

## February 2019 Sightings Report

February was a warm and windy ride. After notching its coldest temperature of 0 °F on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, the mercury rose to 63° on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Days were evenly split between above and below-average temperatures; the month overall averaged 2.3° above normal at 28.7°, with 2 high temperature and one high-minimum temperature records being set. Precipitation totaled 2.91 inches, 0.96" above normal. Half of the precipitation fell as rain, and several of the larger precipitation events were a wintery mix of rain and sleet. Even with a new snowfall record of 6.5" on the 27<sup>th</sup>, snowfall of 19.2" ended up 2.3" below normal. Four major wind events swept through the area. A cold front following on the heels of 60° temperatures on the 8<sup>th</sup> saw winds of 60mph. Weaker events followed on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, and on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The most serious storm took place on the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, with wind gusts reaching 66mph. Overall, there were 4 days with wind gusts over 50mph.

This year there were few hints of early spring movement. Most of the bays, ponds, and even streams remained mostly to totally frozen through month's end. You will see only a couple of FS notations for waterfowl in the Noteworthy table. Open patches in the bays were at times covered with the waterfowl remaining for the winter, but they were joined by very few new arrivals. Even Lake Ontario was covered with ice to well offshore any time the wind blew from the north for an extended time. Still, all the expected waterbirds were found, including Barrow's Goldeneye at both Point Breeze and Sodus Bay and a nice flock of Greater White-fronted Geese at Point Breeze just outside our region in the creek channel. Peak counts remained low.

There were no shorebird reports for the season. Even the gull picture was lackluster, with lower than typical numbers of the usual winter gulls reported and no real rarities.

The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch began just after month's end, with David Brown as this year's official counter. There were no official records for this month. Raptor reports remained low for the month, excepting a good number of Bald Eagle reports. A lone Black Vulture over Rochester and a Red-shouldered Hawk in Webster Park were the most noteworthy for the season. Among the owls, the noteworthy were only about 7 Snowy Owls reported; the usual Short-eared Owl surveys were both cancelled by bad weather, though a good peak number of 16 was tallied at Nations Road by birders; and both Long-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl were off to an early start in the Owl Woods area. The regular falcons were all well reported through the season.

Among the other non-passerine land birds, there were no reports of Eurasian Collared Dove, and the only other items of note were the continuing Red-headed Woodpeckers in Durand-Eastman Park and at least five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers surviving the winter.

Given the deep cold snaps and periods of heavy snow, a lack of large counts of passerines is no surprise, but there were a good number of half-hardy species continuing through this month, some in good numbers. Species reported included: Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow,

surprisingly good numbers of White-crowned and White-throated sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark, and Pine Warbler. Among the usual irruptives, there were decent numbers of reports for Northern Shrike, but little else other than a lone Bohemian Waxwing. Winter finches were represented by a few reports of Evening Grosbeak, a single report for Pine Grosbeak, and some good numbers of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Blackbird numbers were poor.

The Great Backyard Bird Count pushed the number of observers contributing to eBird records to over 300 this month, most typically not reporting otherwise, but the total number of records in the data download for the region was just 20,200, a typical number for this month.

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

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009- 2018)
Species for February	125	128	116.0
New for the year	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5.7</u>
Total for the year to date	135	140	132.0

### *Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Joe Brin, Robert David Brown (BBRR hawkwatcher), Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Nancy Casper, Robert Cicotta, Jared Clark, Tiffany Clay, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Rich DeCoster, Deborah Dohne, Beth Duncan, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Janis George, Jessica George, John, Karls, & Shannon, Gordinier, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert Haggett, Helen & Chris Haller, M. & M. Hanna, Kim Hartquist, L. Hayward, Christina Hoh, Jennalee Holzschuh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Suzanne James, Nicholas Kachala, Logan Kahle, Amy Kahn, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Augie Kramer, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Deborah McKaig, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Chan Nam, Tom Nash, Dave Nicosia, Rivka Noll, Dave Odell, Jay Ovsiovitich, Andrea Patterson, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Sue Rawleigh, Rochester Young Birders Club, Rosemary Reilly, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jackie Salisbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Nancy Snyder, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Kimberly Sucey, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Sarah Toner, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Matt Voelker, Brad Walker, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Richard Weilacher, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

