

January 2017 Sightings Report

It was a mild, flat month lacking in snow cover and with only a few periods of true winter. Temperatures averaged 31.4° F, 6.7° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.75", 0.34" above normal, with snowfall at 11.8", 16.4" below normal. The maximum one day snowfall was only 4.8" and that was on the 24th. The average on the ground was zero, and it only exceeded 1" on 4 days. A surprise with this seeming warmth was that most of the region's bays and ponds were largely frozen over most of the month. Any short dip in temperatures tended to ice over everything. The usual wintering pockets of waterfowl were hard to find, and numbers were low.

The annual NYSOA Waterfowl Count was impacted by the waterfowl hunting season extending through the aim weekend this year and fog blanketing much of the region on the next weekend. But even those who made it out under good counting conditions found most species low in numbers; even Mallards were scarce. The total this year was less than half of last year's, though still above the longer-term averages. But over half of the total birds were either Snow Geese or Canada Geese. Total geese have not exceeded ducks except for 2006, 2007, last year and this year. There were reports of a number of interesting species this month, including: Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider, and Harlequin Duck. For the first time in many years the Point Breeze Barrow's Goldeneye was not found. Loons and grebes were very scarce other than a very few good counts. Great Blue Heron was hard to find, and the usual late Double-crested Cormorants dropped off in numbers quickly.

Among the raptors, expected wintering species were found, but numbers were not high. This year numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and American Kestrels were a bit better. No Northern Goshawk and only one Red-shouldered Hawk were reported among the now scarcer species. No Black Vulture was found, and Turkey Vultures were the scarcest in many years. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers were good, but we had the sad event of the loss of one of our nesting Peregrines to an apparent car strike on the Irondequoit Bay Bridge. A cooperative Gyrfalcon just outside our region south of Seneca Falls attracted much attention from both local birders and long-distance travelers.

No rails were reported this month, and American Coot numbers remained poor, with the only good counts from Conesus Lake and Irondequoit Bay. The only shorebird report was a lone Dunlin at Braddock Bay on the 2nd.

The mid-month Bonaparte's Gulls' departure was back to the old norm, but the picture lacked the late December buildup and numbers into January that used to precede that sudden departure. Otherwise, among the gulls we had wintering numbers overall on the low side and a moderate number of the usual Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls of winter. One nice addition was an adult Thayer's Gull found off West Port Bay by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood.

A number of observers caught sight of one or more of the Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Greenwell farm in Hamlin

off and on through the first half of the month. There were lots of sightings of Snowy Owls, many along the Lake Ontario shore and areas nearby. As usual, it is hard to arrive at an accurate count due to moving birds. Again, Short-eared Owls were found in good numbers at many of the usual sites, with the DEC running organized counts every two weeks. There was also a lone report of a Northern Saw-whet Owl near Walworth in Wayne County. To start the half hardies, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in several locations, but the last report was on the 16th.

Much of the time out birding the roads and parks, wintering passerines seemed scarce. Yet quite a few lingering half-hardy species were reported, and some of these were in decent numbers. The fairly regular ones included Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and Rusty Blackbird. Less common to rare were an Eastern Phoebe, a Field Sparrow, and two Fox Sparrows. Among the potential irruptive species, Northern Shrikes were scattered about, but Red-breasted Nuthatch dropped to very few after the hopes in August, and only a lone Bohemian Waxwing was reported. Wintering blackbird reports did not indicate any large numbers in the region. Again this winter, the only winter finches were a few Purple Finches, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins scattered about.

As usual, a table with more detailed records will be posted to the RBA website.

Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds-l, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>10-year Average</u> <u>(2007-2016)</u>
Species for January	126	132	127.4

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Dennis Anderson, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Belmont, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Joe Brin, Lia Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Ty Carey, Brad Carlson, Paul Carney, Jill Church, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Kris Constable, Jonathan Dachenhaus, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Mark Denicke, Mark Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Andy Garland, Janis George, James Goetz, Nathan Goldberg, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Monika Herrmann, Paul Hess, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Tom Kerr, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Mary Magistro, Fran Mallard, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita

McKinney, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Matthew Nusstein, Dave O'Dell, Jay Ovsiovitich, A.J.Patterson, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Dave Prill, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Kevin Rybczynski, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Zaphir Shamma, Shirley

Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Jim Tarolli, Joseph Stevenson, Kimberly Sucusy, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Alexis Vanwinkle, Matthew Voelker, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Dave Wheeler, Joseph Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

