

## November 2019 Sightings Report

It was a cold snowy month, with some moderation in the final 10 days. The month began with the tail end of a Halloween wind event with numerous power outages. This was followed by an Arctic cold surge that brought below normal temperatures for the next 3 weeks before a warm up for the last 10 days, peaking at temperatures in the 60s on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, several record low temperatures were recorded. Temperatures averaged 35.0 °F, 5.5° below normal. It was the coldest 1<sup>st</sup> half and 11<sup>th</sup> coldest overall November on record. A high of only 31° on the 8<sup>th</sup> gave us a tie with the earliest date totally below freezing, and there were 6 days total with the high < 32°. Precipitation totaled 1.84", 1.11" below normal. The big story again this year was snowfall at 17.8", 10.5" above normal. Record amounts fell on both the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> snowiest November on record. Most of the local ponds and even parts of larger bays and lakes froze, pushing out lingering waterfowl, and many of the lingering land-bird migrants also became scarcer following this period.

A look at the general picture of birds and birding is interesting. We had the snow and cold noted above, and water levels werestill very high. This certainly had some impact on waterbirds. The cold and snow also certainly impacted some of the passerines, yet Jim Adams, with his regular surveys of Oatka Creek Park, did not see many obvious effects other than maybe some sparrow species being scarce. He also noted wild fruit in good supply, which I did not see in places I searched. Overall reports were down some, with eBird reports about 15% below the numbers of the past few years. Yet you can see from our summary table below that species numbers are about on the 10-year averages. Nearly all the drop in species total from last year is accounted for by essentially no winter finches and only one lingering warbler species.

Again, nearly all waterfowl species with any serious expectation of being reported were recorded. Only Greater White-fronted Goose and Blue-winged Teal, both on the border relative to being "expected", were missed. However, again, most peak counts were modest to low except one Redhead count and Red-breasted Merganser. Both Ross's Goose and King Eider were good additions for the fall. Peak Horned and Red-necked Grebe counts were low for recent years. A piece of this may be the closing of easy access to the usual Hamlin Beach lake watch a bit early and weather that also limited the number of searches and counts. Recall the new checklist order adds nightjars, swifts, and marsh birds here. There were only single Virginia Rail and Sora reports a bit late, and a desiccated hummingbird found on the at RIT campus, then the usual late reports of Sandhill Cranes, with up to 128 in our region in southeast Wayne County.

There were the usual few lingering shorebirds, but only Wilson's Snipe past the 9<sup>th</sup>, pushing into the late fall or wintering question. 393 Dunlin passing Hamlin Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> was a good count. After some scarce or missing years, Purple Sandpiper was located first on the 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and then 2 more late in the month.

Among the larid grouping, we note one more Parasitic Jaeger seen off Hamlin Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup>; then an alcid off Sodus Point, not identified to species due to lighting and distance, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Gull numbers were not great, but expected species were reported, including: 2 Little Gulls, and Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls. A Forster's Tern at Buck Pond 1-3 November is getting late, but we do have several later records in prior years.

Now, the loons, seabirds, and waders: loon numbers were relatively poor, especially Red-throated, which should peak in this month. Again this year, a bonus was a Pacific Loon seen and photographed off Beechwood State Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Again, there was no Northern Gannet, and Double-crested Cormorant numbers down to a 250 peak. An American White Pelican at the DEC Twin Cedars Environmental Area in Avon on the 4<sup>th</sup> was just the region's 3<sup>rd</sup> November record. Great Egret to month's end was also getting late. This year, there was no influx of Cattle Egrets.

Again, raptors were generally scarce, but we did have a late Osprey on the 16<sup>th</sup>, many Bald Eagles, and one immature Northern Goshawk. There were no Red-shouldered or Rough-legged hawks by month's end. There were no Snowy Owl reports in the region and only 2 Short-eared Owl reports from the Nations Road area, the first for the winter on the 6<sup>th</sup>. A bonus was Northern Saw-whet Owl found both in the Owl Woods and in Durand-Eastman Park. Numbers of reports for our 3 regular falcons, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon, were all a bit low in a recent-year context.