February 2019

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Snow Goose	<u>max 125</u>	8	NMWMA (Armitage Rd)	L.Clark-Benedict, S. Benedict
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	2	14	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	K. Griffith
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	1	16	King's Bend Park, Pittsford	R. Weilacher
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	1	20	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	M. Gullo
Canada Goose	<u>max 2110</u>	10	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	L. Kahle
Mute Swan	<u>max 242</u>	2	Irondequoit Bay Outlet area	G. Ford
Mute Swan	<u>75</u>	7	Sodus Point	M. Gullo
Trumpeter Swan	4	4-22	<u>Irondequoit Bay, sev loc</u>	mob
Wood Duck	1	<u>2</u>	Caledonia	D. Tetlow
Wood Duck	1	<u>10</u>	Bear Creek, T Williamson	L. Kahle
N. Shoveler	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	J. George, S. James, R. Reilly
Gadwall	14	<u>14FS</u>	Braddock Bay	G. Lawrence, R. Cicotta
Gadwall	<u>max 30</u>	15	Braddock Bay	M. Gullo
Mallard	<u>max 300</u>	19	Seneca Park	L. Bergmeyer
Am. Black Duck	<u>max 28, low</u>	23	Braddock Bay	P. Martin
N. Pintail	11; 31	<u>10FS</u>	IBO; NMWMA (Sandhill Crane U.)	Ji. Miles; L. Kahle
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 8</u>	<u>2; 23</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	D. Tetlow; R. Stevens
Canvasback	<u>max 150</u>	23	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Redhead	<u>max 600, low</u>	3	Sodus Point	L. Kahle, A. Kramer, S. Toner
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 25, low</u>	26	Conesus Lake	J. Gordinier, S. Gordinier
Greater Scaup	<u>max 1500</u>	23	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 150</u>	23	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 250</u>	23	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Long-tailed Duck	<u>1000</u>	23	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1800</u>	24	Genesee River mouth	R. Spahn
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 200</u>	16	Irondequoit Bay - North	G. Ford
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye ph</u>	1 m ph	1-20	Pt. Breeze	mob
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye ph</u>	1 f ph	8-28	Sodus Point	J. Wing, mob
Common Merganser	<u>max 2000</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay - North	P. Martin
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 300</u>	23	Sodus Point	T. Lenz
Wild Turkey	<u>max 45</u>	24	T. Rush	S. Rawleigh
Red-necked Grebe	1	<u>2</u>	off Durand-Eastman Park	Bri. Morse
Red-necked Grebe	1	<u>10</u>	Sodus Bay	L. Kahle
Bonaparte's Gull	1	<u>3</u>	IBO	5 obs
Bonaparte's Gull	1	<u>23</u>	Irondequoit Bay	R. Reilly
Herring Gull	<u>max 1700</u>	17	Braddock Bay	Bri. Morse
Iceland Gull	<u>22 rep, ~25 ind</u>	all month	7 loc	26+ obs
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>10 rep, ~8 ind</u>	4-24	3 loc	13+ obs
Glaucous Gull	<u>7 rep, ~6 ind</u>	2-23	4 loc	15+ obs
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 63</u>	7	Irondequoit Bay	G. Lawrence
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 6</u>	<u>22</u>	Sodus Point	D. Wheeler, D. Dohne
Double-crested Cormorant	1	<u>5</u>	Irondequoit Bay	P. Martin, D. Tetlow
<u>Black Vulture</u>	1	<u>21</u>	Rochester	A. Garland
Bald Eagle	<u>227 eBird lines</u>	all month	many	mob
Bald Eagle	<u>max 14</u>	23; 28	Irondequoit Bay	S. Gracewski; R. Spahn
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	<u>7</u>	<u>Webster Park</u>	D. Tetlow
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>~19 rep, 20 ind</u>	all month	14 loc	19+ obs
Snowy Owl	<u>total 7</u>	5-20	6 loc	6+ obs

