

January 2019 Sightings Report

January continued December's green grass and mild temperatures through the 9th, with temperatures averaging 9 °F above normal. During the rest of the month, only five days reached above normal and four days dropped to below 0°. Temperatures averaged 23.9° F, 0.8° below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.56", 0.15" above normal, with snowfall at 32.8", 4.6" above normal. There were noteworthy rain events on the 8th and 23rd-24th at about 0.3" each. There was some snow on 24 of the month's 31 days. A record snowfall for the date was recorded on the 19th at 7.8". Adding more the next day, that event produced a foot to a foot and a half over parts of the area. As usual, distribution was uneven. The snow and cold and fluctuating temperatures led to bays and ponds freezing and thawing and finally to increasing shore ice out into Lake Ontario.

The annual NYSOA Waterfowl Count was again impacted by the snow, cold, and wind; still the total tallied by the many dedicated observers was right on the average for the years since 2000. The 30 species recorded was also normal. Only Wood Duck could be considered a miss. Observers also spotted an interesting array of passerines while out on their waterfowl searches. Rarer waterfowl species included Cackling Goose, Tufted Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye. All relatively common species were at totals below their 2000-2018 averages except for Canada Goose, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser. Grebes were again scarce, though a count of 9 Red-necked Grebes on January is good for the date.

Virginia Rail presents a good example of the need to look at records (such as in a database like eBird) carefully. An individual was noted in Sherry Pond marsh in Durand-Eastman Park on January 1 and another 2 in the Deep Pond area of Mendon Ponds Park on January 2. Then from January 22-29, there were about 23 reports from the Quaker Pond part of Mendon Ponds Park with various descriptions of the sites and at five pins on the eBird map. In fact this was generally one bird (other than a single report suggesting two) all from the south end of the pond, NOT the traditional wintering location noted most years. Only 1 report plotted the pin at that spot; the rest were at spots as far as 0.8 miles north! American Coot numbers were again poor. Sandhill Cranes lingered near Honeoye in the Ashley Road area where they could be viewed, with up to 11 present to at least January 18.

A Parasitic Jaeger passing off Webster Park on the 6th was a surprise. Bonaparte's Gull was back to the historic norm of mid-January departure. There were some good counts of gulls, mostly from Irondequoit Bay and the ponds in Greece along Edgemere Drive. The usual wintering gulls were reported in typical numbers. Loons were again very scarce. Up to 24 Double-crested Cormorants again lingered in Irondequoit Bay, though only 17 were spotted on the waterfowl count day.

Wintering raptors were again generally scarce. Numbers of Bald Eagles were high at local sites, especially Irondequoit Bay, but not up to last winter's numbers. Northern Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk were missed. There were good numbers of reports for all 3

regular falcons. No Black Vulture was found, and Turkey Vultures were again scarce except at known roost sites.

This was not a big Snowy Owl year. Still, about 20 individuals were reported from at least 13 sites through the month. Unfortunately, few were regularly seen for long periods at any one site. Again, birders searching and the regular DEC surveys out of the Avon office turned up very good numbers of wintering Short-eared Owls and other raptor species. The surveys generally occur at sites in the area from Rts. 5 & 20 south to the top of the Finger Lakes and from Bloomfield on the east west to the Retsof area. The DEC survey on January 29 located 33 owls, a record for one evening on the survey. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported only from Durand-Eastman Park where several were located in December. Lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers and number of sites were well above average for winter.

Much of the time, wintering passerines seemed scarce and hard to find. Yet the list of half-hardy species was good and for many the numbers of individuals were well above normal, e.g. White-throated Sparrow. There are many examples and summaries in the Noteworthy Records table posted on the RBA website. The fairly regular ones included Winter Wren; Hermit Thrush; Field, Savannah, White-throated, and White-crowned sparrows; and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Less common to rare were Eastern Phoebe; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Eastern Towhee; Chipping, Vesper, and Fox Sparrows; and Pine Warbler. Among the missing were Gray Catbird and Rusty Blackbird, though both are uncommon in winter. Among the potential irruptive species, Northern Shrikes were scattered about, Red-breasted Nuthatch was scarce, and Bohemian Waxwing was missed. Again this winter, there were hopes of winter finches, but only a few Evening Grosbeaks, the usual few Purple Finches, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins were scattered about, and then late in the month a Hoary Redpoll was found with a flock of Commons in Hamlin.

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.

