

December 2016 Sightings Report

This year ended with a fairly typical winter month with cold winds and lake effect snows. Temperatures averaged 31.3°, 1.3° above normal. Precipitation at 2.91" was 0.28" above normal. Snowfall totaled 29.3", 7.5" above normal. The month started and ended on warm notes, with 11 days mid-month of below normal temperatures. Lake effect snows began after the passage of a strong cold front on the 8th and intensified with the arrival of an arctic air mass dumping about 10.6" of snow on the 15th to 16th. Another lake effect event fell near month's end, with the heaviest snows SW of Rochester.

Snowfall in the hills south of Rochester on the 17th hampered the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC, and all three local CBC's were plagued by high winds through most of their count days. Most of the region's ponds and bays were frozen by CBC time. Counts were all on the low side. Record highs were few, but included: Trumpeter Swan for Rochester and Tundra Swan for both Letchworth-Silver Lake and Rochester, Bald Eagle for all three counts, and American Crow for Letchworth-Silver Lake and American Robin for Conesus-Hemlock. New species for the counts were: Palm Warbler for Letchworth-Silver Lake, and Sandhill Crane (31 birds flying over!), and Rufous Hummingbird (which was banded and disappeared after a morning feeding on the 17th) in the count week for Rochester. Lingering half-hardy species seemed hard to find and were poorly represented on the CBC's, but were reported in relatively good numbers over the month.

The weak waterbird migration of most of this fall was mirrored in low numbers for most species on the CBC's. Four Ross's Geese at month's end, several King Eiders, and a very cooperative female Harlequin Duck were waterfowl highlights. The large numbers of Snow Geese of recent early winters did not appear. The male Barrow's Goldeneye found at Point Breeze for many winters was not reported by month's end. Loons and Grebes were very scarce. 55 Double-crested Cormorants on the Rochester CBC would likely rate mixed reviews.

Four Black Vultures lingered in Letchworth State Park and Bald Eagle reports were high. Otherwise raptor reports were relatively low. If we jump ahead and pull in the falcons here their numbers were closer to recent norms. Rough-legged Hawks were relatively scarce. Snowy Owls were reported from about 7 locations, picking up a bit toward month's end. The DEC's Short-eared Owl surveys were off to a modest start, with the December numbers possibly held down as much by fewer counters than lack of birds. Northern Saw-whet Owl in two locations in Rochester was surprising.

Purple Sandpiper was the only shorebird reported for the month and only briefly. Among the gulls, lingering Bonaparte's were few by month's end, and fairly typical early winter numbers of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous were reported.

Among the non-passerine land birds, the obvious highlight was the Rufous Hummingbird, (a hatch year

female), unfortunately at an inaccessible site. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported, and there were several lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers located. Eurasian Collared-Doves were sighted a few times at the usual site.

Rarer half-hardy passerines included: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, many Hermit Thrushes, 6 Gray Catbirds, Palm, Pine, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, 4 Eastern Towhees, Chipping, Savannah, and Fox Sparrows, the continuing "Pink-sided" Junco in Hamlin Beach State Park, 3 Eastern Meadowlarks, and Rusty Blackbirds at 3 sites. There were no reports of large blackbird flocks. Winter finches were represented by only a few reports of small numbers of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins.

Please send your reports by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	2016	2015	10-year Average (2006-2015)
Species for December	131	132	130.5
New for the year	0	0	1.6
Total for the year	291	287	292.9

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Margaret & Steven Abbott, Jim Adams, Choren Arkhipova, Derek Aspin, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Sue Barth, Douglas Bassett, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steven Benedict, Kevin Berend, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Justin Bower, Lynn Braband, Lia Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Robert Cicotta, Linda Clark-Benedict, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Peter Debes, William Deutsch, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Christopher & James Goetz, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Nick Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Monika Hermann, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, IBA Monitoring, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Tom Kerr, Christine Kerxhalli, Jim Kimball, Kathy & Max Kirsch, Augie Kramer, Elijah Kruger, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Bill Maier, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Chan Nam, Ann Nash, Dave Nutter, Sue O'Neill, Jay Ovsiovitch, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jon Podoliak, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Kevin Rybczynski, Michael Scheibel, Zaphir Shamma, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Joe Stevenson, Allan Strong, Kimberly Sucey, Jerry Sullivan, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Wanda Thistle, Sarah Toner,

