEI) 1-2 Jan; only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: 9 SFNS 14 Dec; max 13 OnonL 21 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: Hannibal 17 Dec;

max 3 DB 8 Jan; RCFS 18 Feb; 9 Feb Lafayette; only reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: 58 Mindenville 13 Dec; max 74 Dolge 12 Feb.

N. Cardinal: 16 Fayetteville 22 Jan; max 21 Elbridge 31 Jan.

INDIGO BUNTING: juv. Syr 30 Dec (via JB, ph).

E. Meadowlark: 2 DH 28 Feb, only report.

Red-winged Blackbird: 45 BLNC 5 Dec; max 3200 DH 21 Feb; 395 TR 25 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 Waterville 23 Feb, only report.

Com. Grackle: 360 BLNC 5 Dec (DN), high count for date; 100 Pennellville 23 Feb; 200 Memphis 24 Feb; max 470 TR 27 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 32 Bville 28 Dec; max 40 Elbridge 18 Feb.

Blackbird species: max 500 DH 25 Feb.

Purple Finch: 22 Salisbury 8 Dec; max 40 Forestport 17 Feb.

House Finch: max 46 Fayetteville 22 Jan; 35 Syr 22 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: 2 Camillus 27 Dec; max 12 New Woodstock 29 Dec; three other reports of singles.

Red Crossbill: first Gray (HERK) 28 Jan; 15 Forestport 17 Feb; 6 Atwell, ADK 17 Feb; 6 Ohio 17 Feb; max 9 Eagle Bay, ADK 18 Feb.

Pine Siskin: max 40 Nelson 14 Jan; 40 SH 18 Feb; 37 Cold Brook 18 Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: max 69 New Woodstock 29 Dec; 64 Forestport 17 Feb; 60 Dolge 20 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

House Sparrow: max 80 Syr 26 Dec; 60 Verona 1 Jan.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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It was another in a series of strange winters, this time brutally cold to start and ending with spring-like weather. December felt more like January or February, as most of Region 6 had mean temperatures for the month that ranged from 3° to more than 7°F colder than normal, and sub-zero temperatures were unusually

common for so early in the winter. January's temperatures were about average in the St. Lawrence Valley but 1-3° cooler than usual elsewhere, but the entire Region was at least 5° to more than 7° above normal for February. Areas east of Lake Ontario received above normal precipitation all three months for a seasonal surplus of 3-6" above normal, but the St. Lawrence Valley had about normal precipitation.

Very cold weather early in December led to rapid icing of most bodies of water, and as a result waterfowl numbers were generally low, and for some species very low. Were it not for a handful of species that lingered into the first few days of December the season's species tally would have been much lower, but sightings such as a Northern Shoveler at the Canton sewage ponds on 1 December and two Canvasbacks at Point Peninsula on 9 December added to a respectable species list. Similarly, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, and Red-necked Grebe all lingered into the first week of the season but weren't seen again. The southbound Snow Goose migration through Region 6 is becoming increasingly hard to figure out. This year very few Snow Geese passed through the Region before December, and very modest numbers came through during the first half of that month, but the large southbound movement that usually passes through the Region never materialized.

Late February saw a nearly exact repeat of a phenomenon that occurred one year previously, with temperatures soaring into the 60s and many short distance migrants arriving very early. For the second year in a row multiple American Woodcock arrived during this warm spell and were heard peenting during the last week of February, a month with no woodcock records prior to 2017. Snow Geese and many other waterfowl species, Turkey Vultures, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gulls, and blackbirds were among the birds that streamed into the Region during this warm weather, contributing to a very spring-like atmosphere to end the season.

Many birders visited northern Jefferson County this winter to look for raptors, resulting in larger than usual numbers of eBird reports for Rough-legged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk in particular. However, actual numbers of both hawk species were low, and in many places wintering hawks were unusually difficult to find. Northern Shrike numbers have seemed to be in decline for the past few years, but barely more than a dozen reports this season was an especially low total.

The most bizarre report of the season was of a **Purple Gallinule** that was picked up by the side of the road near Lowville in Lewis County on 25 January. There remains some mystery about this report, as it appeared in eBird complete with a photo of the bird, but information I received about who picked it up and the rehabilitator it went to have not proven to be accurate. Rumors that I am still seeking to confirm indicate that this gallinule was in good health and was eventually transported to Florida. But as far as I know, the gallinule was not seen in the wild by any birder.

It was an impressive year for winter irruptives generally, although some species were absent. On the negative side this was only the second winter in the past decade with no Bohemian Waxwing reports. On the other hand, Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins nested in good numbers in the Adirondacks, where White-winged Crossbills were also present but were more locally distributed. The former two species also apparently nested on Fort Drum and locally elsewhere. An Evening Grosbeak heard over the town of Colton on 17 February was the season's only report, and Pine Grosbeaks didn't come south this year either.

Many of the species typically described as "half-hardies" were present in lower than usual numbers, although the tally of such species for the season seemed about average. Present in generally low numbers were Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Song Sparrow, typically among the most common of the half-hardies during winter. Conditions in some places resulted in better numbers, for instance a large crop of red cedar berries at Stony Point in the town of Henderson provided food for many American Robins and "Myrtle" Warblers, among other species. Notable half-hardies included Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at three locations; at least four Red-headed Woodpeckers that successfully overwintered on Fort Drum thanks to abundant acorns; wintering Winter Wrens at Robert Wehle State Park and Kelsey Creek, the latter location also yielding the season's only Gray Catbird on 14 December; Chipping Sparrows from Adams and Colton; a Fox Sparrow at Jacques Cartier State Park on 2 January; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a Brownville feeder on 15 December; and a lingering Rusty Blackbird on Point Peninsula on 2 December.

For the season I received reports of 118 species, higher than the most recent 10-year average of 112 species and a pretty good total for a winter that started out so brutally cold. The clear choice for bird of the season based on rarity is Purple Gallinule, but no birders saw it as far as I am aware. Probably the high point of the season for many birders was the abundance of crossbills in the Adirondacks and adjacent areas. Otherwise it was a fairly uneventful winter throughout most of Region 6.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Installation; **FL** – Fisher’s Landing, T Alexandria; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PtPen** – Point Peninsula; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SH** – Sackett’s Harbor; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson; **ULLWMA** – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: small flight 1st half Dec; “fall” max 475 T Watertown 13 Dec; spring arr JEFF 24 Feb; spring max 2880 FD 28 Feb.

Mute Swan: max 79 FL 22 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: max 18 PtPen 21 Dec (ET).

Tundra Swan: max 370 PtPen 2 Dec; last CV 3 Jan.

Wood Duck: arr T Watertown 27 Feb.

Gadwall: max 3 CV 2 Dec, low.

Am. Wigeon: 3 reports 2-3 Dec then none until arr BRV & T Watertown 21 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 62 WHWMA 9 Dec.

Mallard: max 134 WHWMA 9 Dec, low.

N. Shoveler: CWF 1 Dec (JBo), only report.

N. Pintail: up to 7/day WHWMA thru 10 Dec then none until arr BRV & T Watertown 21 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: pr FD 4-16 Jan, only report until arr BRV 21 Feb.

Canvasback: 2 PtPen 9 Dec (CN), only report.

Redhead: max 325 FL 22 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: singles ULLWMA & WHWMA 1 Dec; 2 HP 10 Jan; only reports until arr LWMA 22 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 15 FL 20 Jan, low.

Lesser Scaup: max 14 WHWMA 1 Dec; last 2 SH 16 Dec.

White-winged Scoter: 13 reports 1-3 L Ontario & SLR

Long-tailed Duck: max 350 MP 10-17 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 76 PtPen 4 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: max 860 Chaumont Bay 2 Dec.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m FL 2 Jan (JBo) joined by f 16-22 Jan (NL); m & f PtPen 22 Jan (NL).

Hooded Merganser: max 105 T Lyme 11 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 235 Oak Pt T Hammond 22 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 82 BI 3 Dec.

Red-throated Loon: max 3 BRB 2 Dec; last BRB 4 Dec.

Com. Loon: max 6 SLR T Massena 2 Dec; last HP 27 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: T Alexandria 20 Dec (ML), only report.