Among the passerines, again essentially everything really expected was found, but there were few surprises and most counts were low. Surprising rarities were: White-eyed Vireo in Mendon on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Tree Swallows in the western Buck Pond area, scattered through the month and beyond; a Cave Swallow at Buck Pond, found by Chris Wood and seen by Jessie and Jim Barry on the 27<sup>th</sup>; a Bohemian Waxwing at Hamlin Beach on the 18<sup>th</sup>; and a female Summer Tanager on the west spit of Braddock Bay found by Augie Kramer and seen and photographed by several. The best counts were 1425 American Robins and 1086 American Goldfinch at Hamlin Beach on the 18<sup>th</sup> by Dave Tetlow. Given the seeming scarcity of many birds, there were fairly good numbers for several of the half-hardy species that often linger into winter, including: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Chipping Sparrow, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. As noted earlier, winter finches were essentially absent and only one late warbler species was noted. Northern Shrike was present, but numbers of reports and apparent individuals, 6, were low.

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

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009-2018)
Total species for November	154	160	153.2
New species for the year	5	5	4.1
Total for the year to date	291	287	290.3

*Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Mark Brown, Lia Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Tiffany Clay, Kelly Close, Kristine Constable, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Rich DeCoster, Deborah Dohne, Laurie Dirx, Steve Donahue, Sarah Dzielski, Diane Egan, Kevin Engel, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janis George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, Janes Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Benjamin Hack,

Robert Haggett, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, George Haskins, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Pam Inzinna, Archie J., Carolyn Jacobs, Alyssa Johnson, Nicholas Kachala, Logan Kahle, Dave Kennedy, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Augie Kramer, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Bill Maier, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, Jim Mott, Tom Nash, Dan Niven, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Jo Popma, Norma Platt, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Rochester Young Birders Club, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, Allan Strong, Daniel Strong, Kimberly Sucy, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, John H. Thomas, Sarah Toner, Scott Tudman, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Dave Wheeler, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Ken Zidell.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

### November 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Snow Goose	<u>2400</u>	22	T. Lyons, Wayne Co. Old Duck Inn, T. Tyre, Wayne Co.	T. Lenz, L. Kahle D. Odell
Snow Goose	<u>max 7800</u>	24	T. Lyons, Wayne Co.	L. Kahle
Ross's Goose	1	22FF	Hamlin Beach SP	M. Gullo
Brant	<u>max 180</u>	1	Sodus Bay - S	K. Engel
Brant	1	29L	12 loc	17+ obs
Cackling Goose	<u>21 rep, ~ 33</u>	all month	Twin Cedars Environ. Area, Avon	B. Carlson
Cackling Goose	<u>max 11</u>	4	Twin Cedars Environ. Area, Avon	M. Wasilco
Canada Goose	<u>max 3565</u>	4	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie
Mute Swan	<u>max 155</u>	17	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 34</u>	3	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	L. Kahle
Tundra Swan	<u>max 185</u>	6	Conesus Lake - N	M. Gullo
Tundra Swan	<u>140</u>	18	Durand-Eastman Park	RBA Field Trip
Wood Duck	<u>max 50</u>	2	Irondequoit Bay Park - W	S. Gracewski
Northern Shoveler	<u>max 15</u>	19	Braddock Bay	Je. Barry, Ji. Barry, M. Barry
Gadwall	<u>max 90</u>	30	Braddock Bay - West Spit	R. Buckert, N. Kachala
American Wigeon	<u>max 65, low</u>	29	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Mallard	<u>max 800</u>	3	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	M. Gullo
American Black Duck	<u>max 47</u>	15	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Northern Pintail	<u>max 300</u>	3	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 100</u>	3	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Canvasback	<u>max 14, low</u>	30	Braddock Bay	R. Ryan
Redhead	<u>max 5000</u>	15	Conesus Lake - NW	R. Spahn, T. Smith
diving duck sp.	<u>4350</u>	25	Conesus Lake - N	N. Kachala
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 300</u>	4	Round Pond, Greece	S. Gracewski
Greater Scaup	<u>max 250</u>	28	Ontario Beach area	C. Wood
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 94</u>	28	off Edgemere Dr., Greece	C. Wood
Greater/Lesser Scaup	<u>max 150</u>	29	Braddock Bay	C. Giles, R. Buckert, N. Kachala
King Eider	1 f	3FF	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie, R. Reilly

