

January 2018 Sightings Report

January continued December's cold for the first week, then jumped to well above normal, with snow melt, heavy rains, and ice jams leading to some flooding. This was followed by Arctic cold and more snowfall from the 12th to 18th. Then back to a longer stretch of cold and warmth through month's end. Temperatures averaged 25.0 °F, 0.3° above normal. Records were set both directions, with a record low high of 5° on the 5th, a record high low of 44° on the 11th followed by a record high of 60° on the 12th. Precipitation totaled 3.11", 0.70" above normal, with snowfall at 32.9", 4.7" above normal. But again distribution was uneven, with 2-3" of snow each day from January 4-6, heavy rain on the 11th & 12th, with flooding both east and west of Rochester, then cold and 12.8" of snow on the 13th. After that, < 1" of snow on any day until 6.7" on the 29th-30th. So, average overall, but riding a seesaw.

The annual NYSOA Waterfowl Count was again impacted by the waterfowl hunting season, snow, cold, and wind, resulting in one of the lowest totals in 30 years. Still, a decent variety of 29 species was recorded. For the month, generally waterbird numbers were low, though some lingering, relatively rare species kept birders searching, with King Eider, Harlequin Duck, female Barrow's Goldeneye, and Great Cormorant seen and documented photographically. Most puddle ducks, including Mallards, were scarce. We were back to only one Snow Goose report and no other rarer goose species other than two Cackling Geese on the 10th. Most birds moved out with the early freeze, and only low numbers returned to areas that opened later, often only briefly. Lake Ontario remained mostly open, with some shore ice and otherwise coverage varying with wind direction. Loons and grebes were very scarce, and Great Blue Heron was hard to find. Up to 9 Double-crested Cormorants plus an immature Great Cormorant lingered at the usual Newport Marina site on Irondequoit Bay until dropping off after mid-month.

Wintering raptors were generally scarce, yet we had high numbers of Bald Eagles at local sites, especially Irondequoit Bay and the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge complex, a rare immature Golden Eagle on Irondequoit Bay, a Red-shouldered Hawk at Burger Park, and good numbers of reports for Merlin and Peregrine Falcon for winter. American Kestrels, by contrast, were scarce. Only one Northern Goshawk was reported, in the Town of Gates. No Black Vulture was found, and Turkey Vultures were again scarce.

Again, there was a miss on the Mendon Ponds Virginia Rail, and no other rails were reported. American Coot numbers were again poor, with 24 on Irondequoit Bay the maximum. This month's only shorebird report was a lone Wilson's Snipe in the Town of Ogden on the 12th.

The only Bonaparte's Gulls reported were 5 on the 30th at West Port Bay in Wayne County. Interestingly, other than the usual wintering gulls, only a lone adult Little Gull at Sodus Bay on the 27th highlighted that part of the checklist. There were no more hours of searching for "Thayer's" Gull; or at least no reports.

There was only one report of Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Greenwell farm in Hamlin on January 3. Lots of Snowy Owls continued in the area, with over 125 distinct reports representing over 40 individuals at more than 26 locations across the region. Long-eared Owl is rarely reported in mid-winter, so a nice surprise was one found in the Town of Nunda. Again, Short-eared Owls were found in good numbers at many of the usual sites, with the Department of Environmental Conservation again running organized counts every 2 weeks. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found at 7 locations, above average for winter.

Much of the time wintering passerines seemed scarce, yet there were quite a few lingering half-hardy species. The fairly regular ones included Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Less common to rare were a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chipping Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. Among the potential irruptive species, Northern Shrikes were scattered about. Red-breasted Nuthatch was around, but only one tally over 10 was reported and only one Bohemian Waxwing at Hamlin Beach State Park. A nice rarity late in the month was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird on Huston Road in the Nations Road area. Wintering blackbirds were few, but a small mixed flock on King's Highway in Durand-Eastman Park provided some listers with some early ticks. Again this winter, the only winter finches were a few Purple Finches, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins scattered about. The forecast potential crossbill invasion has not yet reached our area.

As usual, a table with more detailed records will be posted to the RBA website. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Kate Adams, Janet Akin, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, Johnathan Blades, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Paul Carney, Chris Choate, Jill Church, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Deborah Dohne, Joe Fell, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Chris Goetz, James Goetz, John Gordinier, Shannon & Tessa Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Tristan Herwood, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Tom Kerr, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna

Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, N. McNeill, Jim Miles, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Thomas Mudd, Allen Nash, Rivka Noll, Dave Nutter, Dave O'Dell, Jay Ovsiovitch, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jon Podoliak, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Rosemary Reilly, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Kevin Rybczynski, Livia

Santana, Karl Schmidt, Zaphir Shamma, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joseph Stevenson, Summer Stratton, Kimberly Sucey, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Mary Jane Thomas, Tuck, Alison Van Keuren, John & Bonny VanDerMeid, Matthew Voelker, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Dave Wheeler, Joseph Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