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009-2018)
Species for January	126	129	126.3

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Mark Brown, David Bruestle, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Jill Church, Robert Cicotta, Tiffany Clay, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Kris Constable, Lydia

Culbert, Doug Daniels, Beth Duncan, Diane Egan, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janis George, Candy Giles, Chris Goetz, John Gordinier, Shannon & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert Haggett, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill & Mari Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Michael Keenan, Jim Kimball, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Chan Nam, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll,

Dave O'Dell, Jay Ovsiovitch, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Norma Platt, A. Peritsky, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Rosemary Reilly, Brian Rohrs, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Michael Scheibel, James Sharpless, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joseph Stevenson, Joel Strong, Kimberly Sucy, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Mary Jane Thomas, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Connor Vara, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Douglas Watson, Bridget Watts, Joseph Wing, Jaysa Wojewodka, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood, Rochester Young Birders Club.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

January 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Snow Goose	<u>max 3000</u>	9	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Cackling Goose	<u>max 5</u>	2	Kings Bend Park, Pittsford	N. Kachala
Canada Goose	<u>max 8000</u>	18	Mount Morris Dam	J. Kimball
Mute Swan	<u>max 150</u>	25	Irondequoit Bay - N	T. Lenz
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 14</u>	3	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	K. Gage
Tundra Swan	<u>max 1015</u>	5	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	N. Kachala
Tundra Swan	<u>max 250</u>	3	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	W. & M. Rowley
Northern Shoveler	2	<u>8L</u>	HANA	R. Reilly
Gadwall	<u>max 62</u>	5	Greece - Northrup Crk.	A. Guthrie
American Wigeon	1	<u>11L</u>	Irondequoit Bay - S	R. Buckert
Mallard	<u>max 419</u>	21	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
American Black Duck	<u>max 107</u>	21	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Northern Pintail	1	<u>21L</u>	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Green-winged Teal	3	<u>26</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. Stevens
Canvasback	<u>max 500</u>	2	Conesus Lake	D. Sherony
Redhead	<u>max 4500</u>	2	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Redhead	<u>2,619</u>	21	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 73</u>	19	Hemlock Lake Park	B. Howe
<u>Tufted Duck</u>	<u>1 m ph, 3 obs</u>	1-2	Conesus Lake	20 obs
Greater Scaup	<u>max 160, low</u>	9	off Durand-Eastman Park	K. Griffith
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 250</u>	1	Hemlock Lake Park	D. Daniels
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 36, low</u>	1	Hamlin Beach SP - Yanty Crk.	A. Guthrie
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1800</u>	24	mouth of Genesee River	R. Spahn
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 250</u>	1	Irondequoit Bay - Newport marina	J. Powell, R. Stevens, K. Sucy
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye ph</u>	1 m	13F-31	Pt. Breeze	R. Buckert, L. Bergmeyer, 8+ oth obs
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye sev ph</u>	1 fem	26-29	Sodus Pt.	D. Carter, 4+ oth obs
Common Merganser	<u>max 1000</u>	1	Irondequoit Bay - W	R. Reilly
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 800</u>	10; 17	Wolcott; Sodus Pt.	W. & M. Rowley
Ruddy Duck	1-2	<u>5L</u>	Conesus Lake	sev obs
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 9</u>	1	Hamlin Beach SP - Yanty Crk.	A. Guthrie
Virginia Rail call rec	1	<u>1</u>	Durand -Eastman P. - SherrySwamp	5 obs
Virginia Rail	2	<u>2</u>	Mendon Ponds P. - Deep Pnd	N. Kachala
Virginia Rail many ph	1	<u>22-29</u>	Mendon Pnds P. - Quaker Pnd. S.	M. Gullo, 20+ oth obs