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

November 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
<u>King Eider</u>	1 f	3FF	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co. Brown Rd., T. Wolcott, Wayne Co,	T. Lenz, L. Kahle, A. J., B. Hack
<u>King Eider</u>	1 f	6		W. & M. Rowley
<u>Common Eider</u> <u>ph</u>	1 f	18F	Sodus Point	J. Wing
Surf Scoter	<u>max 31</u>	3	Hamlin Beach SP	R. Reilly
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 132</u>	8	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Sherony, S. Gracewski
Black Scoter	<u>max 27</u>	2	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	T. Lenz
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 382</u>	20	off E. Manitou Rd.	K. Griffith
Bufflehead	<u>max 75</u>	7	Sodus Point	M. Gullo
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 75</u>	29	Braddock Bay	S. Dzielski, S. Toner
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 200</u>	20	Irondequoit Bay - S	S. Gracewski
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>300</u>	1	Hamlin Beach SP	P. Martin
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>750</u>	15	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	T. Lenz
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 1500</u>	18	Port Bay, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>1110</u>	21	West Port Bay, Wayne Co.	L. Kahle
Ruddy Duck	<u>max 89</u>	5	Walker Rd., T. LeRoy	D. Beattie
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>max 34</u>	3	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd..)	S. Billerman, B. Walker
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 62</u>	20	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Virginia Rail	1	<u>21L</u>	Long Pond, Greece	J. Mott
Sora	1	<u>3L</u>	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	L. Kahle, A. J., B. Hack
American Coot	<u>max 100</u>	19	Irondequoit Bay Park - W	S. Gracewski
Sandhill Crane	<u>max 128</u>	15	Rt. 89 e of East Rd, Wayne Co.	D. Kennedy
Sandhill Crane	3	18	<u>Reed Rd., Ontario Co.</u>	B. Howe
Sandhill Crane	1	27	<u>Beatty Point, Greece</u>	C. Wood
Killdeer	<u>max 13</u>	1	Salt & State Rds., Webster	M. Gullo
Killdeer	1	<u>7L</u>	Caledonia, Livingston Co.	M. Wasilco
Sanderling	2	<u>3L</u>	Sodus Point	T. Lenz, L. Kahle, A. J., B. Hack
Dunlin	<u>max 393</u>	1	Hamlin Beach SP	M. Gullo
Dunlin	2	<u>9L</u>	Buck Pond Crk., Greece	Ji. Barry, M. Barry
Dunlin	1	<u>9L</u>	Ontario Beach area	Bri. Morse
<u>Purple Sandpiper</u> <u>phs</u>	1	<u>7F-10</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	D. Sherony, mob
<u>Purple Sandpiper</u>	1	25-29	Sodus Point	M. Gullo, 6 oth obs
<u>Purple Sandpiper</u> <u>flyby</u>	1	28	off Edgemere Dr., Greece	Je., Ji., L. & M. Barry, A. Guthrie, C. Wood
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	<u>1L</u>	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	M. Gullo
Wilson's Snipe	1	<u>28L</u>	Burger Park, Greece	C. Wood
Lesser Yellowlegs	1-4	<u>3L</u>	NMWMA	sev obs
Greater Yellowlegs	1	<u>6L</u>	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	L. Kahle
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	1	1	Hamlin Beach SP	C. Giles, S. Gracewski, P. Martin, D. Sherony
<u>alcid sp</u>	1	26F	Pultneyville Harbor, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Bonaparte's Gull	<u>max 95, low</u>	16	Irondequoit Bay - S	Ji. Miles
<u>Little Gull</u>	1 ad	7FF	Buck Pond, Greece	Je. Barry, Ji. Barry, M. Barry
<u>Little Gull</u>	1 ad	9	Ontario Beach area	Bri. Morse
Iceland Gull	1	<u>16FF</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	Rochester Young Birders, <i>et al.</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>~ 12 rep, 8 ind</u>	5-26	6 loc	13+ obs
Glaucous Gull	1	<u>22FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	P. Martin
Glaucous Gull	1	24	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	C. Giles, J. & K. Gordinier, N. Reilly
Glaucous Gull	1	27	Sodus Point	M. Gullo
Forster's Tern	1-2	<u>1-3L</u>	Buck Pond, Greece	Je., Ji., & M. Barry, A. Guthrie
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 70, low</u>	20	Hamlin Beach SP	Je. Barry, C. Wood, A. Guthrie, P. Martin