January 2017

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Snow Goose	<u>max 3,000</u>	2	Nations Rd IBA	K. Close
Snow Goose	<u>2500</u>	15	Nations Rd IBA	J. Kimball, M. Wasilco
Snow Goose	<u>1300</u>	20	T Galen, Wayne Co.	D. O'Dell
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	4	1-2	N. Hamlin area	A. Guthrie; C. Wood
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1	20	Braddock Bay	M. Gullo
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	2	28	N. Wolcott	W. & M. Rowley
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>11 rep, 9 ind</u>	all month	7 loc	sev
Canada Goose	<u>max 10,000</u>	1	Conesus Lake	K. Close
Mute Swan	<u>max 109-111</u>	22	Braddock Bay	sev
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	<u>max 44</u>	19	NMWMA (Armitage Rd)	R. Spahn, T. Smith
Tundra Swan	<u>max 96</u>	19	NMWMA (Armitage Rd) NMWMA (Morgan Rd)	R. Spahn, T. Smith
Wood Duck	1	<u>29F</u>	Marshes)	D. Anderson, M. Voelker
Gadwall	<u>max 16</u>	<u>29</u>	Braddock Bay	G. Lawrence
American Wigeon	1	<u>15F</u>	Sandy Bottom Park	B. Howe
American Black Duck	<u>max 86, low</u>	15	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Mallard	<u>450</u>	9	<u>Market Place Dr, Henrietta</u>	N. Kachala
Mallard	<u>max 900</u>	15	Nations Rd area Conesus Lake; N Hamlin	M. Wasilco
Northern Pintail	2; 3	<u>1F</u>	fields	K. Close; Je. Barry, C. Wood
Green-winged Teal	1	<u>1F</u>	LaSalle Landing Park	I, Miles, L. Mattle
Canvasback	<u>max 35</u>	2	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Canvasback	<u>22; 15</u>	17;22	Braddock Bay	k. Dalton; T. Carey
Redhead	<u>max 2550</u>	22	Conesus Lake	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Redhead	<u>2,520</u>	28	Conesus Lake	Je. Barry, C. Wood
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 1022, ph</u>	16	Hemlock Lake - N e of Bear Creek, Wayne	B. Howe
Greater Scaup	<u>max 1000</u>	11	Co.	D. Sherony, M. Tetlow
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 99</u>	22	Conesus Lake Irondequoit Bay Outlet &	Je. Barry, C. Wood
<u>King Eider</u>	1 imm m	1F	to NE	A. Guthrie, Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
<u>King Eider</u>	1 imm m	1F	e of Pt. Breeze	D. Beattie
<u>King Eider</u>	1	1F	off Ontario Beach area	A. & A. Nash
<u>King Eider</u>	1 imm m	21	Sandbar Park, Webster	Je. Barry, C. Wood
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 fem	5F	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	M. Gullo
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 fem	9	w of Bear Creek Harbor	J. Wing
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 m	16	West Port Bay Pt.	W. & M. Rowley
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 218</u>	1	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	Je. Barry, C. Wood
Long-tailed Duck	<u>1200</u>	7	Greece (Rigney's Bluff)	K. Griffith
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1442</u>	16	off end E. Manitou Rd.	K. Griffith
Bufflehead	<u>max 40, low</u>	2	off Webster	N. Kachala
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 596</u>	15	IBO to Bear Creek	J. Boettcher, P. Carey, R. Spahn
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 53</u>	1	Irondequoit Bay - N	Je. Barry, C. Wood, B. Carlson,
Common Merganser	<u>max 57, low</u>	7	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 962</u>	22	Sodus Bay to Fairhaven	M. & J. Tetlow

