

## Records Report

1. From a warm early winter, January quickly slid down from a high near 50° on the first to chill and snow. Temperatures averaged 19.5° F, 6.7° below normal. It was the coldest January since 2015. Five days dipped to below zero lows. Precipitation totaled 2.50", 0.05" below normal. There was some precipitation on 23 days, but only one day above 1". While there was only one really significant snow event, 10.4" on the 17<sup>th</sup>, there was some snowfall on 28 days through the month. Snowfall totaled 34.4", 7.0" above normal, 20<sup>th</sup> greatest for a January. Shoreline ice on Lake Ontario began to creep out some by month's end. The lake temperature dropped from about 42° to 34° through the month.

2. The eBird download at about 33,365 lines for our region was < 10% below last year's. The species total for the month at 138, tied last year, again near the record high for the month. While not quite at last winter's levels, there were many lingering, half-hardy species and again many in larger than usual numbers; see the records illustrated in the Noteworthy Table on the RBA website.

3. As usual again, winter arrived on the eve of the annual NY State Waterfowl Count. A sharp dip in the low temperature the night before the official count date froze most of the open water other than Lake Ontario, a few openings in other, larger lakes, and some moving water. The day after the aim date brought the heaviest snowfall of the winter to that date. Spots opened a bit afterward, but cold persisted for the rest of the month. Species found were down a bit at 31 and the total number of waterbirds was down about 20% from last year to 41,613, still well above the long-term average and again led by high numbers of Canada Goose and Redhead. Lingering waterfowl were harder to find, but all expected species were reported during the month and most during the waterfowl count. Only King Eider approached any remote claim to being "missing", and this was offset by a **Common Eider** plus Greater White-fronted, Ross's Goose, and two Common x Barrow's Goldeneyes. For most species, peak counts were relatively low.

4. There were no rails reported and only small numbers of American Coot, but Sandhill Crane was again reported from both the Livonia and NMWMA

areas, with an incredible 91 still present on Carncross Road on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Among the shorebirds, there was a late, lingering Sanderling seen off and on through the 15<sup>th</sup>, Purple Sandpiper through the 21<sup>st</sup>, and a Wilson's Snipe on the 20<sup>th</sup>. **Razorbill**, likely surviving from the fall influx, was spotted again at two sites off the Town of Greece on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

5. Gull variety and numbers were both on the low side, probably due to everything open early, then locked up in ice. There were good numbers of the expected "winter" gulls, Iceland and Glaucous, plus the now-regular Lesser Black-backed. Again there were reports of the rare Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid at two locations. Loons and grebes were scarce, and up to 23 Double-crested Cormorants lingered near the Newport Yacht Club until the Irondequoit Bay freeze up.

6. Wintering raptors were generally as expected. There was a surprise in a Northern Goshawk spotted by Chris Wood passing along Edgemere Drive, Greece on the 25<sup>th</sup>. But then no Red-shouldered Hawk reports. Rough-legged Hawk "reports" were up considerably, but possibly numbers very little, with most reports of a small number in the Braddock Bay area all month. The Sharp-shinned to Cooper's Hawk ratio was our usual 1:3. All three regular falcons were reported in good numbers.

7. Snowy Owl reports were scattered through the month and across the region, with at least 14 individuals at 15 sites. Short-eared Owls were a bit low on the regular DEC surveys out of the Avon office, but birders found typical numbers at some of the regulars sites. Two Long-eared Owls in the Braddock Bay area and two Northern Saw-whet Owls turned up by Dave Tetlow at Bergen Swamp on the 1<sup>st</sup> are good for this time of year. Red-headed Woodpecker was again unreported. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were again very high for this season, with about 55 reports of about 36 individuals from 33+ locations up from last winter's big showing.

8. Again, all of the really expected January passerines were found, and in addition good number of half-hardies lingered, though in smaller numbers than last year. The lingering list included: Winter Wren; Marsh Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Thrush; Gray Catbird; American Pipit; Chipping, Field, Savannah, Fox, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows; Eastern Meadowlark; Rusty Blackbird; and

Yellow-rumped Warbler. Then add in Bohemian Waxwing and three Baltimore Orioles. Winter finches were much scarcer, but Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin were reported. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting reports low until after snow blanketed the fields, then better at road edges. Blackbirds were again poorly reported, though there were notes of observations that just did not make official lists.

9. As usual, a table with more detailed records will be posted to the RBA website.

10. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Robert Spahn, 716 Hightower Way, Webster, NY 14580.

|                  | 2022 | 2021 | 10-year |
|------------------|------|------|---------|
| Species for Jan. | 138  | 138  | 127.7   |

**Observers:**

Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Diane Baillargeon, Carolyn & Jerry Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Janet Brooks, Mark Brown, Logan



Brunner, Lia Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Keigan Case, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Doug Daniels, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Annabelle Foos, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Dan Gallagher, Gwen Gallegher, Andy Garland, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Chris Goetz, John Gordinier & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Noel Harradine, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Christina Hoh, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Pam Inzinna, Nancy Jameson, Alyssa Johnson, Jill Johnson, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Paul Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Karl Kunze, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Jenny Landry, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Quinton Marchand, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Jay McGowan, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Raphael, Nussbaumer, Dave O'Dell, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Erma Perkins, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Doug Rabjohns, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybcznski, Jackie Salisbury, Michael Scheibel, Erin Sandle, Karl Schmidt, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, David Strong, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Brian Tuttle, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Erika Venniro, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Joseph Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Rochester Young Birders Club.

Eastern Bluebird - Webster - ©  
 Suzie Webster - Jan 28, 2022