

Notes and Observers for December 2014

Underlined items indicate noteworthy factors.

F indicates new species for the year.

L indicates probable last record for the season.

RH indicates record high count, possibly with CBC as a modifier.

ph indicates identifiable photo submitted as verification.

RCBC indicates Rochester Christmas Bird Count.

CHCBC indicates Conesus-Hemlock (Little Lakes) Christmas Bird Count.

LSCBC indicates Letchworth-Silver Lake Christmas Bird Count.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	10-year Average (2004-2013)
Species for December	130	122	129.8
New for the year	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1.3</u>
Total for the year	293	289	294.0

1. The month started with cold and some snow for the first two weeks, then changed to a warm Pacific air flow, with lots of clouds and light rain and snow-free for the balance of the month. Temperatures averaged 34.4°F, 4.4° above normal. There was only one day that dropped into the teens, on the 31st, and that few was only tied or less in two years on record. The only temperature record was a record high low on the 24th. Precipitation totaled 2.31", 0.32" below normal. There was 16.6" of snowfall, 5.2" below normal. Light rain fell on 17 days and light snow on 13 days, with the heaviest snowfall was on the 10th. If you felt depressed by the gray, the feeling was well-founded, with 26 days cloudy and 5 partially cloudy. Larger bodies of water and running water were open for this year's CBC's.

2. All three local Christmas Bird Counts tallied respectable totals, especially with count week birds included. Each count had several record high totals for species, with **Snow Goose** and several of the diving ducks eclipsing previous highs on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC. **Blue Jays** nearly doubled the previous high on the Rochester CBC, and **Tufted Titmouse**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Carolina Wren** were high to record on all three counts. **Winter Wren** was amazingly numerous in Durand-Eastman Park, but very scarce elsewhere. Most half hardy and irruptive species were low, but still many were at least found. It is not a finch winter, yet three species of winter finches were found on the counts.

3. The waterbird migration again remained slow for the late fall to early winter period. All the expected species were at least recorded, but peak numbers were generally low especially on Lake Ontario and excepting the record CBC counts. We continued a recent trend of the diving ducks, scaup and **Redheads** and now **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye**, which we used to find all along the Lake Ontario shore, now peaking mainly on the Finger Lakes. **Ring-necked Duck**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck** counts were also high again on the Finger Lakes. **Long-tailed Duck** and **Common and Red-breasted mergansers** were the primary species along the lakeshore, though with the usual scattering of **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye**. **King Eiders** were not found this month. Lingering loons and grebes were scarce. The Point Breeze male

Barrow's Goldeneye returned again first recorded on the 6th. The lone **Northern Gannet** of the fall was spotted at Sodus Point and likely about an hour earlier from the shore north of Wolcott

4. Among the raptors **Black Vulture** was again missed, and only small numbers of **Turkey Vultures** were reported, though there was a record high on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC. Only one **Northern Goshawk** and small numbers of **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported. **Falcon** reports were all scarce. **Snowy Owls** did not approach last year's invasion, but there were still many birds scattered about the region, with approximately 41 reports of at least 22 individuals. CBC owl finding efforts still provide only a weak hint of the numbers of Eastern Screech-Owl resident. **The DEC's Short-eared Owl surveys were off to a good start; birds are being found at most of the usual sites. Please be considerate of nearby residents when visiting these sites to see owls. Too many people and staring into windows is NOT appreciated. Law enforcement has been called in some cases.** Northern Shrike reports were down a bit this early winter.

5. A lone **Purple Sandpiper** at IBO was the only shorebird reported; found just after the Rochester CBC period.

6. With little ice edge to gather on, the winter gulls of interest were a few **Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls. Bonaparte's Gull** numbers were again very poor. The highlight was the only report of the fall of a **Black-legged Kittiwake** passing Hamlin Beach SP on the 1st.

7. Among the non-passerine landbirds not noted above, only a record high pigeon count on the Rochester CBC, a couple of **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports at new sites, and a good number of lingering **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were notable.