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2019

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
American Coot	<u>max 27, low</u>	5, 8	Irondequoit Bay - Newport marina	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle, B. Carlson
Sandhill Crane ph	3-11	<u>1-18</u>	Ashley Rd. area, Livonia	15 + obs
Sandhill Crane	<u>max 11</u>	<u>5; 9</u>	Ashley Rd., Livonia	B. Howe; T. Bohling
Parasitic Jaeger	1	<u>6F</u>	off Webster Park	R. Spahn
Bonaparte's Gull	1	<u>10L</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	A. Consler
Ring-billed Gull	<u>max 1400</u>	10	Wolcott, Brown Rd.	W. & M. Rowley
Herring Gull	<u>max 3500</u>	1	Greece - Long Pond	A. Guthrie
Herring Gull	<u>1,900</u>	5	Greece - Buck Pond	A. Guthrie
Iceland Gull	<u>~ 15 rep, 9 ind</u>	1-27	8 loc	15+ obs
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>~ 9 rep, 7 ind</u>	1-29	6 loc	13+ obs
Glaucous Gull	<u>~ 23 rep, 8 ind</u>	1-23	7 loc	35+ obs
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 4</u>	1	Hamlin Beach SP - Yanty Crk.	A. Guthrie
Common Loon	1-3	<u>1-23</u>	sev loc	mob
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 24</u>	9	Irondequoit Bay	C. Giles; R. Spahn
Bald Eagle	<u>232 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Bald Eagle	<u>max 13</u>	12-13	Irondequoit Bay	sev obs
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>~ 9 rep, 7 ind</u>	1, 22-31	6 loc	7+ obs
Snowy Owl	<u>~ 48 rep, 20+ ind</u>	1-26	<u>13+ loc</u>	mob
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 11</u>	29	Nations Rd. IBA	B. Carlson
Short-eared Owl	<u>total 33, RH survey</u>	29	DEC owl survey sev sites	sev obs
Belted Kingfisher	<u>total 23</u>	<u>1-26</u>	23 loc	mob
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-3	<u>all month</u>	<u>Durand Eastman Park - Horseshoe Rd.</u>	mob
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u>13 rep, 14 ind</u>	<u>all month</u>	12 loc	14 obs
American Kestrel	<u>24 rep, 23 ind</u>	all month	21 loc	16+ obs
Merlin	<u>30 rep, 21 ind</u>	all month	21 loc	33+ obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>17 rep, 10 ind</u>	all month	9 loc	25+ obs
Eastern Phoebe ph	1	<u>1; 4</u>	Sandy Bottom P., Honeoye	K. Gage; B. Howe
Northern Shrike	<u>27 rep, 12 ind</u>	all month	11 loc	26+ obs
Fish Crow	1-7	<u>2-18</u>	Northgate Plaza area, Greece	4+ obs
Fish Crow	2	<u>4</u>	Ontario Beach Park	S. Gracewski
Horned Lark	<u>max 90</u>	28	Stewart Rd., Livingsyon Co.	D. Beattie
Winter Wren	<u>19 rep, 18 ind</u>	all month	12 loc	21+ obs
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>total 26</u>	all month	15+ loc	mob
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>19</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	C. Vara
Hermit Thrush	<u>6 rep, 6 ind</u>	1-22	5 loc	12+ obs
American Robin	<u>max 230, low</u>	14	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 60, low</u>	13	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Evening Grosbeak	<u>4-6</u>	13, 26-31	Penfield	D. Ross
Evening Grosbeak	2	27	Rochester	A. Peritsky
Common Redpoll	<u>max 85</u>	13	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Hoary Redpoll	1	23-28	Hamlin	A. Guthrie, 3 oth obs

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2019

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Pine Siskin	<u>max 35</u>	18	Rochester	D. Bruestle
Lapland Longspur	<u>max 35</u>	27	Nations Rd. IBA	J. & S. Gordinier
Snow Bunting	<u>max 200</u>	28	Scottsville	B. Duncan
Eastern Towhee ph	1 f	19	Springwater, Livingston Co.	B. Howe
Eastern Towhee	1	22	Palmyra, Wayne Co.	T. Clay
Am. Tree Sparrow	<u>max 63, low</u>	29	Nations Rd. IBA	B. Carlson
Chipping Sparrow	1	27-30	Woodbrooke Rd., Victor	B. Bermudez
Field Sparrow	1	10	Geneseo	J. Kimball
Field Sparrow	1	18	Nations Rd. IBA	L. Bergmeyer
Field Sparrow	1	20, 28	Dalton Rd., T. Nunda	S. & J. Gordinier
Vesper Sparrow ph	1	12-13F	Nations Rd. IBA	D. Tetlow, B. Carlson
Vesper Sparrow ph	1	28-29	Jacobs Rd. area, Hamlin	A. Guthrie, 6 oth obs
Savannah Sparrow	4; 2	24; 28	Jones Bridge & Perry Rd., Leicester	J. Gordinier; D. Beattie
Savannah Sparrow	1	28-29	Jacobs Rd. area, Hamlin	A. Guthrie, 6 oth obs
Fox Sparrow	1	7F	Durand-Eastman Park	C. Giles, R. Reilly, E. Thein
Fox Sparrow	1	21, 29	Purcell Rd., Ontario Co.	B. Howe
Fox Sparrow	1	27-28	North Rose, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo, K. Gage
White-throated Sparrow	<u>438 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
White-crowned Sparrow	<u>112 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max 50, low</u>	22	Nations Rd. IBA	C. Goetz
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 150</u>	24	T. Rush, Monroe Co.	B. Carlson
Common Grackle	<u>max 37, low</u>	12	T. Rush, Monroe Co.	B. Carlson
Pine Warbler	1	14F	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	2F	Rush-Scottsville Rd. Meadows	N. Kachala
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<u>max 5</u>	17	Owen Rd., Wolcott	M. Tetlow