January 2018

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Snow Goose	<u>max 11</u>	<u>21</u>	T Lyons, Wayne Co.	D.Dohne, D. Wheeler
Cackling Goose	2	<u>10</u>	T Caledonia, Livingston Co.	M. Wasilco
Canada Goose	<u>max 1200, low</u>	1	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. & S. Spahn
Canada Goose	<u>max 1200, low</u>	17	Eagle Cliff, Wayne Co.	J. Boettcher
Mute Swan	<u>max 207</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay - N	J. Boettcher, R. Spahn
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 18</u>	15	NMWMA (T. Savannah)	D. Tetlow
Wood Duck	1 m	<u>1F</u>	Hemlock Lake	R. & S. Spahn
Wood Duck	1	<u>8</u>	Van Lare WWTP	D. Tetlow,
Gadwall	<u>max 16</u>	<u>28</u>	Braddock Bay	B. Carlson, A. Guthrie
American Wigeon	1	<u>8F</u>	Van Lare WWTP	D. Tetlow
American Wigeon	1	<u>9</u>	Conesus Lake	K. Close
American Black Duck	<u>max 60, low</u>	1	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. & S. Spahn
Mallard	<u>max 197, low</u>	19	T Caledonia, Livingston Co.	M. Wasilco
Northern Shoveler	1	<u>2F</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	D. Tetlow
Northern Pintail	<u>3; 4</u>	<u>1; 2</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. & S. Spahn; D. Tetlow
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 11</u>	<u>2</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	D. Tetlow
Redhead	<u>max 450, low</u>	28	off Irondequoit	B. Carlson
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 150</u>	1	Hemlock Lake	R. & S. Spahn
Greater Scaup	<u>max 550, low</u>	21	Sodus Point	5 obs
<u>King Eider ph</u>	1 imm m	7F-10, 21, 28	off Irondequoit to Greece	T. Lenz, 15+ oth obs
<u>King Eider</u>	3 imm m+ 5 fem ↓ 1	9-12	mouth of Genesee River	G. Lawrence, 6+ oth obs
<u>King Eider ph</u>	1 imm m	27-29	Sodus Point	B. Purcell, 8+ oth obs
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 fem	1F	E. Manitou Rd. Overlook	Ji. Miles
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 fem	4	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	K. Schmidt, N. McNeill
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 68, low</u>	21	Sodus Point	5 obs
Long-tailed Duck	<u>850</u>	3	Rigney's Bluff	K. Griffith
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1500</u>	24	E. Manitou Rd. Overlook	R. Spahn
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 500</u>	20	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	T. Lenz
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye ph</u>	1 fem ph	1F, 14, 25-29	off E. Manitou + oth loc	K. Kartquist, P. Martin, mob
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 28, low</u>	9	Irondequoit Bay - Newport	R. Noll, L. Culbert
Common Merganser	<u>max 678</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay	J. Boettcher, R. Spahn
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 200, low</u>	1	Rigney's Bluff	L. Mattle, Ji. Miles

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Red-necked Grebe ph	1	9 <u>F</u> -23	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	K. Griffith, mob
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 9</u>	3	Irondequoit Bay - Newport	D. Sherony
<u>Great Cormorant ph</u>	<u>1 imm</u>	1-11, 17	Irondequoit Bay - Newport	mob, (from late Dec)
<u>Great Cormorant ph</u>	<u>1 imm</u>	19-28	Sodus Point	M. Gullo, mob, (likely same ind)
Great Blue Heron	<u>max 7</u>	<u>1</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. & S. Spahn
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 32</u>	29	T Riga	Bri. Morse
Bald Eagle	<u>350 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Bald Eagle	<u>max 28</u>	11	Irondequoit Bay	P. Martin, A. Patterson
Bald Eagle	<u>27</u>	19, 22	Irondequoit Bay	R. Spahn
Northern Goshawk	1	<u>3F</u>	nr West Gate Plaza, T Gates	L. Braband
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	1	1F-31	<u>Hogan Point, Greece</u>	D. Tetlow, mob
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	1	9-21	<u>5 loc, Livingston Co.</u>	K. Close, T. Bohling
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>~ 31 rep, 24 ind</u>	all month	17 loc	30+ obs
<u>Golden Eagle ph</u>	<u>1 imm</u>	all month	Irondequoit Bay	mob (continuing from Dec)
American Coot	<u>max 24, low</u>	10	Irondequoit Bay	B. Carlson
Wilson's Snipe	1	<u>12F</u>	T Ogden	D. Tetlow
Bonaparte's Gull	5	<u>30L</u>	West Port Bay, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
<u>Little Gull</u>	1	27F	Sodus Point.	B. Purcell
Ring-billed Gull	max 1600	20	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	B. Carlson, T. Herwood, C. Wood
Herring Gull	<u>max 2500</u>	20	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	B. Carlson
Herring Gull	<u>1,200</u>	27	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie
Iceland Gull	<u>max 9</u>	27	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie
Iceland Gull	<u>~ 31 rep, 43 ind</u>	1-27	18 loc	28+ obs
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>~ 11 rep, 10 ind</u>	7-28	7 loc	10+ obs
Glaucous Gull	<u>~ 22 rep, 26 ind</u>	2-27	16 loc	20+ obs
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 89</u>	23	Irondequoit Bay	4+ obs
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1	3	Hamlin (Greenwell Farm)	A. Guthrie
Snowy Owl	<u>max 5</u>	23	Rochester Intl. Airport	M. Tetlow
Snowy Owl	<u>~ 125 rep, 40+ ind</u>	all month	<u>26+ loc</u>	mob
Long-eared Owl	1	11	<u>Dalton Rd., T Nunda</u>	S. & T. Gordinier
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 9</u>	10; 14	Nations IBA	D. Sherony, M. Tetlow; C. Goetz
Short-eared Owl	<u>~ 42 rep, 24+ ind</u>	all month	12 loc	47+ obs
Belted Kingfisher	<u>total 10</u>	<u>1-27</u>	8 loc	23+ obs
Red-headed Woodpecker	<u>1-4</u>	<u>all month</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	mob
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	<u>12</u>	<u>Carlton T Park, Orleans Co.</u>	D. Bemont
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>1F-15</u>	T Gates	B. & B. Morse
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>2</u>	Beechwoods SP, Wayne Co.	J. Wood