8. Among the passerines, again many observers thought numbers low and birds hard to find, especially after the cold early in the month. Yet the overall mix and species total was at least average and most of the usual half-hardy species were found, even an **Ovenbird** and a **Pine Warbler** at feeders. Four different **Eastern Phoebes** is likely a high for a December. **Lark Sparrow** was the only real rarity, lingering from November. The noteworthy table provides more examples. There were two more winter finches found, **White-winged Crossbill** and **Hoary Redpoll**. Thinking back, among the missing **Common Yellowthroat** and the scarcer lingering sparrows, and there were no good counts for wintering blackbirds.

9. Please send your reports by the 5th of the month to month to Lynn Bergmeyer, 187 Longridge Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616.

Observers:

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Jim & Liz Barry, Sue Barth, Douglas Bassett, Doug & Sharon Beattie, Steven Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Justine Bower, Wes Boyce, Robert Buckert, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Steve Carlson, George Chiu, Jill Church, Linda Clark-Benedict, Jim Cleveland, Kelly Close, Fran Colby, Seaghan Coleman, Clyde Comstock, Andrew Consler, Doug Daniels, Peter Debes, Rose DeNeve, Jon Dombrowski, Wayne Fidler, Kurt Fox, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Kristine Genagan, Nathan Goldberg, Charles Goulet, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Richard Guthrie, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Helen & Chris Haller,

Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Monika Hermann-Kokis, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Laura Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Chuck Linn, Peggy Mabb, Bill Maier, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Laurie Mattle, Fran Merrill, Jim Miles, Joyce Miller, Chita McKinney, Adrielle Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Sue O'Neill, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, David Prill, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Jennifer Rycenga, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Kim Sucy, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Dave Wheeler, Kinsley Whittum, Tim Wilder, Joe Wing.

ROCHESTER NOTEWORTHY RECORDS
DECEMBER 2014

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Greater White-fronted Goose	3	7	Hamlin (Jacobs Rd)	A. Guthrie, C. Guthrie
Greater White-fronted Goose	3-5	9-27	Hamlin Beach SP	mob
Snow Goose	<u>9000</u>	29	Avon DEC Ponds (Twin Cedars)	M. Wasilco
Snow Goose ph	<u>15074</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC - Northern Sector	J. Dombroski, <i>et al.</i>
Snow Goose ph	<u>max 75000</u>	28	Lima (Poplar Hill Rd)	R. & S. Spahn, C. Spahn
Ross's Goose	<u>1-2</u>	1-21	Hamlin Beach SP & nearby	A. Guthrie, B. Morse, mob
Ross's Goose	1	28	Lima (Poplar Hill Rd)	R. Spahn
Cackling Goose	<u>20 rep, 18+ ind</u>	1-27	5 loc	mob
Cackling Goose	<u>max 5</u>	1; 17	3 loc	sev
Canada Goose	<u>max 17, 197</u>	20	Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC	sev
Mute Swan	<u>max 35</u>	14	Buck Pond (T Greece)	Ji. & L. Barry
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 22</u>	7	T Savannah	R. & S. Spahn
Tundra Swan	<u>max 250, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus Lake	J. Kimball, A. Consler
Tundra Swan	<u>151</u>	16	<u>Sodus Bay</u>	E. Gyllenhaal
Wood Duck	1	30 ^L	Braddodk Bay	N. Kachala
American Wigeon	14	26 ^L	Conesus Lake	J. Kimball, A. Consler
Northern Shoveler	1	26 ^L	Conesus Lake	J. Kimball, A. Consler
Green-winged Teal	1	14 ^L	Braddodk Bay	R. Spahn
Redhead	<u>max 6934, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 1500, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	J. Kimball, A. Consler
Greater Scaup	<u>max 50, LOW</u>	7	Hamlin Beach SP	T. Lenz
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 340</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 44, LOW</u>	13	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 809, low</u>	14	Rochester CBC	sev
Bufflehead	<u>max 497, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 936, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 male	6FF - 7	Point Breeze (Orleans Co.)	A. Guthrie, sev
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 634, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
Common Merganser	<u>max 189</u>	14	Tuning Point Park	K. Hartquist
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 270</u>	15	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	K. Hartquist
Ruddy Duck	<u>max 80</u>	26	Conesus Lake (on CBC)	J. Kimball, A. Consler
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 22</u>	9	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>max 12</u>	3	Conesus Lake	A. Consler
Horned Grebe	<u>max 72; 75</u>	20	Bear Creek; Sodus Pt.	D. Sherony
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 17</u>	9	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
<u>Northern Gannet</u>	1 imm ph	12	Sodus Pt.	J. Wing
<u>sulid sp.</u>	<u>1 imm</u>	12	Brown Rd (T. Wolcott)	W. & M. Rowley
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 15</u>	9	Sodus Bay	D. Daniels
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 29, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1	20	Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC	xx
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	1	5	Chimney Bluffs (Wayne Co.)	D. Daniels
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>13 rep, 20 ind</u>	all month	sev	sev
American Coot	<u>max 544</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
Purple Sandpiper	1	<u>19 thru</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	L. Mattle, mob
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	1 ^E	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie, Bri. Morse
Iceland Gull	<u>total 3</u>	13-20	sev	sev
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<u>total 4</u>	5-27	sev	sev
Rock Pigeon	<u>max 1840, CBC RH</u>	14	Rochester CBC	sev
E. Screech-Owl	<u>max 69, CBC RH</u>	14	Rochester CBC	sev
Snowy Owl	<u>~ 41 rep, 22+ ind</u>	all month	many	mob
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 12</u>	30	Sand & Taft Rds	R. & C. Spahn
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	9	<u>Seneca Park (Rochester)</u>	A. Garland
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	29-30	<u>Fairport</u>	W. Boyce
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<u>max 64, CBC RH</u>	20	Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC	sev
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u>total 9</u>	10-26	sev	sev
Merlin	<u>total 6</u>	all month	sev	sev
Peregrine Falcon	<u>total 5</u>	all month	sev	sev