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2017

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Ruddy Duck	<u>max 21</u>	15	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Ruffed Grouse	1	<u>14F</u>	Letchworth SP	M. Nusstein
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 8</u>	2	off Edgemere Dr., Greece Rigneys Bluff, IBO;	Je. Barry
Common Loon	<u>max 3</u>	1; 12; 26	Conesus L.	K. Griffith; Ji. Miles; K. Close
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>max 5</u>	1-20	Irondequoit Bay	sev
Horned Grebe	<u>max 15</u>	2	Pt. Breeze	S. Barth
Red-necked Grebe	<u>17</u>	2	off Edgemere Rd., Greece	Je. Barry
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 23</u>	2	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 29</u>	12	Irondequoit Bay	R. Spahn
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 16</u> <u>max 4 ad, 7,</u>	3F	T Lima, Livingston Co.	K. Close
Bald Eagle	<u>imm</u>	all month	Irondequoit Bay	sev K. Close; E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	1 <u>~ 23 rep, 22</u>	15; 28	Conesus Inlet WMA	Lawrence
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>ind</u>	all month	16 loc	sev
American Coot	<u>max 120, low</u>	1	Conesus Lake	K. Close
Dunlin	1	<u>2F</u>	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie
Bonaparte's Gull	2	<u>16L</u>	Sodus Pt.	J. Wing
Herring Gull	<u>max 1550</u>	2	Mill Seat Landfill, T Riga	Bri. Morse
Herring Gull	<u>1,400</u>	29	Buck Pond, Greece	G. Lawrence
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	1 ad	21F	West Port Bay Pt.	Je. Barry, C. Wood
Iceland Gull	<u>max 6</u> <u>~ 16 rep, 24</u>	18	Long Pond, Greece	G. Lawrence
Iceland Gull	<u>ind</u>	all month	10 loc	sev
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>max 6</u> <u>~ 12 rep, 22</u>	18	Long Pond, Greece	G. Lawrence
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>ind</u> <u>~ 10 rep, 7</u>	1-26	12 loc	sev
Glaucous Gull	<u>ind</u>	1-26	6 loc	sev
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1-3 <u>~ 58 rep, 22</u>	1-14	Hamlin (Greenwell Farm)	5 obs
Snowy Owl	<u>ind</u> <u>~ 20 rep, 20</u>	all month	<u>~ 13 loc</u>	mob
Short-eared Owl	<u>ind</u>	all month	7 loc Rt 441, T Walworth, Wayne Co.	mob
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	<u>18</u>	Co.	M. Gullo
Belted Kingfisher	<u>total 24</u>	<u>all month</u>	many Huston Rd., Nations Rd area	mob
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	<u>1F</u>		F. Mallard, <i>fide</i> J. Kimball
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>7F</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>9</u>	T. Ontario, Wayne Co. Rt 441, T Walworth, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>12</u>	Co.	M. Gullo
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>14</u>	Village of Scottsville	J. Powell
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>15-16</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
American Kestrel	<u>total 41</u> <u>~ 19 rep 19</u>	<u>all month</u>	many	mob
Merlin	<u>ind</u> <u>~ 16 rep 14</u>	2-27	17 loc	sev
Peregrine Falcon	<u>ind</u>	1-20	11 loc	sev
Eastern Phoebe	1 <u>~ 17 rep 14</u>	<u>22F</u>	Conesus Inlet WMA	C. Wood
Northern Shrike	<u>ind</u>	all month	13 loc	sev
American Crow	<u>max 2700</u>	19	SUNY Geneseo Campus	S. Burch, J. McCartney

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2017

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Fish Crow</u>	3	1	Webster Park	A. Garland
<u>Fish Crow</u>	2-6	1-14	Ontario Beach Park area	13 obs
<u>Fish Crow</u>	1	<u>16</u>	<u>Sandbar Park, Webster</u>	J. Dachenhaus
Horned Lark	<u>max 39, low</u>	29	North Hamlin Rd. fields	R. Buckert
Winter Wren	<u>max 3</u>	1F; 22	Hoffmann Rd., Irondequoit	K. Sucy; R. & S. Spahn
Winter Wren	<u>total 11</u>	1-22	9 loc	sev
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>total 11, low</u>	<u>1-20</u>	6 loc	7 obs
Hermit Thrush	<u>total ~ 4</u>	<u>1-20</u>	Durand-Eastman & WebsterPark	sev
American Robin	<u>max 450</u>	<u>14</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Gray Catbird	1	<u>15F</u>	Webster Park	T. Lenz
American Pipit	1	<u>2F</u>	Burger Park, Greece Sandy Bottom Park,	C. Wood
American Pipit	1	<u>15</u>	Honeoye	B. Howe
American Pipit	1	<u>22</u>	Nations Rd. IBA-N, T Avon	Je. Barry, C. Wood
American Pipit	7	<u>26</u>	Groveland Flats, Livingston Co.	K. Close
Bohemian Waxwing	1	<u>14F</u>	East Bay Rd., T Wolcott	W. & M. Rowley
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 40, low</u>	15	Webster Park Hamlin - Jacobs Rd & N	T. Lenz
Lapland Longspur	1, scarce	1; 20	Hamlin Rd	A. Guthrie, K. Sucy
Snow Bunting	<u>max 150</u>	1	Summerville Pier	G. Ford
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	<u>1F</u>	Durand-Eastman Park	Je. Barry, C. Wood
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>1F</u>	Cook Rd., Hamlin	Je. Barry, C. Wood
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>13-23</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
Am. Tree Sparrow	<u>max 50, low</u>	12	Beatty Pt., Greece Nations Rd. IBA, T	J. Dachenhaus
Field Sparrow	1	<u>22F</u>	Geneseo	Je. Barry, C. Wood
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>5F</u>	Mendon Ponds Park	P. Martin
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>15</u>	Webster Park Nations Rd. IBA-N, T	T. Lenz
White-crowned Sparrow	<u>max 14, low</u>	20	Avon	M. Wasilco
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max 38, low</u>	<u>9</u>	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 100, low</u>	31	Woodbrooke Rd., T Victor	B. Bermudez
Rusty Blackbird	5	<u>2F</u>	Braddock Bay	C. Wood
Common Grackle	<u>max 90, low</u>	5	Woodbrooke Rd., T Victor Lima-Livonia Town Line	B. Bermudez
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 170, low</u>	26	Rd.	G. Lawrence, E. Gyllenhaal
Common Redpoll	<u>max 12</u>	14	Hamlin Beach SP	L. Mattle, Ji. Miles
Pine Siskin	<u>max 65</u>	4	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie