

January 2020 Sightings Report

January was a warm month, continuing from December to the 17th, with precipitation mostly rain. After this, we had the heaviest snowfall, 5.4", on the 18th-19th, with the 5" of it on the 18th tying a record for the date, and then a dip to lows in the single digits on the 20th and 21st, for only the 2nd and 3rd times this winter. Temperatures averaged 31.1 °F, 6.4° above normal. Twenty-six days rose to above freezing, the 6th greatest number recorded for a January. 64° on the 11th set a new record high for the date. Precipitation totaled 2.81", 0.40" above normal, with snowfall at 21.8", 6.4" below normal. There was one high wind event on the 12th. Otherwise, the weather was benign. Lake Ontario remained generally ice-free for the month, other than a few days of floating ice just offshore.

The eBird download at about 19,409 lines for our region was down about 15% from last year. With that piece of data and notes from many observers of birds hard to find, it was not too surprising that the species total for the month at 121 was only the second time that low since 2004.

Many of the lingering, half-hardy species were found only as singles or in very low numbers. Yet a few such species appeared in large numbers of eBird entries. A few of these are cited as numbers of eBird lines in the Noteworthy Records table. A similar phenomenon occurred with some waterbirds, such as Red-throated and Common Loons, which seemed relatively scarce generally, but had many records due to sightings near the mouth of the Genesee River by the multitude of birders coming to search for the **Western Grebe** lingering there for the first half of the month.

The annual NY State Waterfowl Count was again impacted by the snow, cold, and wind arriving on the first day of the count period. With the aim date shut out by weather for most and snow and wind spotty, counts were run through the period, most mid-week. The results again proved the necessity of being careful with numbers and statistics. The total number of waterbirds counted was 49,654, third highest since the count began in 1973. BUT, 2/3 were from just the Canada Goose and Redhead totals. Add in Mallard and Red-breasted Merganser and you reach > 80% of the total. The 32 species reported was a good number for this count. Many of the scarcer wintering species were reported only in very small numbers.

Virginia Rail and Sandhill Crane were unreported this year, and American Coot numbers were again poor. A lone Purple Sandpiper found at Sodus Point on the 14th was present past month's end and seen and photographed by many. **Some photographers need to review their birding ethics; it was observed being pushed at close range for far too long.**

Bonaparte's Gull was reported only through January 1st. Gull numbers were again generally unremarkable, and numbers of the typical winter gulls relatively low. The various early periods of nearly total freezing of the bays and ponds pushed out most of the Double-crested Cormorants, but one day during the waterfowl count, a maximum of 13 was seen from the Newport Yacht Club.

Wintering raptors were again generally scarce, though numbers of Bald Eagles were high, with the peak counts from Irondequoit Bay. Northern Goshawk was again missed, and only one Red-shouldered Hawk was reported. 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.

Snowy Owl was reported from only about 5 locations, with possibly as few as only 6 individuals involved. The Genesee County Airport near Batavia was the most consistent site. Short-eared Owl surveys out of the Avon DEC office were a bit late in getting started, but the first survey on January 21st turned up 13 owls and 10 Northern Harriers. Birders had been reporting Short-eared Owls earlier, mainly from the Nations Road area and a few other regular sites in small numbers. A lone Northern Saw-whet Owl was found through much of the month in the Owl Woods area roosting at one site. Red-headed Woodpecker was unreported, and only 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were located early in the month.

Most of the time, wintering passerines seemed scarce and hard to find. Still, the list of half-hardy species was good, but many were singles or in small numbers. The list included: Winter Wren (many); Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Thrush; Gray Catbird; Eastern Towhee; Chipping, Field, Savannah, Fox, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows; and Yellow-rumped Warbler. As an addition there was a very rare-in-winter **Orange-crowned Warbler** seen and photographed by several birders along the west side of Irondequoit Bay on January 10-11. There were large numbers of reports for Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch, but few for Red-breasted Nuthatch. Winter finches were almost non-existent, with only single reports for Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin. Blackbirds were also particularly poorly reported.

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.

	2020	2019	10-year Average (2010-2019)
Species for January	121	127	126.8

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Gillian Bemont, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Deborah Dohne, 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, Bill Gruenbaum, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Danny

Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert Hagggett, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Monika Herrmann, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Bernie Kester, Josh Ketry, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance- Coniglio, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Randi Minetor, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Frank Morlock, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Dave Nutter, Dave O'Dell, Jay

Ovsiovitch, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Bill Purcell, Nick Pusateri, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Robertson, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybcznski, Jackie Salsbury, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joseph Stevenson, Allan Strong, Dan Strong, David Strong, Joel Strong, June Summers, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Nathan Ukens, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Joseph Wing, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood, Rochester Young Birders Club.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

January 2020

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Snow Goose	<u>300</u>	14	N. Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Snow Goose	<u>max 2500</u>	15	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	G. Dashnau
Snow Goose	<u>300</u>	30	Bloomfield, Ontario Co.	B. Carlson
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	1	20F; 22	Hamlin Beach - off Yanty Creek	R. Reilly; A. Guthrie
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	1	22	Hamlin Beach SP	B. Carlson, K. Hartquist, P. Martin
Cackling Goose	<u>~ 10 singles</u>	all month	8 loc	13 obs
Mute Swan	<u>max 135-150</u>	10	Irondequoit Bay - S	5 obs
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 13</u>	5	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	A. Mitchell
Tundra Swan	<u>max 130</u>	15	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	G. Dashnau
Wood Duck	1	<u>5</u>	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	A. Mitchell
Wood Duck	1	<u>23</u>	Corbett Park, Brockport	A. Guthrie
Gadwall	<u>max 30</u>	<u>22</u>	near Bear Creek, Wayne Co.	J. Boettcher, T. Nash, R. Spahn
American Wigeon	4	<u>15</u>	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	G. Dashnau
American Wigeon	2	<u>20</u>	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Mallard	<u>max 1000</u>	15	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	G. Dashnau
Mallard	<u>990</u>	20	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
American Black Duck	<u>max 174</u>	20	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Northern Pintail	<u>max 6</u>	<u>14</u>	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	F. Morlock
Northern Pintail	<u>total ~14</u>	all month	9 loc	24+ obs
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 8</u>	<u>23</u>	Cold Spring Rd., Caledonia	M. Wasilco
Canvasback	<u>max 18, low</u>	26	Sodus Pt.	J. McGowan
Redhead	<u>max 6450</u>	20	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Redhead	<u>11,604, WFC</u>			
Redhead	<u>RH</u>	18-26	WFC, sev loc	sev obs
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 197</u>	23	Hemlock Lake Park	B. Howe
Greater Scaup	<u>max 600</u>	26	Sodus Pt.	J. McGowan, B. Walker
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 87</u>	20	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 210</u>	23	Sodus Pt.	J. Akin
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1340</u>	23	off Greece	K. Griffith
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 1693</u>	18-26	WFC, sev loc	sev obs
Common Merganser	<u>max 580</u>	23	Irondequoit Bay	S. Gracewski, T. Nash, R. Spahn
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 2407</u>	21	Irondequoit Bay	R. & S. Spahn
Ruddy Duck	1	<u>18L</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	J. Ovsiovitch