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)
DECEMBER 2014

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Eastern Phoebe ph	1	<u>2</u>	Oatka Creek Park	J. Adams
Eastern Phoebe	1	<u>13</u>	Fairport	C. Linn
Eastern Phoebe	1	<u>22</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Wheeler, J. Tarolli
Eastern Phoebe	1	<u>23</u>	Durand-Eastman Park	K. Gage
Northern Shrike	<u>14 rep, 14 ind</u>	all month	sev	sev

Blue Jay	<u>max 508, CBC RH</u>	14	Rochester CBC	CBC
American Crow	<u>max 14,986</u>	14	Rochester	CBC crow counters
<u>Fish Crow</u>	2	22	Summerville Pier	Bri. Morse
Tufted Titmouse	<u>max 99, CBC RH</u>	20	Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC	sev
Winter Wren	<u>max 22, CBC RH</u>	14	Rochester CBC	sev
Carolina Wren	<u>max 19, CBC RH</u>	14	Rochester CBC	sev
Carolina Wren	<u>max 39, CBC RH</u>	26	Conesus-Hemlock CBC	sev
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>20</u>	Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC	xx
Hermit Thrush	<u>8 rep, 10 ind</u>	5-30	sev	sev
American Robin	<u>max 1625</u>	14	Rochester CBC	sev
Gray Catbird	1	<u>14</u>	Beatty Pt. (Greece)	G. Lawrence
Gray Catbird	1	<u>26</u>	Hemlock Lake area	Bill Howe
American Pipit	2	<u>5</u>	Sodus Bay	D. Daniels
American Pipit	1	<u>6</u>	Conesus Lake	J. Kimball, RBA Field Trip
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	1	<u>26</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	J. Miles
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 44; 43, low</u>	14; 13	Durand-Eastman; Webster Park	D. Sherony; A. Garland
Lapland Longspur	<u>max 30</u>	13	Hamlin	G. Lawrence
Snow Bunting	<u>max 310</u>	13	Hamlin	G. Lawrence
Ovenbird ph	1	<u>27</u>	Henrietta	M. Hermann-Kokis
Pine Warbler	1	<u>5-26</u>	Spencerport	F. Colby
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<u>max 10</u>	<u>14</u>	Beatty Pt. (Greece)	G. Lawrence
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>8; 23</u>	Beechwoods SP (Wayne Co.)	J. Wing