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>4</u>	T. Ontario, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ph	1	<u>4</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>6, 13, 31</u>	T. Savannah	K. McCarthy
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>10</u>	Kimbark Rd., Monroe Co.	R. Noll
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>21</u>	Conesus Lake Inlet	K. Close
American Kestrel	<u>total 14, low</u>	all month	21 loc	24 obs
Merlin	<u>total 27</u>	all month	17 loc	sev
Peregrine Falcon	<u>max 3</u>	8	Irondequoit Bay - Newport	mob
Peregrine Falcon	<u>total 11</u>	all month	10 loc	mob
Northern Shrike	<u>total 21</u>	all month	17 loc	mob
Fish Crow	<u>max 19</u>	9	Northgate Plaza, Greece	D. Tetlow
Horned Lark	<u>max 200</u>	14	West Fork, T Hamlin	B. Carlson
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<u>max 16</u>	10	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Winter Wren	<u>total 12</u>	all month	11 loc	17+ obs
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>total 64</u>	all month	22+ loc	mob
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>20</u>	Flint Hill Cemetery, Monroe Co.	R. Stevens
Hermit Thrush	<u>3; 1</u>	<u>20; 21</u>	Webster Park	B. Carlson; M. Gullo, R. & S. Spahn
American Robin	<u>max 80, low</u>	10	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Gray Catbird	1	<u>3F</u>	Braddock Bay Park	R. & S. Spahn
Gray Catbird	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	Beechwoods SP, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Gray Catbird	1	<u>11</u>	Greece	D. Tetlow
Bohemian Waxwing	1	<u>10F</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 73, low</u>	15	South Conesus, Livingston Co.	K. Close
Lapland Longspur	<u>max 9, low</u>	1	T Kendall, Orleans Co.	D. Tetlow
Snow Bunting	<u>max 500</u>	14	Moscow Rd., T Hamlin	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<u>max 10</u>	<u>2</u>	Church Trail, Greece	G. Lawrence
Am. Tree Sparrow	<u>max 80, low</u>	8	Swaddling Rd., Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Chipping Sparrow	1	<u>9F</u>	T Lima, Livingston Co.	S. Stratton
Savannah Sparrow	2; 4; 6	<u>1; 11; 16</u>	Perry Rd., T Mount Morris	R. Stevens; D. Tetloe; D. Beattie
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>20F-21</u>	Ellison Park	L. Mattle, Ji. Miles
White-crowned Sparrow	<u>max 68</u>	1	Cook Rd., T Hamlin	A. Guthrie
White-throated Sparrow	<u>max 25</u>	25	Mendon Ponds Park	C. Goetz
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max 28, low</u>	7	Mendon Ponds Park	A. Garland
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 55, low</u>	27	Nations Rd. IBA	M. Gullo
<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird</u>	1 m	27	Huston Rd., Livingston Co.	Tuck
Rusty Blackbird	3; 2	<u>1F; 2</u>	Durand-Eastman Park	R. & S. Spahn
Rusty Blackbird	1	<u>16-18</u>	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Common Grackle	<u>max 50, low</u>	1	Durand-Eastman Park	R. & S. Spahn
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 450</u>	21	T Caledonia, Livingston Co.	B. Carlson
Common Redpoll	<u>60</u>	1, 11	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Common Redpoll	<u>max 64</u>	10	Hamlin Beach SP	M. Gullo
Pine Siskin	<u>max 37</u>	12	T. Canadice, Ontario Co.	K. Adams