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2020

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Horned Grebe	<u>max 10</u>	13	off Bear Creek, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 18</u>	3	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
<u>Western Grebe many ph</u>	1	<u>thru 14</u>	near Genesee River mouth	mob
American Coot	<u>max 50</u>	23	Conesus Lake	T. Bohling
Purple Sandpiper many ph	1	<u>14F-31</u>	Sodus Pt.	M. Gullo; mob
Bonaparte's Gull	1	<u>1L</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	M. Gullo, J. Ketry
Bonaparte's Gull	2	<u>1L</u>	Sodus Bay	W. & M. Rowley
Herring Gull	<u>max 1200</u>	18	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie
Iceland Gull	<u>~ 17 rep, 15 ind</u>	4-31	9 loc	15+ obs
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>~ 14 rep, 6 ind</u>	1-20	7 loc	21+ obs
Glaucous Gull	<u>~ 46 rep, 13 ind</u>	all month	13 loc	mob
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 8</u>	4	near Genesee River mouth	J. Collison
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 13</u>	21	Irondequoit Bay	R. & S. Spahn
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 34</u>	21	T. Rush	B. Carlson
Bald Eagle	<u>265 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Bald Eagle	<u>max 11</u>	23	Irondequoit Bay	S. Gracewski, T. Nash, R. Spahn
Red-shouldered Hawk <u>only rep</u>	1	30	Conesus, Livingston Co.	S. Mumpton
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>total 7</u>	all month	6 loc	5+ obs
Snowy Owl	<u>~ 21 rep, 6+ ind</u>	1-26	5+ loc	30+ obs
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 13</u>	21	Avon DEC survey	sev obs
N. Saw-whet Owl ph	1	9, 23	Manitou - Owl Woods	J. Adams, <i>et al.</i>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>3</u>	Victor	R. Hall
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>5</u>	Hemlock Lake - W	D. Daniels
American Kestrel	<u>33 rep, 16+ ind</u>	all month	17 loc	mob
Merlin	<u>31 rep, 26+ ind</u>	all month	21+ loc	mob
Peregrine Falcon	<u>17 rep, 11+ ind</u>	all month	10 loc	21 obs
Northern Shrike	<u>total ~ 4, low</u>	9-29	4 loc	12+ obs
Horned Lark	<u>max 21, low</u>	18	Church Rd., Hamlin	L. Bergmeyer
Tree Swallow	1	20	off Edgemere Dr., Greece	M. Barry
Black-capped Chickadee	<u>1131 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Tufted Titmouse	<u>501 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
White-breasted Nuthatch	<u>540 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Winter Wren	<u>32 rep, 22 ind</u>	all month	13 loc	25+ obs
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>1; 4</u>	Durand-Eastmand Park, Sherry Pond	R. Buckert, N. Kachala, G. Lawrence; B. Carlson
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>23</u>	Brown Rd. Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Hermit Thrush	<u>6 rep, 6 ind</u>	2-26	6 loc	6 obs
American Robin	<u>max 200, low</u>	26	Hopkins Pt., Mendon Ponds Park	R. & S. Spahn
Gray Catbird	1	<u>3</u>	Victor	R. Hall
Gray Catbird	1	<u>4</u>	Broadway Rd., Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

January 2020

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Gray Catbird	1	<u>21</u>	Whiting Rd. NP, Webster	Ja. George
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 112, low</u>	16	South Conesus	K. Close
House Sparrow	<u>max 160</u>	19	Geneseo	J. Kimball
Purple Finch <u>only rep</u>	2	3	Webster Park	A. Garland
Common Redpoll <u>only rep</u>	1	20F	Pittsford	P. Smith
Pine Siskin <u>only rep</u>	1	8	Victor	R. Haggett
Snow Bunting	<u>max 300</u>	19	Rush/Henrietta Town Line Rd.	P. Martin
Snow Bunting	<u>max 300</u>	20	Warner Rd., Geneseo	J. & K. Gordinier
Eastern Towhee ph	1	<u>3</u>	Burr Oak Trail, Hemlock- Canadice SF	C. Hoh
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>all month</u>	Pittsford	A. & D. Strong
Am. Tree Sparrow	<u>max 60, low</u>	23	CR 37, Mt Morris	S. Taylor
Chipping Sparrow	1	<u>2, 5, 28</u>	N. Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Chipping Sparrow	1	<u>16, 19, 20</u>	Mil-Benski Farm, Newark, Wayne Co.	L. Clark Benedict
Field Sparrow	3; 2	<u>23; 31</u>	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye Twin Cedars Environ. Area,	B. Howe
Field Sparrow	4	<u>27</u>	Avon	M. Wasilco
Savannah Sparrow <u>only rep</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>23</u>	Perry Rd. E of CR 37	S. Taylor
Fox Sparrow ph	1	<u>15</u>	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
White-throated Sparrow	<u>280 eBird lines</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max 30, low</u>	30	Mendon Ponds Park	N. Ukens
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 35, low</u>	6	Erie Station Rd. at I-390	N. Kachala
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 42, low</u>	18	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Common Grackle	<u>max 5, low</u>	9	N. Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Orange-crowned Warbler ph	1	<u>10F; 11</u>	Irondequoit Bay Park - W	Ja. George, C. Giles, R. Reilly, L. Bergmeyer, E. Thein; B. Carlson
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<u>total 6</u>	<u>7, 18, 23</u>	4 loc	4 obs