ROCHESTER NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

DECEMBER 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Snow Goose	<u>1000</u>	5	Erie Canal, Wide Waters (Wayne Co.)	D. Mason-Spier
Snow Goose	<u>max 2000+</u>	31	Lakeville (Groveland Rd)	T. Bohling
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	4	28FF-31	N. Hamlin Rd	A. Guthrie, mob
Brant	1	<u>4; 13-16L</u>	Sodus Bay	W. & M. Rowley; J. Wing
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>6 rep, 4 ind</u>	3-24	4 loc	mob
Mute Swan	<u>max 162</u>	24	Irondequoit Bay - N	D. Daniels
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 60</u>	14	NMWMA (Armtage Rd., N side)	K. McGowan
Trumpeter Swan	<u>20</u>	21	<u>Irondequoit Bay - N</u>	R. Spahn
Tundra Swan	<u>max 125</u>	23	Conesus Lake	T. Lenz
Tundra Swan	<u>120</u>	10	<u>Braddock Bay</u>	K. Sucey
Wood Duck	1	<u>4</u>	ThomaCreek Wetlands	M. Gullo
Wood Duck	1	<u>18</u>	Seneca Park	L. Bergmeyer, N.Kachala
Gadwall	<u>max 50</u>	4	Round Pnd. (Greece)	J. Miles, L. Mattle
American Wigeon	<u>max 13</u>	4	Round Pnd. (Greece)	J. Miles, L. Mattle
American Black Duck	<u>max 100</u>	3	Conesus Lake	J. Kimball, RBA Field Trip
Northern Shoveler	<u>max 12</u>	<u>10</u>	Braddock Bay	K. Sucey
Northern Pintail	<u>max 7</u>	4	Round Pnd. (Greece)	J. Miles, L. Mattle
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 6</u>	3	off E. Manitou Rd.	7 obs
Redhead	<u>max 5208</u>	26	Conesus Lake, C-HCBC	J. Kimball
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 526</u>	29	Hemlock Lake Park	B. Howe
Greater Scaup	<u>max 175, low</u>	3	off E. Manitou Rd.	L. Bergmeyer, R. Buckert
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 120, low</u>	27	Ontario Beach area	J. McGowan
<u>King Eider</u>	<u>1 imm m, ph</u>	3-4	off E. Manitou Rd.	13 obs
<u>King Eider</u>	<u>1 imm m</u>	4; 23	of Manitou Beach Rd.	C. Nam; A. Kramer
<u>King Eider</u>	<u>1 f, 1 imm m, ph</u>	17-31	near mouth Genesee River	21 obs
<u>King Eider</u>	<u>1 imm m</u>	16-31	Pt. Breeze	D. Tetlow, 5 other obs
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 fem ph	1-29L	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	mob
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 44, low</u>	29	Pt. Breeze	K. Berend, G. Lawrence
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1279</u>	18	RCBC	sev
Bufflehead	<u>max 150</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay - S	N. Kachala
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 250</u>	18; 19	Irondequoit Bay; Braddock Bay	J. Collison, A. Garland
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 207</u>	18	RCBC	sev
Common Merganser	<u>max 180</u>	27	Sodus Bay	J. McGowan
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 330</u>	10	off E. Manitou Rd.	A. Guthrie, Bri. Morse
Ruddy Duck	<u>max 25</u>	3	Groveland Hill Rd. Pnd.	G. Lawrence, E.Gyllenhaal
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 12</u>	17	near Summerville Pier	A. Garland
Common Loon	<u>max 16</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay - S	N. Kachala
Horned Grebe	<u>max 20, low</u>	4	Bear Creek Harbor (Wayne Co.)	J. Wing
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 20</u>	10	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie, Bri. Morse
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 55</u>	18	RCBC	sev
<u>Black Vulture</u>	4	27	Letchworth SP Nature Center	E. Kruger
Bald Eagle	<u>80 rep, ~ 46 ind</u>	all month	many	mob
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>18 rep, ~ 21 ind</u>	all month	sev	sev
American Coot	<u>max 35, low</u>	27	Irondequoit Bay - N	J. McGowan
Sandhill Crane	<u>14</u>	4	<u>T Conesus, Livingston Co.</u>	A. Consler