Horned Grebe: 4 reports L Ontario shoreline 2 Dec, only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: last CCSP 9 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 7 CCSP 1 Dec; last T Alexandria 19 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: ULLWMA thru 15 Jan; last KC thru 2 Feb; only reports after 10 Dec.

Turkey Vulture: several reports between T Hounsfield & FD thru 29 Jan (GS, JBo), perhaps the same individual; arr T Watertown 28 Feb.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: Fish Creek WMA 4 Feb, only report between 11 Dec & arr 21 Feb.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 reports eBird.

Cooper’s Hawk: 19 reports eBird.

N. Goshawk: Lisbon Swamp 26 Dec; T Pinckney 21 Jan; FD 1 & 21 Feb; T Colton 18 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: T Canton 14 Jan (BD); T Philadelphia 9 Feb (JBo); rare but increasing in winter.

Red-tailed Hawk: fewer than usual.

Rough-legged Hawk: many reports 1-5/day NW JEFF & N-central STLA; numbers generally low.

PURPLE GALLINULE: picked up T Lowville roadside 25 Jan, *intro*.

Am. Coot: T Hounsfield 16 Dec (JBo), only report.

Killdeer: arr FD 28 Feb.

Am. Woodcock: FD 4 Dec (JB) & T Watertown 9 Dec (MR) late; arr T Dekalb 28 Feb would be record late were it not for similar arr 2017.

Ring-billed Gull: up to 12/day Lake Ontario shoreline thru; scarce elsewhere after 10 Dec until widespread arr 21-28 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 850 BI 3 Dec.

Iceland Gull: max 4 HP 7 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: PtPen 9 Dec (CN); several reports HP & BI thru 23 Dec (JB); only reports.

Glaucous Gull: max 29 HP 7 Jan, where last 21 Jan; no reports anywhere else R6.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 190 HP 3 Dec.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

E. Screech-Owl: 2 T Pinckney 23 Jan, only report.

Snowy Owl: 60+ individuals from open areas throughout; max up to 6/day NW JEFF.

Short-eared Owl: 2 T Henderson 9 Dec (NY), only report.

N. Saw-whet Owl: T Parishville & Long Pond T Piercefield 22 Feb, only reports.

Belted Kingfisher: KPSP 19 Dec; KC & ULLWMA 24 Dec; only reports until T Parishville 17 Feb.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 4 ad FD thru.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: RWSP 3 Dec (BB); T Lyme 10 Jan (BM); 2 StPt 15 Jan (JBo, photos!); more than usual.

N. Flicker: 16 reports mostly W JEFF and along SLR; max 3 RWSP 11 Jan.

Am. Kestrel: T Henderson 25 Jan, only report after 11 Dec.

Merlin: 12 reports.

Peregrine Falcon: T Lyme 2 Dec & CV 4 Dec, only reports away from T Watertown & RMSP where resident.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: only 13 reports; very low.

Horned Lark: max 220 Sand Road T Hammond 2 Jan; many fewer reports than usual.

Winter Wren: RWSP 3 Dec (BB); KC thru 21 Feb (RB); becoming annual in winter.

E. Bluebird: 5 reports; max 3 LWMA 24 Feb; low.

Am. Robin: max 130 StPt 15 Jan, where good numbers thru; low numbers throughout rest of R6.

Gray Catbird: KC 14 Dec (RB), only report.

N. Mockingbird: PilPt & T Hounsfield both 16 Dec (JBo), only reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: no reports for just 2nd winter since 2007.

Cedar Waxwing: max 36 StPt 15 Jan; generally scarce.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 4 reports of 1-2 each.

Snow Bunting: max 300 T Hammond 2 Jan & T Ellisburg 15 Jan.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 14 StPt 15 Jan (JBo); only other reports 2 WBSP 3 Dec (GS) & T Hounsfield 16 Dec (JBo).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: T Brownville 15 Dec (ET), rare in winter.

Chipping Sparrow: T Colton 1 Jan (JBa); T Adams 17 Jan (SW); becoming annual in winter.

Fox Sparrow: JCSP 2 Jan (JB, photos!), only report.

Song Sparrow: 13 reports, below average year.

Swamp Sparrow: 3 reports all N STLA more than average.

White-throated Sparrow: max 12 KC 1 Jan; about average.

Red-winged Blackbird: T Potsdam 13 Dec, only report until 1 T Massena 16 Feb; widespread arr 22 Feb thru.

Com. Grackle: T Clifton 1 Jan, only report until 18 Feb; widespread arr 24 Feb thru.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 110 T Waddington 1 Dec; 3 reports Jan & Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: PtPen 2 Dec, only report.

Purple Finch: scarce many locations but locally common Adirondacks & L Ontario shore.

Red Crossbill: widespread Adirondacks, Tug Hill, & Fort Drum.

White-winged Crossbill: max 8 Peavine Swamp 17 Feb; much less widespread than Red Crossbill.

Pine Siskin: abundant Adirondacks thru but spottily distributed at lower elevations.

Evening Grosbeak: T Colton 17 Feb, only report.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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With the exception of an extremely deep cold snap between 27 December and 15 January temperatures for the season were above normal. The monthly averages discussed below tend to smooth out this dip. The below-average temperatures at the end of November moderated through most of December only to move to extreme subzero readings. Negative twenties and even thirties were seen daily from the last days of the month into the middle of January. There was, however, a sharp rise in temperature on 11-12 January. In some places it was -30°F one day and raining heavily enough to wash out driveways the next. Temperature swings of up to 80° were noted. With this exception, high temperatures often failed to reach positive numbers. Overall December temperatures were 3° to 5° below normal in the St Lawrence and Champlain Valleys. In the Adirondacks they averaged 7° or more lower than normal. In the last half of January temperatures moderated enough that the monthly averages were only 3° below normal. This warming trend continued into February, where temperatures for the month averaged 5° to 7° above normal. It is interesting to note that feeder watchers reported many lingering sparrow species. Most notably White-throated and Fox Sparrows may have over-wintered. This warming would also have been a welcome and welcoming trend for the Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles, which returned the last two days of the month.

Precipitation (liquid equivalent) totals for December ranged from 4-5" the southwest corner of Hamilton Co. to 3-4" in the balance of Hamilton and the adjacent portion of Essex Co. and 2-3" in the remainder of Region 7. A heavy snow storm on 26 December dropped up to 20" in the Adirondacks a week after a heavy rain on 19 December. On the whole, January's cold didn't reduce precipitation. Totals in the mountains averaged nearly 5" while those in the Champlain Valley were somewhat lower at from 2-4". Up to 4" of snow was recorded on 3 January, but the big contributor was 4" of rain on 11 January. In February precipitation across the Region was close to 2" with only slight variation one way or the other. Snow falls of 9" on 7 February and 6" on 10 and 11 February in the Champlain Valley were significantly heavier in the Adirondacks.

The winter finch forecast proved accurate. As predicted, both crossbills and Pine Siskin were prevalent throughout the Adirondacks but less so in Clinton Co. Though expected to stay north, Purple Finch was present in good numbers. Common Redpoll (7 reports, 30 max), Hoary Redpoll (0 reports), Pine Grosbeak (4 reports, 2 max), and Evening Grosbeak (8 reports, 2 max), as predicted did not venture this far south in significant numbers.

Significant freezing of Lake Champlain began in mid December, early enough to adversely affect the number of waterfowl species observed on the Plattsburgh CBC. Notable misses included both scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Bufflehead. The three weeks of sub-zero deep freeze caused a complete ice-over from Rouses Point to Cumberland Head, and on the annual January Waterfowl Count also covered the limited open areas south to Ausable Point with an impenetrable blanket of “steam” from condensation in the super cold air. Only five species and 270 individuals were reported from northern Lake Champlain, while 1,617 individuals of fourteen species were reported from the southern end. Once again Lake Champlain did not freeze solid this winter. In recent years this has become the rule, where before it was the exception.