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

November 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
<u>Pacific Loon</u> ph	1	3F	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	T. Lenz, L. Kahle, A. J., B. Hack
Common Loon	<u>max 375</u>	2	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	T. Lenz
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 250</u>	2	Buck Pond, Greece	Ji. Barry
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 250</u>	2	Sodus Point	T. Lenz
Am. White Pelican	1	4	Twin Cedars Environ. Area, Avon	M. Wasilco, C. Hoh, B. Carlson, K. Zidell, T.Bohling
American Bittern	1	3 <u>L</u>	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	L. Kahle, A. J., B. Hack
Great Egret	1	30 <u>L</u>	Braddock Bay	Je. Barry, Ji. Barry
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5	3 <u>L</u>	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	L. Kahle, A. J., B. Hack
Osprey ph	1	16 <u>L</u>	Black Creek	P. Inzinna
Bald Eagle	<u>148 ll eBird</u>	<u>all month</u>	many loc	mob
<u>Northern Goshawk</u> ph	1 imm	10	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Short-eared Owl	1	6 <u>FF</u>	Nations Rd. IBA	<i>fide</i> J. Kimball
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	10	Durand-Eastman Park	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	23	Manitou, Owl Woods	N. Kachala
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	2	<u>Turning Point Park, Rochester</u>	K. Millham, S. Roberts
American Kestrel	<u>11 rep, ~7 ind</u>	7-30	6 loc	10+ obs
Merlin	<u>17 rep, ~15 ind</u>	all month	14 loc	15+ obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>9 rep, ~9 ind</u>	all month	7 loc	8+ obs
Eastern Phoebe	1	2	Ellison Park, Penfield	Ji. Miles
Eastern Phoebe	1	4	Mendon Ponds Park	C. Goetz
Eastern Phoebe	1	9 <u>L</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. Stevens
Northern Shrike	<u>7 rep, 6 ind</u>	6-29	6 loc	7 obs
<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	1	15F	Dixon Woods, Mendon	J. Goetz
Horned Lark	<u>max 88</u>	12	Jenks Rd., Avon	M. Wasilco
Tree Swallow	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	Buck Pond, Greece	Je. Barry
Tree Swallow	<u>2</u>	<u>29</u>	Church Trail, Greece	R. Buckert, N. Kachala
<u>Cave Swallow</u>	1	27F	Beatty Point, Greece	C. Wood, Je. Barry, Ji. Barry
Winter Wren	<u>24 rep, ~22ind</u>	2-29 <u>L</u>	17 loc	20+ obs
Marsh Wren	1	21 <u>L</u>	Sandra L.Frankel NP, Brighton Casey Park, T Ontario, Wayne Co.	B. Watts
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	15 <u>L</u>		J. Wing
Hermit Thrush	<u>12 rep, ~11 ind</u>	2-29	11 loc	12+ obs
American Robin	<u>max 1425</u>	18	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Gray Catbird	<u>5 rep, 4 ind</u>	2-26 <u>L</u>	4 loc	4 obs
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	1	18FF	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 47, low</u>	26	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co. Jones Bridge & Perry Rds., Leicester	T. Lenz
American Pipit	<u>max 40</u>	3		J. Kimball
American Pipit	1	27 <u>L</u>	Beatty Point, Greece	C. Wood
Pine Siskin	<u>max 48</u>	10	Durand-Eastman Park	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
American Goldfinch	<u>max 1086</u>	18	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow
Snow Bunting	<u>max 86</u>	3	Hamlin Beach SP	P. Martin
Eastern Towhee	1	23 <u>L</u>	Whiting Rd. NP, Webster Sibleyville Reserve, Honeoye Falls	S. Gracewski
American Tree Sparrow	<u>max 34</u>	14		B. Carlson
Field Sparrow	1	17 <u>L</u>	Plank Rd., Penfield	A. Garland
Fox Sparrow	1	19 <u>L</u>	Geneseo	J. Kimball
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	2 <u>L</u>	Jones Bridge & Perry Rds., Leicester	J. Kimball
White-throated Sparrow	<u>max 25</u>	3	Highland Park, Rochester	K. Hartquist
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max 45</u>	14	Lake Rd., Sodus	M. Gullo
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 2000</u>	5	Avon, Livingston Co.	D. Beattie

**NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)****November 2019**

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 30, low</u>	12	Geneseo	J. Kimball
Rusty Blackbird	1	29 <u>L</u>	Cook & Redman Rds., Hamlin	C. Wood
Common Grackle	<u>max 50, low</u>	3	NMWMA (Carnecross Rd.)	M. Gullo
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	27 <u>L</u>	Mendon Ponds Park	C. Goetz
<u>Summer Tanager ph</u>	1	28	Braddock Bay - West Spit	A. Kramer, Je. Barry, M. Barry, C. Wood
Northern Cardinal	<u>max 23</u>	19	Mendon Ponds Park	C. Goetz