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

DECEMBER 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Sandhill Crane	<u>70</u>	8	NMWMA (Olmstead Rd)	J. Wing
Sandhill Crane	<u>max 95</u>	10	NMWMA (Armitage Rd)	J. McGowan
Sandhill Crane	<u>2</u>	14	Honeoye Creek WMA over LaSalle Landing & Ellison	K. Kirsch
Sandhill Crane	<u>31, RCBC RH</u>	18	<u>P</u>	sev
Purple Sandpiper	1	<u>16L</u>	off Edgemere Dr.	Ji. Barry
Bonaparte's Gull	<u>max 300, low</u>	7	Irondequoit Bay - S	M. Gullo
Iceland Gull	<u>8 rep., ~ 17 ind</u>	3-30	sev	sev
Iceland Gull	<u>max 7</u>	23	Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga	Bri. Morse
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>14 rep., ~ 19 ind</u>	3-30	sev	sev
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>max 3</u>	23	Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga	Bri. Morse
Glaucous Gull	<u>11 rep., ~ 14 ind</u>	10-31	sev	sev
Glaucous Gull	<u>max 3</u>	23	Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga	Bri. Morse
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 23</u>	16	Lake Edwards, Perinton	D. Sherony
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	<u>2; 1</u>	4; 10	Hamlin (Greenwell farm)	Ji.Miles; A.Guthrie, Bri. Morse
E. Screech-Owl	<u>max 30</u>	18	Rochester CBC	sev
Snowy Owl	<u>17 rep., ~ 8 ind</u>	4-31	7 loc	sev
Short-eared Owl ph	<u>max 6</u>	17	Nations Rd. IBA, Little Rd.	W. Deutsch
Long-eared Owl	1	26	<u>Taylor Marsh, Ontario Co.</u>	D. Bassett
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	<u>13</u>	Manitou (Owl Woods)	E. Trouerbach
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	<u>18</u>	North Rush	N. Kachala
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1B	13B-19L	Greece	M. & S. Abbott, R. Yunick (B & rep)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>7-23</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>17</u>	West Port Bay, Wayne Co.	D. Bassett
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>26</u>	Mendon Ponds Park	C. & J. Goetz
American Kestrel	<u>total 23</u>	all month	20 loc	sev
Merlin	<u>total 20</u>	all month	19 loc	sev
Peregrine Falcon	<u>total 20</u>	all month	12 loc	sev
Northern Shrike	<u>8 rep, 8 ind</u>	all month	7 loc	sev
American Crow	<u>14800</u>	6	University of Rochester	E. Gyllenhaal
American Crow	<u>max 22,700</u>	18	Rochester	RCBC obs
Horned Lark	<u>max 468</u>	17	L-SL CBC	Silver Lake Sector obs
Winter Wren	<u>total 9</u>	<u>9-28</u>	6 loc	sev
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>19-20</u>	Braddock Bay - West Spit	A. Garland, M. Gullo
Hermit Thrush	<u>10 rep., ~ 12 ind</u>	all month	6 loc	sev
American Robin	<u>2150</u>	15	Jefferson Rd., Rochester	N. Kachala
American Robin	<u>3375</u>	18	RCBC	mob
American Robin	<u>max 485, CBC</u>			
American Robin	<u>RH</u>	26	C-HCBC	mob
Gray Catbird	<u>total 6</u>	<u>3-27</u>	6 loc	6 obs
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 150</u>	10	Webster Park	T. Lenz
Snow Bunting	<u>max 800+</u>	13	N. Hamlin Rd.	D. Sherony, M. Tetlow
Snow Bunting	<u>300</u>	13	Gloria Dr., Penfield	Ji. Miles
Snow Bunting	<u>max 500</u>	29	N. Hamlin Rd.	P. Martin
Snow Bunting	<u>375</u>	29	Roosevelt Highway, Kendall	K. Berend, G. Lawrence
Palm Warbler	1 video	<u>17</u>	L-SL CBC	C. & J. Barnhart
Pine Warbler	1	<u>4; 8</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	Ji. Miles; M. Gullo
Pine Warbler	1	<u>29</u>	Cook Rd., Hamlin	K. Berend, G. Lawrence
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	<u>21</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	J. Bower
Eastern Towhee	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>21</u>	T Nunda, Livingston Co.	C. Arkhipova