Region 7 CBC highlights include Ring-necked Pheasant from the NY side of the Ferrisburgh, VT count. The Elizabethtown CBC included Snow Goose, Gray Catbird, and eight White-throated Sparrows—a number indicative of the unusual numbers of lingering sparrows observed throughout Region 7. The Saranac Lake count had Rusty Blackbird for only the fourth time in 62 years and, rare for the count, Wilson’s Snipe, Fox Sparrow, and House Finch. The NY side of the Champlain Islands, VT count’s most notable bird was an E. Screech Owl. Plattsburgh’s CBC included Snowy Owl and Gyrfalcon detailed below.

The highlight of the season was a white phase GYRFALCON seen on 13 and 16-17 December at locations approximately four miles apart. Found on both occasions by women (ABd & TF) more interested in photography than birds, its presence was announced with both perched and in-flight photos. On 16 December Michael Burgess and Bill Krueger observed a brief talon-to-talon interaction between it and a Rough-legged Hawk.

SNOWY OWL was present throughout, with records from before 1 December and into March with one additional sighting in April. At least five individuals were seen from Crown Point to Rouses Point with a sixth in Saranac Lake, making this the biggest irruption since the winter of 2013-2014.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AH – Angier Hill Rd; **AP** – Ausable Pt campground; **APw** – Ausable Pt WMA; **BPW** – Beaver Pd Way; **BKT** – Beekmantown; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DR** – Deer Ri; **Del** – Delano Rd; **DRd** – Dudley Rd; **EC** – Essex Church Yard; **HB** – Hoisington Beach; **FC** – Fort Covington; **IN** – Inlet; **LA** – Lake Abanakee; **LC** – Lake Colby; **LR** – Limekiln Road; **LL** – Long L; **MT** – Majic Triangle; **MA** – Malone; **MR** – Maple Meadows; **MF** – Miner Farm; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; **NE** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NFR** – N. Farm Rd; **ON** – Onchiota; **PI** – Plattsburgh; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point au Roche; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **RR** – Reynolds Rd; **RB** – Riley Brook; **RW** – Rugar Woods; **StH** – St. Home; **SH** – St. Huberts; **SPM** – Sand Pd Marsh; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SRm** – Saranac Ri mouth; **SR** – Sawyer Rd; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **Ti** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper Lake; **WP** – Westport.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 3000 Pl 14 Dec (GCh); 2000 Pl 25 Feb (NO).
Cackling Goose: CH 3 Dec (BK).
Canada Goose: 65 PH 17 Dec (SR).
TUNDRA SWAN (R7): 3 PH 13 Dec (SR).
Wood Duck: CP 1 Dec (JP).
Gadwall: 11 CP 7 Dec (SR); AP 3 Feb (AB).
Am. Wigeon: 2 WP 2 Dec (J&PT).
Am. Black Duck: 300 SRm 1 Feb (SR).
Mallard: 1200 SRm 1 Feb (SR).
N. Pintail: HB 30 Dec (SR); SRm 1 Feb (SR).
Canvasback: PH 17 Dec (SR).
Redhead: 8 AP 3 Feb (BMc).
Ring-necked Duck: LA 9 Dec (MM); 14 WB 14 Jan (SR).
Greater Scaup: 9 WP 24 Feb (SR).
Lesser Scaup: PK 25 Jan (SR).
White-winged Scoter: 4 CP 7 Dec (SR).
Black Scoter: PL 7 Dec (BK).
Long-tailed Duck: TL 11 Dec (SR).
Bufflehead: 108 NP 4 Dec (SR); 26 CP 14 Jan (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 951 CP 14 Jan (SR).
Barrow’s Goldeneye: 3 WD 9 Dec (SR); CP 14 Jan (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 34 TL 11 Dec (SR).
Com. Merganser: 400 HB 30 Dec (JD).
Red-breasted Merganser: CH 3 Dec (BK).
Ring-necked Pheasant: AH 13 Dec (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: SC 17 Feb (JC).
Wild Turkey: 20 MA 21 Jan (AB).

Red-throated Loon: RP 3 Dec (GC); 2 WB 9 Jan (SR).

Com. Loon: CH 1 Dec (SJ).

Pied-billed Grebe: CP 7 Dec (SR).

Horned Grebe: 27 NP 4 Dec (SR); 15 CP 14 Jan (SR).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Double-crested Cormorant: CH 3 Dec (BK); 8 PH 17 Dec (SR).

Great Blue Heron: SB 19 Dec (SR).

Green Heron: 11 Dec, late.

Black Vulture: 2 Ti 28 Feb (SR).

Turkey Vulture: Ti 28 Feb (SR).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 LL 11 Dec (JC); 4 PH 17 Dec (SR).

N. Harrier: MR 17 Dec (EB, LL); BKT 4 Jan (SR).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: MA 13 Jan (JT); Ham 9 Feb (GL).

Cooper’s Hawk: MR 17 Dec (BMc, CP); CH 30 Jan (NO).

N. Goshawk: LL 18 Feb (JMc).

Red-shouldered Hawk: WD 26 Dec (MD, TH).

Red-tailed Hawk: 3 MA 21 Jan (AB).

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 MB 26 Dec (TH).

Am. Coot: 8 CP 7 Dec (SR).

Wilson’s Snipe: NE 1 Jan (LM).

Ring-billed Gull: 67 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Herring Gull: 18 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Iceland Gull: SRm 16 Dec (BK, SR); HB 30 Dec (SR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Jan

Glaucous Gull: WD 15 Dec (BMc); SRm 26 Dec (SR); HB 30 Dec (RB).

Great Black-backed Gull: 28 Pl 14 Dec (GCh).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Mourning Dove: 2 MA 13 Jan (JT).

E. Screech-Owl: PtR 17 Dec (ABl).

Great Horned Owl: MO 28 Feb (SR).

Snowy Owl: NFR 1 Dec (ABd); 2 MR 16 Feb (NO); irruption year, *intro*.

Barred Owl: IN 10 Feb (GL).

Short-eared Owl: CP 9 Dec (MC); SR 3 Feb (SR).

N. Saw-whet Owl: LC 15 Feb (ABl).

Belted Kingfisher: CH 20 Dec (BK); WP 24 Feb (SR).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 CP 7 Dec (SR).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: EC 21 Dec (SR).

Downy Woodpecker: LA 28 Feb (MM).

Hairy Woodpecker: LA 28 Feb (MM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 SC 17 Feb (JC).

N. Flicker: FC 21 Jan (AB).

Pileated Woodpecker: NP 4 Dec (SR).

Am. Kestrel: RB 14 Dec (BK).

Merlin: RR 31 Dec (TF, DR).

GYRFALCON (white morph): RB 13 Dec (TF); MR 16 Dec (ABd, BK, MB); MR 17 Dec (ABd); *intro*.

Peregrine Falcon: AR 16 Dec (SJ).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: Peru 17 Dec (LL).

Gray Jay: 10 LL 17 Feb (JC).

Blue Jay: 5 CP 7 Dec (SR).

Am. Crow: 750 MR 16 Dec (MB, BK).

Com. Raven: Essex 13 Dec (J&PT).

Horned Lark: 40 RR 14 Dec (BK); 120 MA 21 Jan (AB).

Black-capped Chickadee: 8 NP 4 Dec (SR).

Boreal Chickadee: 20+ SPM 22 Feb (JC).

Tufted Titmouse: MA 30 Dec (JS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: LL 9 Dec (JC).

White-breasted Nuthatch: 21 RR 17 Feb (SM).

Brown Creeper: LL 9 Dec (JC).

Winter Wren: MM 3 Jan (SR).

Carolina Wren: CH 8 Jan (NO).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: LL 9 Dec (JC).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CP 7 Dec (SR), rare in winter.

E. Bluebird: 5 AP 18 Feb (BB).

Am. Robin: 12 CH 8 Jan (NO).

N. Mockingbird: DRd 21 Dec (SR).

European Starling: 45 WP 17 Feb (J&PT).

Am. Pipit: 24 Dec, late.

Cedar Waxwing: 50 LL 22 Dec (JC).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 11 MA 21 Jan (AB); 2 NFR 10 Feb (BK).

Snow Bunting: 100 MR 16 Dec (ABd, MB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 MT 4 Dec (J&PT).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 21 RB 14 Dec (BK).

Savannah Sparrow: 5 17 Dec.

Chipping Sparrow: BR 21 Dec (GCh).

