

## February 2018 Sightings Report

Underlined items indicate noteworthy factors.

F indicates first record for the year.

FS indicates first record for the spring migration, though seen earlier in the year.

NMWMA = Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, Wayne County.

ph indicates photographs available

T indicates Town of - - -.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	10-year Average ( <u>2008- 2017</u> )
Species for February	128	131	116.0
New for the year	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5.7</u>
Total for the year to date	140	138	132.0

### Notes:

1. Another warm February, the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record following last year's warmest on record. Temperatures averaged 33.6° F, 7.2° above normal. There were record highs set at 71° on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 67° on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and 64° on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with also an all-time record high low of 54° on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The high average for the month included a cold start for the first week and a half before the warm up. Precipitation totaled 2.15", 0.20" above normal, and snowfall at 15.7" was 5.8" below normal. The snow arrived in 3 events over 4 days on 6-7 and 9-10 February. After these there was only a total of 0.8" for the rest of the month. There was some rain or snow on all but three days, with the maximum rainfall 0.39" on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The last half of the month was mild with a taste of spring, but clearly from the records the winter through mid-month had taken its toll on lingering half hardy birds.

2. There were hints of an early spring movement starting on the 18<sup>th</sup>, but the 20<sup>th</sup> and after brought a surge of new waterfowl and blackbirds and a scattering of other new arrivals through the rest of the month. Large numbers (to 50,000) of Snow Geese, N. Pintails, and lesser numbers of other species arrived in several Northern Montezuma WMA areas and along the Lake Ontario shore and its bays. Tundra Swans were also noted moving in or passing in several areas. Shortly after, rarer species, including: Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, and Eurasian Wigeon, were reported to add to King Eider and Barrow's Goldeneye continuing. By month's end, all of the regular spring waterfowl except for Blue-winged Teal and Brant, later arrivals, had been reported. All of the regular loons and grebes were also found, though numbers were low.

3. This year's Braddock Bay hawk watch began on the 27<sup>th</sup>, with Greg Lawrence as this year's official counter. The watch was off to a good start in just two days, with a Black Vulture, 84 Turkey Vultures, half a dozen relatively early Red-shouldered Hawks, 5 Rough-legged Hawks, and 2 Peregrine Falcons plus other expected species adding up to 167 total birds. With time and interest, the hawk watchers also kept track of other species nearby and passing, including nine Greater White-fronted Geese, 11 Cackling Geese, 327 Tundra Swans, an Iceland gull, an early Killdeer, two Common Ravens, and assorted passerines. Sandhill Cranes were first reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> from the Taylor Marsh area and after the 24<sup>th</sup> on several days in the NMWMA, then on the 28<sup>th</sup> in the Town of Wolcott. Killdeer was first reported in the Nations Road IBA on the 20<sup>th</sup> and in many locations after that. American Woodcock was noted in the Hogan Point area on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and in the NMWMA on the 28<sup>th</sup>; both dates on the early side. Falcon reports were off a bit, especially for American Kestrel, but the bird of the month from that grouping was a new species for the region not even seen by any birders, a **Crested Caracara** photographed by a trail cam in Wayne County just east of Webster on February 1.

4. With the mid-month warmup and opening of Irondequoit Bay, there was a massive influx of gulls to that area, especially larger gulls, with impressive counts such as Greg Lawrence's notes on the 24<sup>th</sup> of 4600 Herring

Gulls, 11 Iceland Gulls, 5 Glaucous Gulls, 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and 272 Great Black-backed Gulls. There were no reports of early Bonaparte's Gull or any really rare gulls.

5. Non-passerine land birds are typically just the doves, owls, and woodpeckers in this month. No one reported the Eurasian Collared Dove this month. All of our regular owl species were at least reported. Snowy Owl continued in good numbers, with 19+ individuals reported from at least 18 locations by over 40 observers. Numbers of Short-eared Owls found on the regular biweekly DEC counts remained good this year, with 18 noted on the count on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Rarely reported away from the lakeshore, Jim Kimball reported one each of Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls in the southern part of Livingston County. N. Saw-whet Owls were also found in Owl Woods on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Red-headed Woodpecker was reported only from Hamlin Beach SP, and only two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported.

6. As noted earlier, the winter appears to have taken a toll on the lingering half-hardy species. Only small numbers of most remained, including; Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, a Fox Sparrow, small numbers of a few other sparrow species that usually overwinter, and Rusty Blackbird. New early arrivals included one report of a Tree Swallow and numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. Winter finches were represented by only one Common Redpoll and some reports of small numbers of Pine Siskins.