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)
DECEMBER 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>23</u>	Beechwoods SP, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>30-31</u>	T Clarkson, Monroe Co.	C. Kerxhalli
Chipping Sparrow	1	<u>24</u>	Bushnell's Basin	C. & H. Haller
Savannah Sparrow	max 6; 1	<u>20; 31</u>	Nations Rd. IBA near Little Rd.	R. Spahn; R. Buckert, N. Kachala
Savannah Sparrow	1	<u>20</u>	Priem Rd., Hamlin	M. Gullo
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>3</u>	Fairport	R. & G. Guenther
Fox Sparrow	2; 1	<u>7; 29</u>	Webster Park	R. & S. Spahn; Ji. Miles
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>8</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
<u>Drk-eyed "Pink-sided"</u>				
<u>Junco ph</u>	1	thru 23L	Hamlin Beach SP	mob
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 150, LOW</u>	3	N. Rush	N. Kachala
Eastern Meadowlark	2	<u>20</u>	Sand Rd, W. Bloomfield	W. Thistle, D. Aspin
Eastern Meadowlark	1	<u>26</u>	C-HCBC	B. Howe
Rusty Blackbird	1	<u>10</u>	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie, Bri. Morse
Rusty Blackbird	2	<u>16</u>	T Victor	B. Bermudez
Rusty Blackbird	1	<u>20</u>	Hemlock Lake - N	A. Consler
Common Grackle	<u>max 25, LOW</u>	3	N. Rush	N. Kachala
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 115, low</u>	22	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Common Redpoll	<u>max 15</u>	29	Cook Rd., Hamlin	K. Berend, G. Lawrence
Pine Siskin	<u>max 25</u>	27	Cook Rd., Hamlin	C. Marino

Rochester, NY Area Christmas Bird Count Summary 2016

Compiled by Bob Spahn

	Letchworth- Silver Lake Dec. 17, 2016	Rochester Dec. 18, 2016	Little Lakes Dec. 26, 2016	Total
Snow Goose			4	4
Cackling Goose	1		1	2
Canada Goose	7,467	2,652	4,352	14,471
Mute Swan		99		99
Trumpeter Swan		20	cw	20
Tundra Swan	67	75	114	256
Wood Duck		1		1
Gadwall	6		27	33
American Black Duck	49	57	180	286
Mallard	237	1,721	746	2,704
Northern Shoveler		cw	1	1
Northern Pintail			2	2
Green-winged Teal		1		1
Canvasback			7	7
Redhead	30	2	5,208	5,240
Ring-necked Duck	12		390	402
Greater Scaup		158	1	159
Lesser Scaup	15	43	37	95
King Eider		1		1
Harlequin Duck		1		1
Surf Scoter		2	cw	2
White-winged Scoter		19		19
Black Scoter		7		7
Long-tailed Duck		1,279	cw	1,279
Bufflehead	15	10	71	96
Common Goldeneye	45	105	166	316
Hooded Merganser	4	207	87	298
Common Merganser	155	90	27	272
Red-breasted Merganser		218	1	219
Ruddy Duck	22		10	32
Wild Turkey	26	20	19	65
Red-throated Loon		cw		cw
Common Loon		1	cw	1
Pied-billed Grebe		1	2	3
Horned Grebe			cw	cw
Double-crested Cormorant		57		57
Great Blue Heron	2	6	4	12
Turkey Vulture			18	18
Bald Eagle	5	10	12	27
Northern Harrier	4		14	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	4	4	11
Cooper's Hawk	10	2	5	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	1			1
Red-tailed Hawk	44	28	44	116
Rough-legged Hawk	3		4	7
American Coot		6	100	106
Sandhill Crane		31		31
Purple Sandpiper		cw		cw
Bonaparte's Gull	1	276		277