Fox Sparrow: SL 23 Dec - 1 Feb (AB); MM 15 Feb (SR).

Song Sparrow: BR 21 Dec (GCh).

White-throated Sparrow: SL thru (AB).

Dark-eyed Junco: 8 CH 17 Feb (NO); 42 Ham 31 Dec (GL).

N. Cardinal: 6 CH 18 Feb (NO).

Red-winged Blackbird: BR 21 Dec (GCh).

E. Meadowlark: Del 27 Dec (SR).

Rusty Blackbird: NE 30 Dec (BMc, JD).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 MA 21 Jan (AB).

House Finch: 10 LL 20 Jan (KM).

Purple Finch: 2 LR 17 Feb (GL).

Red Crossbill: 20 SPM 3 Dec (JC); 11 LR 17 Feb (GL).

White-winged Crossbill: 27 BR 21 Dec (SR).

Com. Redpoll: 4 ON 21 Jan (AB); BPW 16 Feb (MN).

Pine Siskin: 3 LR 24 Feb (GL); 20 ON 21 Jan (AB).

Evening Grosbeak: NE 21 Jan (JC).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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December 2017 was cold and dry. Temperatures were 3.7°F below average, and precipitation was one inch less than normal. There was a cold spell mid-month that began to freeze over major bodies of water, but the last six days of the year were frigid, averaging 18° below normal at Albany. Twelve inches of snow were recorded, mostly falling in small amounts, with snow depths of 3-4" at month's end. The first week of 2018 continued with the unrelenting cold conditions, 15° below normal and adding 5" of snow. The pendulum swung the other direction the following week, with the high temperature topping out at 63° on the 12th of January. Snow cover was absent for a few days mid-month, but a new storm brought 7" of snow to Albany. The last two weeks of January featured well-above normal temperatures, snow cover vanished, and the month ended up statistically near normal for both temperature and precipitation, despite the wild swings making up the numbers. February 2018 turned out much warmer and wetter than the long-term average, 6.5° above normal with about an inch more precipitation than usual. The last two weeks of the month were exceptionally mild, with a maximum of 73° on the 21st. 14" of snow fell during February, but at month's end the ground was bare once again.

The Regional trend of increasing numbers of unusual winter geese continued. On 6 December Rich Guthrie showed up at his location for the Winter Raptor Survey in Cossackie, Greene County and found a **Pink-footed Goose** among a flock of Canada Geese in some corn stubble. On 21 February, Naomi Lloyd discovered two **Ross's Geese** swimming among Canada Geese on the Hudson River near Fort Miller, Washington County. Finally, between 13 February and 28 February as many as three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from multiple locations between southern Rensselaer County and Ft. Miller in Washington County. It was not apparent if this represented one group of transient birds, or whether they were more widespread individuals. With the warm weather in the latter half of February, countless flocks of geese were seen overhead flying northward.

Waterfowl surveys were difficult after the big freeze in late December. For much of the next two months, there was very limited open water, and access to it, other than the traditional fast-moving water along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Reports seem to indicate lower numbers and diversity than normal, although things improved markedly at the end of February.

Winter raptor numbers offered a mixed bag. Northern Harrier was common throughout the Region, with as many as five individuals reported from a single location. Mid-winter reports of Golden Eagle were confined to Columbia and Washington Counties. Bald Eagle reports were common, with some high group

numbers later in winter. Rough-legged Hawk numbers seemed higher than in recent seasons, with as many as eight observed at the Ft. Edward grasslands in Washington County.

It was another Snowy Owl irruption year. First reports occurred in early December, with birds being reported areawide by the end of the month. As many as four Snowy Owls were observed at one time from Albany International Airport in early January. A **Long-eared Owl** was a bonus prize for two birders staking-out the **Harris's Sparrow** near Altamont in late February. Short-eared Owls were alarmingly absent from most of the Region and occurred in small numbers where they were seen.

Northern Shrike and Lapland Longspur were seen in typical numbers and locations.

A marsh location in Stuyvesant, Columbia County likely harbored a very rare instance of Virginia Rail overwintering away from the coast. Observers had detected a bird on the local CBC in December 2016, and did so again in December 2017, with two individuals responding to playback simultaneously. In early February 2018, one rail was still detected. As Bill Cook summarizes it for the Alan DeVoe BC publication, *The Warbler*, "Chris Franks, Drew Hopkins and Timothy O'Connor suggest that Virginia Rail may be overwintering in the mid-Hudson River Valley which has not previously been documented. They have monitored a bird or two in a marsh in Stuyvesant in late December and early February. They point out that in John Bull's *Birds of New York State* mention is made that records from the Rochester area in late winter through early spring indicate that overwintering may be successful in upstate New York. This species is still considered rare in upstate New York during the winter."

An unusual winter report of 39 American Coot came from Larry Hall in late January, from the East Branch of the Sacandaga River in northwestern Warren County.

Winter gull diversity was augmented by the presence of Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. As many as five Iceland Gulls, all first-cycle birds, were observed along the Mohawk River in the Cohoes-to-Crescent corridor. Glaucous Gull was harder to find, but up to three individuals were reported, including some observations from Montgomery County. A report of three Lesser Black-backed Gulls was received from Tom Schmidt, observing from the Fulton County landfill. A single adult bird was detected from time to time along the Mohawk-Hudson corridor.

American Kestrels were reported in low numbers throughout the winter, mainly from the agricultural areas of Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie, Saratoga, Washington, and Columbia Counties. Merlins were present as well, primarily along the Hudson River corridor and in the Mohawk Valley.

A **Harris's Sparrow** was discovered by Larry Alden on a morning walk near Altamont in Albany County as he participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count on 16 February. The sparrow was favoring a shrubby area adjacent to a

home with bird feeders, where it periodically foraged in the open. It lingered until at least the 24th of the month, allowing birders from across the state to observe this rarity.

Red Crossbills were much more abundant than usual during the winter of 2017-2018. Many of the reports were from northern Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties. A group of localized breeders continued to inhabit higher elevation forest land in Schoharie and Albany Counties, where the birds were photographed, recorded, and studied extensively. Matt Young from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology visited the flock in Burnt-Rossman Hills SF (Schoharie) and identified three type-calls (Types 1, 4, and 5) among those birds. The Rensselaerville SF (Albany) birds were identified as Type 1 (Appalachian). They were still present at the end of February.

Bob Yunick submitted his field notes for the Winter 2017-2018 period, from which I have excerpted some interesting observations below:

The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady, NY area: 1) feeder in my yard (yard) at Sch'dy; 2) my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (JL) at 1250 ft elevation near Corinth in northern Saratoga Co, NY.

The weather without doubt took top billing followed by the scarcity of birds. A polar vortex in Dec brought lasting intense cold creating thick ice on the Mohawk followed by a great thaw on 1/12/18 causing both a 17-mi ice jam to form upstream from Tribe's Hill to Sch'dy, and extremely rapid flows and high water east of Sch'dy to produce a record low count of waterfowl on the WFC, 1/14/18, due to the lack of open water and where open the excessive current. Only 255 waterfowl were counted, a record low; including only 2 Canada Geese, fast moving water does not seem to suit their golf course style.

The scarcity of birds at feeders that became apparent in Oct-Nov continued unabated in Dec-Feb especially at JL where the cone crop was the largest in decades. Five banding sessions there were disappointing as follows. In each instance I erected 2 ½ mist nets, one at each of three sunflower seed feeders.

Date	Hrs nets in place	Catch
12/18	2 hr 5 min	zero, and not a bird seen
1/19	2 hr 15 min	1 Blue Jay and 33 D-e Juncos
1/26	1 hr 20 min	zero, again not a bird seen
2/17	2 hr	1 Red-b Woodpecker and 1 Blk-c Chickadee (first banded since 2 in Jul!) and 2 repeat juncos from 1/19.
2/24	2 hr 15 min	zero, and not a bird seen

Normally these feeders would have chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches frequently if not constantly present. The last Red-breasted Nuthatch captured was in Jun and none has been seen since then. One White-breasted Nuthatch was heard on 2/17. In 49 years of year-round banding at this site, I have never experienced a winter like this. Chickadees are an irruptive species and in non-irruptive years at JL my catch has been 20-35 for the year running 7/1 to 6/30 the following year. In years of irruption, annual catches on that same Jul to Jun schedule could exceed 300 (best was 388 in 1980-81). This year's total of 3 imm. banded so far since 7/1 without a single return bird from a previous year is unprecedented.

The **Jan junco phenomenon** is also unprecedented and caused me to wonder if juncos stage intra-seasonal migrations. Prior to the juncos captured on 1/19, the previous captures were a juv. on 8/5/17 and prior to that a last spring migrant on 4/24/17. When I arrived at JL on 1/19, the snow on the ground was swarming with juncos; I banded 33 and there were still others not banded when I left. What was extraordinary beside their sudden appearance in those numbers was the extent of their **fat deposits**. First, their age/sex distribution was as follows.

Age/Sex	SY	ASY	Total
M	13	12	25
F	2	6	8
Total	15	18	33

Their fat class scores (range of 0, none to 3, bulging) were as follows:
 FC0 1; FC1 4; FC2 11; FC3 17.

Thirteen of these birds weighed over 25 g, the heaviest 29.2 g. Some of these heavy birds had difficulty flying. When flushed they flew low to the ground and only short distances. The following week on 1/26 I did not see a one. On 2/21 I caught 2 of those birds banded on 1/19, an SY/M and ASY/M carrying far less fat.

When banded	When recaptured	Change
ASY/M FC2 24.7g	FC1 18.3g	-6.4g or 25.9 %
SY/M FC3 26.5g	FC2 22.8g	-3.3g or 12.5 %

The questions remain: where did they come from and where did they go? The swarming of juncos at JL on 1/19 was not just a JL event. As I drove N from home in Sch'dy that day, at about half way as elevation began to increase I began seeing occasional groups of 1-3 juncos flush from the roadside. When I came to Corinth and began ascending West Mountain going from ~650ft to ~1400ft the number of flocks increased as did their size to 4-6 at a time. Prior to the arrival of these juncos, sunflower seed consumption was averaging below 10 g/day due to the scarcity of chickadees and nuthatches rising to 345 g/day when the juncos were present...

133 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2000 TR 14 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: max 3 Schodack RENS 26 Feb.
Mute Swan: max 4 Germantown COLU 7 Dec.
Wood Duck: arr Crescent Power Plant ALBA 17 Feb.
Gadwall: arr Corning Riverfront Pres ALBA 17 Feb.
Am. Wigeon: arr VFNHP 21 Feb.
N. Pintail: arr Cohoes-Crescent Rd. ALBA 20 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: arr Schaghticoke RENS 21 Feb.
Canvasback: max 6 Schoharie Crossing SHS 22 Feb.
Redhead: max 30 Johnsbury WARR 26 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Ft Miller WASH 21 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: max 251 Saratoga L SARA 14 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 210 Saratoga L SARA 19 Dec.
Com. Merganser: max 3000 TR 14 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 14 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 262 BCR 2 Dec.
Wild Turkey: max 90 Chatham COLU 21 Jan.
Horned Grebe: last Copake L COLU 11 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: last Saratoga L SARA 9 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: last Saratoga CBC SARA 14 Dec.
Black Vulture: max 76 Guilderland ALBA 16 Feb.
Turkey Vulture: arr Hudson COLU 17 Feb.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Golden Eagle: 6 reports COLU, RENS, MONT, WASH.
N. Harrier: max 5 Duanesburg SCHO 19 Dec; FtEG 3 Feb.
Bald Eagle: max 45 South Bay WASH 28 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 8 FtEG 16 Feb.
Virginia Rail: 2 nr Stuyvesant COLU 16 Dec.
Am. Coot: max 39 Johnsbury WARR 26 Jan.
Killdeer: arr Schodack RENS 27 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: arr Livingston COLU 27 Feb.
Ring-billed Gull: max 700 TR 14 Dec.
Herring Gull: max 800 Crescent Pk SARA 24 Jan.
Iceland Gull: max 6 Fultonville MONT 26 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 Fulton Co Landfill FULT 2 Feb.
Glaucous Gull: max 3 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 3 Jan.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 Crescent Pk SARA 24 Jan.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Snowy Owl: max 4 Albany Int Airport ALBA 3 Jan.

Long-eared Owl: nr Altamont ALBA 21 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: max 3 Minden MONT 17 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 8 reports areawide.

Horned Lark: max 350 T Northumberland SARA 8 Jan.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 24 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 24 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 3 Stockport Flats COLU 16 Dec.

E. Bluebird: max 25 Gansevoort SARA 17 Feb.

Gray Catbird: last Guilderland ALBA 28 Dec.

Am. Pipit: max 15 Livingston COLU 9 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing: max 94 AR 17 Dec.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: max 400 Ft Plain MONT 19 Feb.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 Stockport Flats COLU 16 Dec.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 35 Lions Pk SCHE 1 Dec.

Field Sparrow: last Stockport COLU 19 Dec.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 80 T Wright SCHO 2 Jan.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: nr Altamont ALBA 16-24 Feb (LA).

White-throated Sparrow: max 51 Claverack COLU 22 Dec.

Savannah Sparrow: max 9 Germantown COLU 10 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 21 Roeliff Jansen Pk COLU 28 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: last Minden MONT 25 Jan.

E. Towhee: last Schaghticoke RENS 30 Dec.

E. Meadowlark: Kinderhook COLU 27 Dec, only report.

Rusty Blackbird: max 11 Brunswick RENS 6 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: nr Guilderland ALBA 3 Nov, only report.

Red Crossbill: max 13 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 30 Jan.

Pine Siskin: max 29 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 29 Jan.

Am. Goldfinch: max 115 Spring Run Trail SARA 21 Jan.



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

No report was received for this season.

REGION 10 - MARINE

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Winter weather in Region 10 began with mild conditions. Birders enjoyed temperatures ranging as high as 60°F in earlier parts of December with temperature fluctuations of up to 50° persisting through 23 December. This, however, barely prepared us for the arctic-like conditions that would eventually envelop the Region for a brutal, fourteen-day stretch from 26 December through 8 January. While true temperatures never dipped below 0°, there were several consecutive days with wind chill factors dropping below -10° bringing forth severe conditions. The temperature never climbed above freezing during this memorable event and for the first time in many years the Great South Bay was completely frozen at its widest point where tiny pockets of open water hosted dense congregations of waterfowl. Despite the warm start of the season, the severe cold tipped the balance and bucked the warming trend, and temperatures averaged below normal in both December and January as recorded at Central Park and Islip's weather stations. February brought forth more mild conditions where temperature departures of +6.7° and +6.3° were recorded at Central Park and Islip's weather stations, respectively.

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	35.0°	37.5°	-2.5°	33.8°	35.6°	-1.8°
Jan	31.7°	32.6°	-0.9°	30.1°	30.6°	-0.5°
Feb	42.0°	35.3°	+6.7°	39.1°	32.8°	+6.3°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	2.21"	4.00"	-1.79"	2.12"	4.06"	-1.94"
Jan	2.18"	3.65"	-1.47"	3.74"	3.64"	+0.10"
Feb	5.83"	3.09"	+2.74"	6.21"	3.26"	+2.95"

The season opened with some exciting **Bonaparte's Gull** activity, something the Region has not experienced in a very long time, with huge numbers of birds feeding on lingering bait balls of anchovies off western Long Island's productive inlets and beach fronts. Four thousand individuals were estimated on 2 December from Jacob Riis Park and an additional three thousand

individuals recorded from Robert Moses State Park (RMSP) on the same date. Among the interesting birds found within these dense feeding frenzies were two **Parasitic Jaegers**, one seen from RMSP on 2 December and another at Jones Beach on 3 December, possibly the same individual patrolling the coastline and working the flocks of feeding gulls. The **Black-legged Kittiwake** high count of the season came on 5 December from RMSP with 10 individuals seen joining the Bonaparte's frenzy. Despite the large influx of Bonaparte's Gulls, only two **Black-headed Gulls** were recorded this season further arguing against the thought that large Bonaparte's Gull numbers result in more Black-headed Gulls and other uncommon two-cycle gull species. Conversely, we have seen greater numbers of Black-headed Gulls during recent winters where Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low. Two **Little Gulls** were discovered this winter, one of which was an adult found in the massive Bonaparte's Gull flock at Jacob Riis Park on 2 December. The second Little Gull record, also an adult, came from Montauk Point on 2 February and lingered about the area throughout the remainder of the season. The gull rarity highlights this winter were restricted to three **Mew Gulls**. The first two records came from Veterans Memorial Pier on 16 January and nearby Prospect Park on 20 January, a more traditional area in the Region where large flocks of Ring-billed Gulls gather and where Mew Gull has been detected consistently for the past decade. Finally, after a seventeen-year absence, a Mew Gull was discovered in Suffolk County. The bird was seen and photographed at Orient Point County Park on 10 February before it eventually flew north across the Long Island Sound towards Connecticut. The last Mew Gull record, outside of the New York Bay region, came from Shinnecock Inlet where a more reliable bird delighted observers for nearly a full month from January through February 2000.

There were several rarity highlights recorded throughout the Region this winter, but perhaps the most noteworthy bird was a **Graylag Goose** taken by a goose hunter in Mattituck on 30 January. While the specimen was not donated to the American Museum of Natural History's ornithology collection, feather and tissue samples were gathered and are slated for lab analysis. Existing images of the specimen pose an argument against domestic lineage, however physical identification attributes of Graylag Geese pose challenges and this topic has generated lively listserv discussions in recent years among neighboring states that have hosted interesting Graylag Geese. A full report will be submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee following analysis of the feather samples. Graylag Goose has been a much anticipated "next" goose species for the New York State Checklist, therefore acceptance of this record would constitute a state first and would be one of the few accepted records for the North American continent. Additional western palearctic geese recorded this winter were **Pink-footed Goose** and **Barnacle Goose**, annual visitors now but for the first time in years, the Region nearly missed the latter species. Fortunately, two Barnacle Geese were discovered at Gerry Park in Roslyn on 21 February, remaining only for a few hours. Careful photo analysis proved these to

be the same two individuals that were briefly spotted on Mill Pond in Sayville just prior to the season in late November. The Pink-footed Goose record came from Deep Hollow Ranch, a continuing bird from the fall season which remained in the Montauk Point vicinity throughout the duration of the winter season.

Most of the noteworthy waterfowl highlights came during and after the deep freeze when Region 10's beaches, harbors, and bays became the recipients of large numbers of birds fleeing their icy haunts of the north. The Great South Bay held massive rafts of mixed *Aythya* species largely dominated by **Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup**, as expected, with a high count of fifty thousand estimated from Heckscher State Park on 12 February. The amazing spectacle continued throughout much of the winter season and despite the enormous numbers of scaup only one **Tufted Duck** was found at Santapogue Creek in Babylon on 24 December. Santapogue Creek also hosted a **Ring-necked Duck X scaup sp.** hybrid, likely a returning individual from previous winters. Adding to the interesting *Aythya* hybrids found this season was an apparent **Redhead X Ring-necked Duck** that was found on Eastport Lake on 25 February. **Harlequin Ducks** were better represented this season than in recent, previous winters with a high count of sixteen recorded from Point Lookout on 20 January. In addition, a fascinating Harlequin Duck discovery took place at Shinnecock Inlet on 6 January where an immature male was photographed inside the inlet sporting a blue leg band with legible white characters "CI." The origins revealed that this individual was banded as a hatchling along Upper McDonald Creek at Glacier National Park in Montana on 29 August 2017. This resight is noteworthy in that it constitutes the first ever documented record of a "Pacific coast" Harlequin Duck migrating to the Atlantic coast. There is a previous record of a juvenile, first-fall Harlequin Duck, also with Montana origins, taken by a duck hunter on Lake Erie, Erie, Pennsylvania in the fall of 2015. Other than the Lake Erie record, there is no existing evidence that West Coast breeding populations make the long journey east across the continent to winter along the Atlantic coast.

Of the more puzzling avian mysteries of the season was the unprecedented arrival of **Purple Gallinules** immediately following the end of the deep freeze-out event. Region 10 received three records within a tight date range, 13-16 January, with an additional bird recovered much further north in Region 5 during the week of 22 January. Unfortunately, all three of the Region 10 Purple Gallinules perished in rehabilitation but the Region 5 bird was expected to make a full recovery. This begs the question as to why these extreme southern breeders would retreat to the cold north during the heart of winter. A possible explanation of this event was described by Farnsworth, et al. (2015), where they examined 77 occurrences of vagrant Purple Gallinules, using eBird data, during the months of November to February from 1957-2014, carefully comparing these records to climate data. They found that warmer, late summer temperatures in southern breeding areas correlated directly to these types of

vagrancy patterns. Their study also showed that drier conditions in eastern Mexico yielded similar relationships.

Additional rarity highlights include a well-documented **Hammond's Flycatcher** found in Central Park that carried over from the fall season through 12 December. Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** provided little viewing opportunity for Regional observers with a single bird being seen and photographed in under 90 seconds at a private residence in Kings County on 4 December. The second record came from a traditional location for this species, Jones Beach West End, but was only enjoyed by a small handful of observers on 13 December. After a six-year hiatus in the Region, a **Mountain Bluebird** was discovered on 17 December during the Captree CBC at Robert Moses State Park. The bird was found east of the Golf Course frequenting the junipers and associating with American Robins and a lone Baltimore Oriole. A **Townsend's Solitaire** found at Tiffany Creek Preserve in Oyster Bay on 20 December was the Region's third solitaire documented in 2017.

Fourteen species of warblers were detected this season, a likely product of the late fall and early December warmth. The most notable species included a **Yellow-throated Warbler** that lingered at Midland Beach in Richmond County through 2 January. Three **Northern Waterthrush** were detected this season, one seen sporadically in Central Park through 18 December, presumably a continuing individual from the fall season. Another was uncovered during the Montauk Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 16 December and for the second year in a row a Northern Waterthrush was found at Silver Lake Park in Queens on 30 December. The Montauk area hosted the first South Fork record of "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** that was initially discovered in Napeague on 2 December and was last seen during the Montauk CBC on 16 December. The most noteworthy warbler occurrence of the season came from the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center in Yaphank where a cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** was enjoyed by many birders through 7 December. This constitutes the first winter season record of Prothonotary Warbler in New York State. Despite the excellent warbler diversity **Ovenbird** numbers from city parks were low with only a few sightings from Central Park, likely of the same individual.

Ammodramus sparrows were nicely represented this season, the first being a **Grasshopper Sparrow** that was discovered during the Montauk CBC on 16 December at Hither Hills Campground. In addition, all three regularly occurring marsh specialists were found at productive saltmarsh sites in Suffolk County. A **Saltmarsh Sparrow** was flushed up out of the marsh at Oak Beach on 17 December during the Captree CBC. A **Nelson's Sparrow** and three **Seaside Sparrows** were found on 5 January along Dune Road exhibiting remarkable survivability during the most severe and prolonged freezeout conditions the Region has experienced in recent memory.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BLSP** – Belmont L SP, SUFF; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **BP** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BC** -

Bridge Creek, QUEE; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **BBP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **COR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection; RICH; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CMP** – Cow Meadow P, NASS; **CroP** – Crocheron P, QUEE; **DREQ** – Dune Rd E Quogue, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **GB** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GWC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HHCG** – Hither Hills Campground, SUFF; **HP** – Hook Pd, SUFF; **JRP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – Jones Beach West End, NASS; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **LRP** – Little Reed Pd, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; **MPB** – Marine Pk Brooklyn, KING; **MB** – Midland Beach, RICH; **MASH** – Mashomack Preserve, SUFF; **MI** – Mattituck Inlet, SUFF; **MP** – Montuak Pt, SUFF; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **OB** – Oak Beach, SUFF; **OPCP** – Orient Point County P, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RB** – Ransom Beach, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **SH** – Setauket Harbor, SUFF; **SLP** – Silver L P, NASS; **SFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Ed. Center, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SI** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt County P, SUFF; **SSNC** – South Shore Nature Center, SUFF; **TCP** – Tiffany Creek Preserve, NASS; **UF** – Uplands Farm Sanctuary, SUFF; **VMP** – Veterans Memorial Pier, KING.
 CBC Codes: **QWCC** – Quogue-Watermill.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 2000 JBWR 26 Feb (DG, SS).
Ross's Goose: BPP 1-15 Jan (mob); Wertheim NWR N to Yaphank 6-11 Jan (RO); 2 East Hampton 11-21 January (PD, mob); Riverhead 13 Jan (RV, SS); 2 Centerport 21 Jan (SM, KC, ph); BLS& vicinity 26 Jan-12 Feb (DF); 2 Riverhead 4 Feb (DHR); Riverhead 25 Feb (RA).
GRAYLAG GOOSE: Mattituck 30 Jan 2018 (ER, ph).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Centerport P thru (mob); Babylon thru 2 February (mob); Riverhead thru 19 Dec (mob); imm Cutchogue 9-10 Dec (JSp); APP 7-21 Jan (JR); imm Riverhead 13-21 Jan (DHR); Eastport L 26 Jan (KF, SF); HP 17 February (JGI).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Montauk thru; *intro*.
Brant: max 16,300 JBWR 16 Dec (DG).
Snow Goose x Brant (hybrid): Canarsie Pier 16 Dec – 26 Feb (PP, ph), apparent returning duo since 2012.

Barnacle Goose: Gerry P 21 Feb (Gary Strauss); *intro*.
Cackling Goose: Well represented with at least 51 inds thru Region; 1 BRON, 1 NEWY, 5 RICH, 1 KING, 7 NASS, 36 SUFF.
Tundra Swan: 2 Hook Pond 15 Dec (TWB, GB); 6 Hook Pond 11 Jan (KF, SF); 58 Breezy Point 24 Feb (PDO, LDe); 41 FBF 24 Feb (CF, STi); 100 Canarsie Pier 26 Feb (LEw); 25 JBWR 26 Feb (DG, SS, JGi, JL); 6 Bronx Zoo 26 Feb (TO).
Eurasian Wigeon: Eastport L thru 5 Jan (mob); Sayville thru 30 Jan (mob); Fort Solonga thru 18 Feb (mob); Southampton 17 December (SN, RV); MPB 14 Dec-13 Jan (JSal); Patchogue 21 Dec - 11 Jan (PB); CMB 7-25 Jan (TS); GB 27 Feb (SB).
Am. X Eurasian Wigeon: Bay Ridge Channel 13 Dec - 20 Feb (ABk, mob); PP 18 Feb (TG, SK).
Blue-winged Teal: JFKMWS 2 Dec (TH); JBWR 17 Dec (MG).
“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal: SC 7 Jan (PMo).

Redhead x Ring-necked Duck: Eastport L 24 Feb (JD); *intro*.

Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp.: SC 24-27 Dec (PMo, ph); *intro*.

Tufted Duck: SC 24-27 Dec (PMo, ph); *intro*.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: Large numbers reported throughout Region; max 50,000 HSP 12 Feb (SSM); *intro*.

King Eider: well reported at traditional locs; max 8 SI 10 Jan (MMcB).

Harlequin Duck: mostly from traditional locs; max 16 PL 20 Jan (GM, JR, PC, JMcM); one banded individual with Montana origins photographed at SI on 6 Jan (DHR, ph); *intro*.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Jamaica Bay 2-15 Dec (DG, mob); fem. RB 29-31 Dec (MMcB); OB 1-21 Jan (SSM, PJJ).

Red-necked Grebe: well reported.

Eared Grebe: OB 2 Dec thru 25 Feb (PMo, mob); PL 30 Dec (PR); SI 10 Jan (MMcB); PBP 27 Jan (MBn, Ph).

Am. White Pelican: 2 Flanders, SUFF 17 Dec (QWCC); Brightwaters, SUFF 2 Jan (KB, ph).

Great Egret: very few reps after January freeze.

Snowy Egret: BC 16 Dec (CF); BBYC 18 Dec (MMcB); Freeport 20 Dec (MSh).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: TMRP thru 6 Dec (BBo); SPP thru 9 Dec (mob); MP 2 Dec (John Cataldo); HLSP 14 Dec (JGi).

Clapper Rail: 2 OMNSA thru 20 Jan (MF); DREQ 5-14 Jan (MMcB, mob).

Virginia Rail: LRP 16 Dec (TS, TH); Port Washington 16 Dec (SP); 2 SSNC 17 Dec (ABk); West Sayville 17 Dec (MMcB); PNS 17 Dec (VC); Ludlow's Creek 1 Jan - 4 Feb (MM).

Com. Gallinule: PP 17-24 Dec (WP).

PURPLE GALLINULE: juv. Manorville 13 Jan (RBA); Rockville Centre 14 Jan (RBA); ad. Southampton 16 Jan (RBA, ph); *intro*.

Sandhill Crane: FBF 19 Dec (LEw).

Am. Oystercatcher: last Jones Inlet 17 Dec (MK); arr Jones Inlet 24 Feb (mob).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 Setauket Harbor 26 Dec - 3 Jan (PS).

"Western" Willet: JBWE 2 Dec (JGI).

Red Knot: max 12 PL 10 Dec (DL); last 10 Jan SI (MMcB).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5 SC 9 Dec thru 3 Jan (KF, SF, mob).

Parasitic Jaeger: RMSP 2 Dec (SSM, PJJ); JBWE 3 Dec (PP, TH); *intro*.

Dovekie: MP 4 Feb (SSM, PJJ, PMo).

Razorbill: max 216 MP 15 Jan (MMcB); also noteworthy 168 ind. SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB).

Black-legged Kittiwake: max 10 RMSP 5 Dec (KF, SF); *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: High counts; 4,000 JRP 2 Dec (DG); 3,000 2 Dec RMSP (SSM, PJJ); *intro*.

Black-headed Gull: ad. SH 28 Dec (PS); 1 CY KING, multiple locs, 9 Dec-18 Jan (ABK, mob); *intro*.

Little Gull: ad. JRP 2 Dec (DG); ad. Montauk 2 Feb thru (SSM, PJJ, mob); *intro*.

Glaucous Gull: 12+ reps from SUFF; 3 reps from QUEE.

Nelson's Gull (Herring x Glaucous Gull): several reps from SUFF; MI 11 Dec (BB, ph); SI 22 Dec (PRav, ph); BBYC 28 Dec (MMcB, ph); DREQ 1 Jan (KF, SF, ph); BBYC 14-19 Jan (MMcB, ph). Number of inds remains unclear.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull: BBYC 28-29 Dec (MMcB, ph); RB 11 Jan (MMcB, ph).

MEW GULL: VMP 16 Jan (SB, ph); PP 20 Jan (SS, ph); OPCP 10 February (AR, ph); *intro*.

Common Tern: JBWE 3 Dec (PP, TH).

Forster's Tern: SMSP 20 Jan (MB, ph).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Barn Owl: Reps from tradition locs at Gateway NP plus a single rep from RICH on 16 Dec.

Snowy Owl: irruption year; many reps throughout Region.

Long-eared Owl: no reps other than a deceased bird found in Southold on 7 Jan (JSp).

Short-eared Owl: reps from RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS & SUFF.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 13 reps, SUFF only.

Red-headed Woodpecker: GWC thru 13 Dec (mob); CP 7-13 Dec (AP); MASH 10 Jan (MSc).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: CP thru 12 Dec (LL, mob); *intro*.

E. Phoebe: Owls Head P KING 1 Dec (JG); Silver Lake P, RICH 3 Dec (HF); BZ 13 Dec - 2 Jan (TO); JBSP 13 Dec (JGi); Mill P, Setauket 14 Dec (LN); SUNY SB 15 Dec (MFu); Manhasset 16 Dec (SP); Manhasset 17

Dec (SP); Stony Brook 27 Dec (TS, SMu, EMu).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: private residence KING 4 Dec (DG, ph); JBWE 13 Dec (BA); *intro*.

White-eyed Vireo: BP 1 Dec (ABk); FBF 2 Dec (DG); Charles Mem P 6 Dec (RS).

