

## March 2018 Sightings Report

It was another cold March. Temperatures averaged 32.2 °F, 2.1° below normal; the 10<sup>th</sup> time a March average has been lower than February's and for a second year in a row. A persistent storm track mostly to our south and east left us in cold air most of the month until a warm front lifted in on the 26<sup>th</sup> and stalled for the rest of the month, leaving us finally in the 40's but with light rain each day. There were 15 days of light snowfall and 4 days with heavy snow dropping 29.4", 13.1" above normal, mostly in the first half of the month. Precipitation totaled 3.02", 0.52" above normal. But we were lucky; 4 nor'easters tracked south of us and up the coast this month, and we were only on the fringes.

Over most of the month, conditions were not conducive to migration and often not to birders getting out. Reports were slow across families of birds, yet there were still a number of arrivals. Reports to eBird totaled 24,240 lines, a decent number for March. Species seen and totals for the year to date were very close to their 10-year averages. This year's weather illustrates for us that a primary determiner of new arrivals here is the weather between us and points south and west. This year, essentially all month, we had a broad stripe of heavy weather right across the country south and west of us, and few migrants.

Among the waterfowl, Snow Geese persisted in high numbers both in our region and nearby. The rarer but now regular geese, Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Cackling were found in good numbers. Again, Eurasian Wigeon appeared early but only in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area in our region. No really rare species were noted. Peak numbers for most species were relatively low, other than good counts for Northern Pintail and Redhead. There were no significant counts of either loon or any of the regular grebes. Great Blue Heron numbers picked up late in the month, and Great Egrets were found near month's end. It was back again to no Black Vultures for the month.

The ugly weather in the first half of the month held back the hawk count; the total didn't pass February's 2 days until the 19<sup>th</sup>. The official counter this year is Greg Lawrence, with Mike Tetlow providing assistance and relief. The month's total of 3,028 birds is relatively low, and over half of that passed in the last 2 days of the month. As usual, 2,390 Turkey Vultures was 79% of the total. Osprey arrived on the 31<sup>st</sup>, and again no Northern Goshawks were tallied at the hawk watch and only 2 elsewhere. At least 23 Sandhill Cranes were noted from the watch.

Good numbers of Killdeer were noted across the region, but the only other shorebirds were single Greater Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe, and a few American Woodcocks. The first spring Bonaparte's Gull was seen on March 1<sup>st</sup>, but the first from the hawk watch was not until the 27<sup>th</sup>, and the peak number reported was only 7. One of the events of the month was a massive gull buildup in Irondequoit Bay due to a major fish die-off from a combination of winter stress and a fish-specific virus. Large numbers of the larger species were tallied,

including our winter-gull species – Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous.

About 13 Snowy Owls were reported from 10 locations. The DEC Short-eared Owl surveys out of the Avon office continued with good numbers for this month's counts, and visitors to the Nations Road area tallied as many as 27 Short-eared Owls there in an evening. Jim Adams reported that counts of roosting migrant owls, Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet, in the "Owl Woods" area on Manitou Beach Road found none until 3 and 2, respectively, in the last 4 days of the month. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported only from Hamlin Beach State Park. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers dropped off to reports of singles from only 2 locations. The 3 regular falcons were all reported in typical numbers at the hawk watch and elsewhere.

Passerine arrivals were slow through the month, with only about 6 new arrivals, and some of those judgment calls around arrival vs. left from wintering. None were at really exceptionally early dates. The most interesting were Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Others with quite a few winter reports were Winter Wren, Eastern Towhee, and Savannah and Fox Sparrows. The Starvation Moon seems to have adversely impacted many of the lingering half hardies. The surprise of the month was a well-described male Scarlet Tanager seen in a private location in Wayne County on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Again this season, the only "winter finches" reported were small numbers of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins.

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

	2018	2017	10-year Average (2008-2017)
Species for March	138	147	140.2
New for the year	<u>10</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18.5</u>
Total for the year to date	150	154	150.5

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

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Dave Bonter, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Nancy Chen, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Jonathan Dachenhaus, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Michael DeWispelaere, Bob Dobson, Deborah Dohne, Daena Ford, George Ford, Kenny Frisch, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, John, Karle, Shannon, & Tessa Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Meena Haribal, Kim Hartquist, Ian/William Hearn, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill & Mari Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Laura Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg

Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Mary Magistro, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Jim & Patti Morris, Brian & Brooke Morse, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Joe Ovsiovitch, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Rosemary Reilly, Dave Robertson, Wade &

Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Janet & Jim Sandefur, Livia Santana, Shirley Shaw, Tom Smith, Tom & Laura Somerville, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Kimberly Sucey, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Sarah Toner, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Dave Wheeler, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Martha Zettel.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

MARCH 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose ph</u>	6	11	Silver Lake, Wyoming Co.	R. Stevens
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	5	12	Jagger Rd, T. Palmyra	M. Gullo
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	23	Twin Cedars Environ Area	B. Carlson
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	31	Salmon Crk, Greece	C. Wood
Snow Goose	<u>max 35,000</u>	20	T Piffard, Livingston Co.	D. Beattie
Snow Goose	<u>10000</u>	25-26	Broadway & Brown Rds, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Snow Goose	<u>6000</u>	5; 26	sev	sev
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	<u>3; max 4</u>	4	Church Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie; B. Carlson
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	<u>3</u>	25	Poplar Hill Rd., Lima	B. Carlson
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	<u>12 rep, 13 ind</u>	4-29	6 loc	14+ obs
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>max 26</u>	23	Twin Cedars Environ Area	B. Carlson
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>39 rep, 80 ind</u>	all month	21 loc	mob
Canada Goose	<u>max 6000</u>	4	Church Rd., Hamlin	T. Lenz, N. Chen
Mute Swan	<u>max 80</u>	27	Salmon Crk, Greece	M. Gullo
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 10</u>	3	NMWMA (Morgan Rd marshes)	W. & M. Rowley
Tundra Swan	<u>max 218</u>	1	Leicester Rd., Caledonia	M. Wasilco
Gadwall	<u>max 60</u>	1	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Gadwall	<u>max 60</u>	10	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	S. Billerman
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	1	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	L.Lauster, W. & M. Rowley, D. Wheeler
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	6	NMWMA (Deep Muck)	G. Dashnau
American Wigeon	<u>max 225</u>	13	NMWMA (Deep Muck)	J. Wood
American Black Duck	<u>max 15; 16, very low</u>	5; 18	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Mallard	<u>max 200, low</u>	1	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	D. Wheeler
Blue-winged Teal	1-5	31 <sup>F</sup>	Braddock Bay area	9+ obs
Northern Pintail	<u>max 4000</u>	8	NMWMA (Carncross Rd.)	J. Wood
Canvasback	<u>max 25, low</u>	4	Braddock Bay	R. Reilly
Redhead	<u>max 8100</u>	15	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 350</u>	6	NMWMA (Deep Muck)	G. Dashnau
Greater Scaup	<u>max 450</u>	19	Sodus Bay, Shaker Tract	J. Wood
<u>Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup</u>	1	15	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
<u>King Eider</u>	1 imm m	17; 18	off Edgemere Dr; Rigneys Bluff	M. Barry; Ji. Miles

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 275</u>	5	Rigneys Bluff	K. Griffith
Bufflehead	<u>max 105</u>	13	Conesus Lake	K. Close
Bufflehead	<u>100</u>	20	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	J. Wood
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 202</u>	6	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Ruddy Duck <u>only report</u>	9	26	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	J. Wood
Red-necked Grebe	1	<u>1FS</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	I. & W. Hearn
Double-crested Cormorant	1	<u>24FS</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Great Egret	1	<u>27E</u>	Salmon Crk, Parma	R. & S. Spahn, M. Gullo
Great Egret	1	<u>27E</u>	Cornwall Preserve, Sodus	J. Wing
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 1038</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Turkey Vulture	<u>total 2390</u>	all month	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Osprey	1-3	<u>31E</u>	Braddock Bay and nearby	sev
Bald Eagle	<u>total 30</u>	all month	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Bald Eagle	<u>258 lines eBird</u>	all month	many	many
<u>N. Goshawk</u>	1	4	Hogan Pt., Greece	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
<u>N. Goshawk</u>	1 imm.	18	T Rush	M. Zettel
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>max 107</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>max 122</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>max 6</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Golden Eagle	1	<u>11</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	W. & M. Rowley
Golden Eagle	1	<u>24</u>	T Mendon	C. Goetz
Golden Eagle	2	<u>27</u>	Broadway Rd., Wayne Co.	D. Robertson
Golden Eagle	1	<u>31</u>	Burger Park, Greece	C. Wood
Golden Eagle	1 ea	<u>19, 30</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
American Coot	<u>max 60</u>	6	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	P. Wolter
Sandhill Crane	<u>total 23</u>	15-31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Sandhill Crane	<u>total 19+</u>	all month	5+ other loc	mob
Killdeer	<u>max 36</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	1	<u>30E</u>	NMWMA (South Butler Unit)	W. & M. Rowley
Wilson's Snipe	1	<u>20FS</u>	Nations Rd.	D. Beattie
Bonaparte's Gull	1	<u>1FS</u>	Cranberry Pond, Greece	G. Lawrence
Ring-billed Gull	<u>max 1400</u>	11	Irondequoit Bay - S	K. Hartquist
Herring Gull	<u>2800</u>	11	Irondequoit Bay - S	K. Hartquist
Herring Gull	<u>max 5000</u>	25	Irondequoit Bay - S	Bri. Morse
Iceland Gull	<u>max 9</u>	31	Irondequoit Bay - S	S. Taylor
Iceland Gull	<u>total 55+</u>	all month	16 loc	mob
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>max 100</u>	28	T Riga	Bri. Morse
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>total 44+</u>	all month	14 loc	mob
Glaucous Gull	<u>total 29</u>	all month	13 loc	mob
<u>Herring x Glaucous Gull</u>	1	18	Newport Marina	T. Lenz
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 100</u>	4	Irondequoit Bay - S Outlet	B. Howe
Snowy Owl	<u>total 13+</u>	all month	10 loc	18+ obs