	Letchworth- Silver Lake	Rochester	Little Lakes	
	Dec. 17, 2016	Dec. 18, 2016	Dec. 26, 2016	Total
Ring-billed Gull	19	5352	152	5,523
Herring Gull	1	423	62	486
Iceland Gull		1		1
Lesser Black-backed Gull		2	1	3
Glaucous Gull		2		2
Great Black-backed Gull		62	1	63
Rock Pigeon	293	831	170	1,294
Mourning Dove	424	326	201	951
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	30	18	51
Great Horned Owl	2	3	3	8
Snowy Owl		cw		cw
Barred Owl	1			1
Long-eared Owl			1	1
Short-eared Owl	2		2	4
Rufous Hummingbird		cw		cw
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	1	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	56	98	40	194
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1			1
Downy Woodpecker	60	103	53	216
Hairy Woodpecker	24	37	16	77
Northern Flicker	17	9	21	47
Pileated Woodpecker	4	11	9	24
American Kestrel	1	2	8	11
Merlin	2	6		8
Peregrine Falcon		5		5
Blue Jay	134	98	188	420
American Crow	1,719	23,082	1051	25,852
Fish Crow		3		3
Common Raven	4		11	15
Horned Lark	515	2	41	558
Black-capped Chickadee	247	429	415	1,091
Tufted Titmouse	67	70	69	206
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	5	7	21
White-breasted Nuthatch	67	79	70	216
Brown Creeper	5	3	3	11
Winter Wren		6	1	7
Carolina Wren	1	3	2	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	2		16
Eastern Bluebird	25	2	78	105
Hermit Thrush		5		5
American Robin	374	3375	485	4,234
Gray Catbird		1		1
Northern Mockingbird	3	11	3	17
European Starling	2,823	3,787	15,298	21,908
Cedar Waxwing	15	193	47	255
Snow Bunting	109	2	380	491
Palm Warbler	1			1
American Tree Sparrow	184	95	115	394
Song Sparrow	13	18	22	53
Swamp Sparrow		5	5	10
White-throated Sparrow	42	66	23	131
White-crowned Sparrow	6		1	7

	Letchworth- Silver Lake	Rochester	Little Lakes	
	Dec. 17, 2016	Dec. 18, 2016	Dec. 26, 2016	Total
Dark-eyed (S-c) Junco	556	205	219	980
Northern Cardinal	117	236	103	456
Red-winged Blackbird		112	115	227
Eastern Meadowlark			1	1
Rusty Blackbird	3		cw	3
Common Grackle		1		1
Brown-headed Cowbird		cw	76	76
House Finch	38	204	65	307
Purple Finch		3	10	13
Pine Siskin	1	2		3
American Goldfinch	265	151	241	657
House Sparrow	516	1701	247	2,464
Total Individuals (count day)	17,009	48,473	31,809	97,291
Total species (count day)	70	86	79	108
Total species (including count week) (cw)	70	92	85	113
Bold number indicates new high or low count				