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

February 2018

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Long-eared Owl	1	<u>16</u>	Manitou, Owl Woods	J. Adams
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 16</u>	1	Nations Rd. IBA	G. Lawrence, L. Hayward
N. Saw-whet Owl	<u>11 rep</u>	<u>all month</u>	Manitou, Owl Woods	mob
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-4	<u>all month</u>	<u>Durand-Eastman Park</u>	mob
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u>total 5</u>	<u>3-20</u>	5 loc	5 obs
American Kestrel	<u>21 rep, 10 ind</u>	all month	16 loc	21 obs
Merlin	<u>17 rep, 17 ind</u>	2-23	15 loc	24 obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>20 rep, 20 ind</u>	all month	16 loc	20 obs
Northern Shrike	<u>26 rep, 14 ind</u>	all month	15 loc	mob
Fish Crow	<u>max 6</u>	1	<u>Dewey Ave., T Greece</u>	D. Tetlow
Horned Lark	<u>max 75, low</u>	10	Hamlin	A. Gurhrie
Winter Wren	<u>total ~9</u>	<u>2-24</u>	8 loc	12+ obs
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>4</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Eastern Bluebird	16	<u>2</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	D. Tetlow
Hermit Thrush	1	<u>2</u>	Beatty Pt., T. Greece	J. Clark, Je. George
Hermit Thrush	1	<u>3</u>	Manitou, Owl Woods	A. Guthrie
Hermit Thrush	<u>max 5; 1</u>	<u>7; 20</u>	Webster Park	D. Tetlow; Ji. Miles
American Robin	<u>max 250</u>	11	Beechwood SP, Wayne County	M. Gullo
Gray Catbird	1	<u>20</u>	e of Fairport, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Bohemian Waxwing	1	<u>4</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 105</u>	3	T Nunda, Livingston Co.	J. & S. Gordinier
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	6-5	1-2	Penfield	D. Ross, 40th obs
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	1	1	Marion, Wayne Co.	D. McKaig
<u>Pine Grosbeak</u>	4	4	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Common Redpoll	<u>max 60</u>	1	T. Williamson, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Lapland Longspur	<u>max 12, low</u>	15	T. West Sparta, Livingston Co.	D. Tetlow
Snow Bunting	<u>300</u>	14	T. Avon,	C. Giles, T. Bohling
Snow Bunting	<u>max 560</u>	18	Lakeshore Rd., Orleans Co.	K. Griffith
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>2</u>	Cook & Redman Rds., T. Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>18</u>	Shaker Heights, Sodus Bay area	N. Snyder
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>20</u>	Palmyra, Wayne Co.	T. Clay
American Tree Sparrow	<u>max 60</u>	2	T. Riga, Monroe Co.	D. Tetlow
Chipping Sparrow	1	<u>13</u>	T Victor, Ontario Co.	B. Bermudez
Field Sparrow	1	<u>10-11</u>	T. Livonia, Livingston Co.	T. Bohling
Field Sparrow	1	<u>18-19</u>	Dalton Rd., T. Nunda, Livingston Co.	S. Gordinier
Vesper Sparrow	1	<u>1</u>	Jacobs Rd., T. Hamlin	D. Tetlow
Savannah Sparrow	<u>max 5</u>	<u>19</u>	T. West Sparta, Livingston Co.	D. Tetlow
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>15; 27</u>	T. Canadice, Ontario Co.	B. Howe
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>17-27</u>	Mil-Benski Farm, Wayne Co.	L. Clark-Benedict, S. Benedict
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max 85</u>	2	T. Riga, Monroe Co.	D. Tetlow
Eastern Meadowlark	1	<u>3</u>	Nations Rd. IBA	J. Gordinier
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 40, low</u>	13	Jeffords Rd., T. Rush	B. Carlson
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 200</u>	13	Jeffords Rd., T. Rush	B. Carlson
Pine Warbler	1	<u>4</u>	HBSP	D. Tetlow