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

#### **Observers:**

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Denis Caysinger, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Deborah Dohne, Mark Druziak, George Ford, Kenny Frisch, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Bill Gillette, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, David Harding, Kim Hartquist, Diane Henderson, Christina Hoh, Jennalee Holzschuh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Jack Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Mary Magistro, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Paul McNamara, Jim Miles, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Dave Nutter, Dave Odell, Andrea Patterson, Jon Podoliak, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Rochester Young Birders Club, Rosemary Reilly, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Kevin Rybczynski, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Mickey Scilingo, Shirley Shaw, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Kimberly Sucey, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Jim Wood.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

February 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	2	24F	T Leicester, Livingston Co.	R. Stevens
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	6-8	15-17	Braddock Bay area	8 obs
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	1	18	LaSalle Landing Park	P. Martin
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	6-11	24	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	14+obs
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	9	27	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	2	28	T Webster	Ji. Miles, J. Wing
Snow Goose	1; 30; 75	20FS	NMWMA(3 loc)	sev obs
Snow Goose	<u>max 50000</u>	21	NMWMA (Railroad Rd)	K. Gage
Snow Goose	<u>15,000-20000</u>	28	Wiley Rd., T Savannah	D. Carter, D. Dohne
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	2	24F	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Dashnau
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1	25	Hamlin Beach SP	G. Lawrence
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	3	26	NMWMA (Savannah Mucklands)	W. & M. Rowley
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1	28	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	G. Dashnau
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	~ 18 rep, 31 ind	15-28	14 loc	14 obs
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	1	15F	Hughes Marina, Wayne Co.	R. Ryan
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>max 10</u>	28	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Canada Goose	<u>max 10395</u>	28	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Mute Swan	<u>max 110</u>	19	Irondequoit Bay - North	R. Spahn
Trumpeter Swan	3	6-11	Irondequoit Bay - North	mob
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 28</u>	21	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	W. & M. Rowley
Tundra Swan	<u>max 305</u>	28	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Tundra Swan	<u>234</u>	28	Mendon Ponds Park	P. Martin
Tundra Swan	<u>308</u>	28	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Dashnau
Wood Duck	2	<u>18FS RE</u>	Kings Bend Park, Pittsford	B. Carlson
Gadwall	<u>max 100</u>	25	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Lawrence, L. Mattle, Ji. Miles
Gadwall	<u>94</u>	28	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	3 m ph	<u>24F RE</u>	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Dashnau
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1-2 m	<u>24-28</u>	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	15+ oth obs
American Wigeon	1; 2	<u>16FS</u>	Braddock Bay - N. Marina	A. Guthrie; Bri. Morse
American Wigeon	<u>max 1200</u>	25	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. G. Kohlenberg
Am. Black Duck	<u>max 400</u>	25	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. McGowan
Am. Black Duck	<u>max 88, low</u>	2	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Mallard	<u>max 800</u>	25	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. McGowan
N. Shoveler	1-5	<u>21FS</u>	sev	sev obs
N. Pintail	1	<u>15FS</u>	Braddock Bay - N. Marina	sev obs
N. Pintail	<u>1500</u>	21	NMWMA (Savannah Mucklands)	M. Gullo, <i>et al.</i>
N. Pintail	<u>max 5000</u>	25	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. McGowan
Green-winged Teal	3	<u>16FS</u>	Kings Bend Park, Pittsford	P. Martin
Redhead	<u>max 580, low</u>	4	Irondequoit Bay - North	A. Guthrie
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 200, low</u>	25	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. McGowan
Greater Scaup	<u>max 460, low</u>	3	Irondequoit Bay - North	A. Guthrie