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Long-eared Owl	<u>total 3</u>	28, 30, 31	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team+
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 27</u>	7	Nations Rd. area	J. & T. Gordinier
Short-eared Owl	<u>total 42+</u>	all month	8 loc	mob
N. Saw-whet Owl	<u>total 2</u>	28, 29	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team+
Red-headed Woodpecker	<u>4 rep, 2--3</u>	10, 23	Hamlin Beach SP	5 obs
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>6</u>	Lehigh Valley Trail	P. Martin
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<u>9, 18</u>	Fowlerville Rd yard	S. Burch, J. McCartney
American Kestrel	<u>total 70+</u>	all month	38+	mob
American Kestrel	<u>max 14</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Merlin	<u>23 rep, ~25</u>	all month	21 loc	22+ obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>13 rep, ~13</u>	<u>3-26</u>	10 loc	16+ obs
Eastern Phoebe	2	<u>24FS</u>	Lakeville, Livingston Co.	T. Bohling
Eastern Phoebe	1	<u>29</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Northern Shrike	<u>14+ ind</u>	all month	13 loc	mob
American Crow	<u>129; 125; 132</u>	26; 27; 31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Fish Crow	<u>max 11; 10</u>	1; 31	Northgate Plaza area, Greece	L. Bergmeyer; M. Gullo
Tree Swallow	<u>max 62</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
Barn Swallow	1	<u>31F</u>	off Edgemere Dr., Greece	R. Buckert
Winter Wren	1	<u>31FS</u>	Braddock Bay - West Spit	A. Garland
Winter Wren	1	<u>31FS</u>	Harter Rd., T Sparta	K. Close
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>29FS</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	W. & M. Rowley
American Robin	<u>max 400</u>	31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
American Pipit	7	<u>31F</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence, <i>et al.</i>
American Pipit	1	<u>31F</u>	Beatty Pt; Burger Park	C. Wood; Je. Barry, A. Guthrie, C. Wood
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 100</u>	30	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Lapland Longspur	<u>max 22</u>	11	N. Hamlin Rd.	A. Guthrie
Snow Bunting	<u>max 85</u>	14	T. Caledonia	M. Wasilco
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>16-19FS</u>	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Field Sparrow	1	<u>2</u>	Lyons Rd., T. Rush	T. Barnett
Field Sparrow ph	1	<u>6</u>	T. Warsaw, Wyoming Co.	R. Stevens
Field Sparrow	1	<u>9, 12, 22</u>	Pittsford	M. Laird
Savannah Sparrow	1	<u>3</u>	Christine Sevilla Wetland Pres.	R. Stevens
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>12</u>	Ellison Park	Ji. Miles
Scarlet Tanager	1 m	<u>17F</u>	private, Wayne Co.	<i>fide</i> D. Spier
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 5000</u>	28	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	K. Gage
Eastern Meadowlark	2	<u>1F</u>	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Eastern Meadowlark	<u>max 10</u>	17	Lakeville, Livingston Co.	T. Bohling
Rusty Blackbird	<u>max 8, low</u>	31	Braddock Bay - West Spit	Je. Barry, A. Guthrie, C. Wood
Common Grackle	<u>max 1000</u>	4	T. Savannah, Wayne Co.	J. Wood
Common Grackle	<u>max 1000</u>	28	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	K. Gage
Common Redpoll	<u>max 11</u>	29	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	G. Lawrence
Pine Siskin	<u>max 40</u>	18	Webster Park	T. Lenz