

Records Report

1. February saw a slow rise in temperatures from a very cold late January. There was light snowfall on 19 days and heavy on just two days, with 9.2" over the 2nd to 3rd and another 5" on the 25th. The month started with a snow pack of greater than one foot, then dropped slowly with periods of melting. Mid-month saw 0.95" of rain on the 17th, a record amount for that date. There was some flooding then and late in the month with the rains and snow pack melting. On Lake Ontario, there was some shoreline ice through the month, but little more general coverage out beyond that. Bays and ponds and inland lakes remained largely frozen all month. Overall, temperatures averaged 26.1°F, 1.3° below normal; precipitation totaled 3.45", 1.32", above normal, and snowfall totaled 26.3", 3.2" above normal.

2. Once again, all of the expected waterfowl were reported, with a King Eider and continuing Common Eider and pair of Harlequin Ducks as bonuses. As small open areas appeared on bays, there was some start of spring migration in the appearance of new species and increasing numbers; probably low end typical for this month. There were no unusually high peak counts. The usual influx of Snow Geese was still limited and mostly outside of our region. Grebe numbers were also low and no Red-necked Grebes were reported. American Coot also remained scarce, and there were no rail reports. The group of 10 Sandhill Cranes in the area between Taylor Marsh and parts of the Town of Livonia continued, with reports to mid-month. None were reported from the NMWMA.

3. The late month warmth brought the first spring Killdeer on the 22nd. The only other shorebird was a lone Wilson's Snipe, likely a wintering bird moving about. All of our usual winter gulls were present, but in unexceptional numbers. There was only a single report of 10 Bonaparte's Gulls; back to historically typical. Loon reports were very few, and Double-crested Cormorant was again down to scattered reports of 1-2.

4. Among the hawks, wintering numbers were typically relatively low, though there were local concentrations of Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle numbers were good, there were three locations reporting Red-Shouldered Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawks were scattered about, with several appearing to settle in in the general Braddock Bay area. A Golden Eagle found

by Dave Tetlow in the Town of Ogden on the 26th was a nice surprise. David Brown is back again as this year's official hawk counter starting on March 1. The Cooper's:Sharp-shinned Hawk ratio remained at the usual about 3:1, with 153:45 eBird lines. There were no Black Vulture or Northern Goshawk reports. About 12 Snowy Owls were reported from ten locations, some over extended stays. Short-eared Owl numbers on the DEC surveys were relatively low, and the Tuesday dates for the Avon counts were again plagued by iffy weather. Jim Adams noted that the owl count in the Owl Woods area was off to a great start, with 17 Northern Saw-whet Owl reports the highest for the month in the 11 years he has been summarizing the data. A Long-eared Owl was reported there on two dates, likely an individual found there off and on earlier this winter. The regular falcons were all well reported through the season. Northern Shrike was a bit hard to find, with about six reported from three locations over the month.

5. As usual, woodpeckers are the major component of the other non-passerine land birds. There were no reports of Red-headed Woodpecker for the month. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was well down at less than half from the numbers of the last two winters, but still above typical winter expectations at 20 reports of 12 individuals.

6. Again, nearly all of the really expected late-winter passerines were reported this month. A surprise miss was Swamp Sparrow. There was also very limited sign of early migrants, and possibly most of those were lingering locally and just moving about a bit more. Winter finches were down to Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin. Apparently the long period of cold and snowpack took its toll on the lingering half-hardy species, as variety was down from the past couple of years and numbers of individuals down across the board. Those present (with some numbers in parentheses) included: Winter Wren (5), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Hermit Thrush (12), Eastern Towhee (1), Chipping Sparrow (1), Field Sparrow (5), Savannah Sparrow (1), Fox Sparrow (max. 2), many White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (7 rep. of 1-3). Again, peak blackbird numbers were very low. More illustrations are provided in the Noteworthy Records table to be posted on the RBA website. Among these there are a number of entries of the number of lines of reports in the eBird

download and comparing with the same from last year, most were down 30% or more this year; certainly a combination of fewer birds and less birder activity.

7. The total number of records in the data download for the region was 28,991, down 20% from last year. The number of observers contributing to eBird records was 556 this month, about 10% down from last year.

Observers:

Oswaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Alan Bloom, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Christophe Brandt, Janet Brooks, David Brown (BBRR hawk watcher), Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Robert Crandall, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, George Ford, Kyle & Margaret Gage, Andy Garland, Richard Garrigus, Matthew Gavette, Janice George, Candy Giles, Bill & Linda Gillette, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Meg Grindrod, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Jason Hull, Pam Inzinna, Joyce Johns, Alyssa Johnson, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Jacob Kearney, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Fred Leff, Tim Lenz, Maureen Leupold, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy

Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Catherine McFee, Jay McGowan, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Ann Mitchell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim & Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Matt Nusstein, Dave Odell, Annie O'Reilly, Jay Ovsiovitch,

	2022	2021	10-year Average
Species for Feb.	124	134	121.6
New for the year	4	6	7.2
Total for the year to date	140	144	134.9

Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, RBA Field Trips, Rochester Young Birders Club, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jackie Salisbury, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Erica Shirley, Judy Slein, Cheri Smith, Marshall Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Joe Stevenson, Wendy Stevenson, Allan Strong, David Strong, Joyce Testa, Eunice Thein, L. Tiede, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Brian Tuttle, Nathan Ukens, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Jeanne & Thomas Verhulst, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Glenn Wolford, Chris Wood, Jim Wood. [556 observers in the eBird download, cannot list all here.]

Bald Eagle - Onondaga Lake - © Clyde Comstock - Mar 04, 2022



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIRD OF PREY DAYS

Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24, 2022

Do you like meeting new people and sharing your love of birds and birding?

Then take a seat at the RBA table for Bird of Prey Days at Braddock Bay Park!

Fill a 3-hour shift and talk to people about RBA membership, field trips, the birds they've seen in their yard, and more.

We need 2 people per shift.

Contact Adrianna Anderson

at adrianna.m.anderson@gmail.com to reserve your slot.