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

February 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>King Eider</u>	1 imm m	4-11	IB - Charlotte	11 obs
<u>King Eider</u>	1 imm m	1-6	Sodus Point	5 obs
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 126, low</u>	19	Point Breeze	C. Morien
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 620</u>	21	Rigney's Bluff, Greece	K. Griffith
Long-tailed Duck	<u>500</u>	3	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Long-tailed Duck	<u>520</u>	24	East Manitou Rd. overlook	A. Guthrie
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 250</u>	21	Irondequoit Bay - North	S. Taylor
Common Goldeneye	<u>245</u>	2	Sodus Point	J. Wood
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 fem	3-12	Sodus Point	J. McGowan, 16+ oth obs
Common Merganser	<u>max 600</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay - North	R. Spahn
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 500</u>	25	Irondequoit Bay	Rochester Young Birders
Ruffed Grouse	1	<u>3F</u>	South Conesus	K. Close
Red-necked Grebe	5	<u>18FS</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	B. Carlson, A. Guthrie
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 32</u>	21	Rigney's Bluff, Greece	K. Griffith
<u>Black Vulture</u>	1	<u>27F</u>	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	A. Guthrie, G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Bald Eagle	172 eBird lines	all month	many	mob
Bald Eagle	max 16	4	Irondequoit Bay	J. Miles
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>total ~ 9</u>	all month	3 loc	sev
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>max 5</u>	28	Braddock Bay Hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>~25 rep, 24 ind</u>	all month	16 loc	20 obs
Golden Eagle	1 imm	<u>4-20</u>	Irondequoit Bay	8+ obs
American Coot	max 45, low	<u>26</u>	Irondequoit Bay	J. Miles
Sandhill Crane	3	<u>18F</u>	Taylor Marsh area	K. Kirsch
Sandhill Crane	1	<u>24-28</u>	NMWMA (3 loc)	5 obs
Sandhill Crane	<u>5</u>	<u>28</u>	T Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Killdeer	1	<u>20F RE</u>	Nations Rd. IBA	N. Kachala
Killdeer	1	<u>20F RE</u>	near West Walworth	M. Gullo
American Woodcock	1	<u>23F</u>	Hogan Point	D. Tetlow
American Woodcock	1	<u>28</u>	NMWMA (Wright Rd.)	K. Gage
Herring Gull	<u>max 4600</u>	24	Irondequoit Bay	G. Lawrence
Iceland Gull	<u>max 11</u>	24	Irondequoit Bay	G. Lawrence
Iceland Gull	<u>total ~37+</u>	all month	18 loc	29+ obs
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>total ~23+</u>	all month	15 loc	36+ obs
Glaucous Gull	<u>max 5</u>	24	Irondequoit Bay	G. Lawrence
Glaucous Gull	<u>total ~16+</u>	4-26	9 loc	28+ obs
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 272</u>	24	Irondequoit Bay	G. Lawrence
Snowy Owl	<u>44 rep, 21+ ind</u>	all month	20+ loc	41+ obs
Long-eared Owl	1	<u>20</u>	<u>T. Nunda, Livingston Co.</u>	J. Kimball
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 12</u>	2	Nations Rd. IBA	C. Goetz
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	<u>20F</u>	<u>T. Linwood, Livingston Co.</u>	J. Kimball
N. Saw-whet Owl	2; 1	<u>26; 27</u>	Manitou (Owl Woods)	8 obs
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1-2	<u>2-9</u>	T Savannah, Wayne Co.	K. McCarthy

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

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<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>2-13</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
<u>Crested Caracara ph trail cam</u>	<u>1 1st Reg</u>	1F	T Ontario, Wayne Co.	P. McNamara
American Kestrel	<u>11 rep, 12 ind</u>	all month	9 loc	14 obs
Merlin	<u>12 rep, 14 ind</u>	all month	12 loc	13 obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>10 rep, 13 ind</u>	all month	9 loc	18 obs
Northern Shrike	<u>25 rep, 13 ind</u>	2-23	11 loc	24 obs
Fish Crow	<u>max 8</u>	8	<u>Dewey Ave., T Greece</u>	M. Gullo
Horned Lark	<u>max 170</u>	11	T Conesus, Livingston Co.	K. Close
Tree Swallow	1	<u>28F</u>	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. Wing
Winter Wren	<u>total ~5+</u>	<u>21</u>	5 loc	6 obs
Hermit Thrush	1	<u>1; 9</u>	Mendon Ponds Park	B. Carlson; P. Martin
American Robin	<u>max 160</u>	24	Lehigh Valley Trail. T Rush	N. Kachala
Gray Catbird	1	<u>17</u>	Manitou (OwlWoods)	A. Garland
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 45, low</u>	24	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Lapland Longspur	<u>max 15, low</u>	13	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Snow-Bunting	<u>max 300</u>	11	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	<u>3</u>	Church Trail, Greece	A. Guthrie
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	<u>11</u>	Gosnell Big Woods, Webster	R. Noll
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	<u>17</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	R. Stevens
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>10</u>	Ellison Park	Ji. Miles
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 3000</u>	28	NMWMA (Wiley Rd.)	D. Dohne
Rusty Blackbird	1	<u>7</u>	Mendon Ponds Park	P. Martin
Rusty Blackbird	2	<u>28</u>	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	5 obs
Common Grackle	<u>max 3000</u>	28	NMWMA (Wiley Rd.)	D. Dohne
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 100</u>	4	Rt.36, T Conesus	K. Close
Common Redpoll ( <u>only rep</u> )	2	23	Hamlin	D. Tetlow
Pine Siskin	<u>max 20</u>	26	Manitou (OwlWoods)	R. Noll