Common Raven: widespread. max 34 Brookhaven 26 Dec (MMcB); also 30 SFED 1 Dec (PjL, SSM).

House Wren: JBWR 2-20 Dec (Tait Johansson); CRSP 3 Dec (MF); NYBG 4 Dec (NF); COR 5 Dec (ACi); PP 16 Dec (JK).

Marsh Wren: 11 reps SUFF; 2 reps QUEE.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: RMPS 17-26 Dec (PjL, PWC, mob); *intro*.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: TCP 20 Dec - 18 Jan (BBo, ph); *intro*.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: JBWE 3-7 Dec (TB, GB).

Ovenbird: CP thru 17 Dec; *intro*.

N. Waterthrush: CP thru 18 Dec; SLP 30 Dec (SSM); *intro*.

Prothonotary Warbler: SFEC thru 7 Dec (mob, ph); *intro*.

Orange-crowned Warbler: well reported throughout Region; 4 RICH, 5 BRON, 1 NEWY, 15 QUEE, 1 KING, 1 NASS, 14 SUFF.

Nashville Warbler: MB 1-2 Dec (CB); MPB 2-14 Dec (DG); 2 CP thru 3 Dec; CMB thru 4 Dec (TS).

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 Bryant P thru 15 Dec (mob); Herald Square P 1 Dec (JGl); HP 15 Dec (TWB, GB); LRP 16 Dec (TSt, TH).

N. Parula: CP thru 10 Dec; BP 1 Dec (ABk); CMP 2 Dec (TH); Kirk P, SUFF 2 Dec (LD, PA); JFKMWS 2 Dec (TH); Montauk 2 Dec (PA, LD).

Magnolia Warbler: CP thru 6 Dec (mob).

Palm Warbler: max 5 Nap 2 Dec (DHR).

Pine Warbler: Reps from all counties except NASS.

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED

WARBLER: Nap 2-16 Dec (DHR, ph); *intro*.

Yellow-throated Warbler: MB thru 2 Jan (mob); *intro*.

Wilson’s Warbler: CP thru 13 Dec (mob); CroP 7-12 Dec (ABk, mob); Carl Shurz P, NEWY 8 Dec (JG).

Yellow-breasted Chat: CroP 7-24 Dec (JR, mob); Westhampton 1-2 Jan (PMa).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: HHCG 16 Dec (MSc, LSc); *intro*.

Nelson’s Sparrow: DREQ 5 Jan (MMcB); *intro*.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: OB 17 Dec (BBo, TS); *intro*.

Seaside Sparrow: 3 DREQ 5 Jan (MMcB); *intro*.

Clay-colored Sparrow: SFED thru 20 Dec (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: SFED 15 Dec (KF, SF); Atlantic Beach 17 Dec (SA, CF).

WESTERN TANAGER: CroP thru 3 Jan (EM).

Rusty Blackbird: max 45 APP (BBeL).

Baltimore Oriole: KING private loc thru 26 Dec (DG); BBP 2 Dec (HW); Nap 2 Dec (DHR); PP 2 Dec (DP, PP, ST); BBP 2 Dec (HW); MPB 3 Dec (HL); RMSP 17-25 Dec (PjL, PWC); SUFF private loc 7 Jan (JD); NASS private loc 28 Jan (JGag).

Purple Finch: HSP 6 Dec (KF, SF).

Pine Siskin: 5 RICH, 14 NEWY, 1 QUEE, 4 SUFF.



CORRIGENDA

Please make note of the following corrections to errors in *The Kingbird*. These have been or will be corrected in the digital archive, accessible at nybirds.org.

KB 62.1 March 2012

p. 21 Title should be Highlights of the Season – Fall 2011

p. 72 In Contributors, spelling should be corrected to Hope Batcheller

KB 63.4 December 2013

p. 355 Second paragraph, first line, 6.9° should read 69°

KB 64.2 June 2014

On the inside front cover, the Officers term should be 2013-2014

KB 64.3 September 2014

p. 287 Under Flycatchers-Waxwings, CASSIN'S X EASTERN KINGBIRD should read WESTERN X EASTERN KINGBIRD

KB 65.4 December 2015

On the inside back cover, Publications Chair should read: Seth Ausubel—118-17 Union Tpke, Apt. 16B, Forest Hills, NY 11375

p. 343 Within first complete paragraph, line 11, remove “Ardith Bondi’s NOHA with moss in talons.” and in line 12-13 remove “Common Ravens”

pp. 351 and 352 The footer should read *The Kingbird* 2015 December; 65 (4)

KB 66.4 December 2016

p. 255 and p. 257 First column of the Tables (Family) should be Laridae, not Sternidae

p. 269 Kirtland’s Warbler account, last paragraph, line 4, change 167 to 432

KB 67.2 June 2017

p. 95 Waterfowl table: The columns were inadvertently formatted incorrectly, and some text and numbers were truncated as a result.

Species column – after Goldeneye, should read Com.

Region 3 total should read 137,129

Region 5 total - insert comma for consistency (27,021)

Region 10 total should read 134,116

KB 67.3 September 2017

p. 81 Contents page, spelling should be corrected to In Memoriam, Irv Cantor

KB 68.1 March 2018

p. 1 Contents page, spelling should be corrected to Unusual diurnal roosting behavior...

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

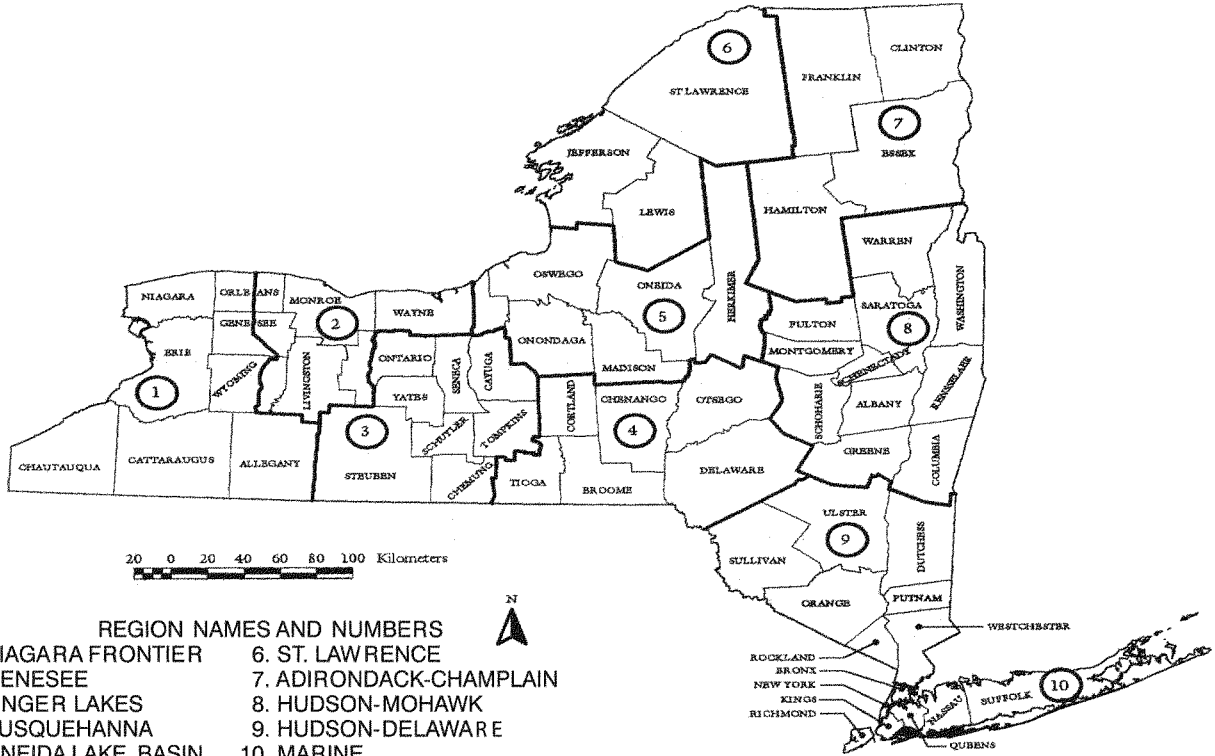
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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