

December 2022 Records Report

1. December 2022 was a variable month for weather, as usual with a late transitional month. Temperatures averaged 32.0°F, exactly average. 17 days throughout the month had below-average temperatures. This was offset by an intense warming period at the month's end. For temperature range, the mercury hit a high of 62° on the 30th and a low of 5° on the 23rd. There were no new record highs or record lows this December, but a low of 48° on the 30th tied the 1884 record for daily high low. The Rochester airport recorded a dismal 4.8" of snow, which is the 10th lowest December snowfall recorded. The 2022-2023 snowfall season was sitting at the 12th lowest total by month-end. An intense winter storm the 23rd-25th, reaching blizzard status in Buffalo but not in Rochester, brought wind gusts up to 68 mph and intense cold.

2. The month's eBird download came in at 28,009 lines, +1.0% over last year. Overall, December was a decent month for waterfowl birding and a poor month for passerine birding. Ice remaining on the lakes and ponds from the freeze at the end of November helped concentrate ducks and gulls in the first part of the month. However, at the same time, warmer temperatures in the beginning of the month meant no snowfall. No snow cover meant passerines like sparrows and larks had no reason to concentrate along roadsides to look for food. The CBCs in Region 2 were conducted towards the end of the month. The Rochester CBC had a total of 94 species (95 for count week) and the Conesus-Hemlock CBC had a total of 82 species (85 for count week). New high counts or ties were: RCBC – Cackling Goose (12), Bald Eagle (24), Purple Sandpiper (1), Common Raven (9), Carolina Wren (36), Eastern Bluebird (40); CHCBC – Carolina Wren (62), Yellow-throated Warbler (1).

3. All of the normally expected waterfowl were reported with the only miss being the less-than-annual Greater White-fronted Goose. No exceptional high counts stood out. The Hamlin Beach State Park lakewatch had consistent coverage and decent movements of diving ducks were noted on the 9th. Good numbers of concentrated Trumpeter Swan (60) were reported from the fields north of Armitage Road in Savannah. The NMWMA held the highest numbers of dabbling ducks in the region, with a count of 1,100 Mallard standing out. Among the diving ducks, numbers remained lower than recent years with the highest concentrations of Redhead on Conesus Lake (1100, low) being the highest for that species. Other species like Canvasback had lower high counts as well. Brad Carlson found a **Tufted Duck** on

Conesus Lake. The adult male stayed around for three days. Linda Birkel and Roger Clark found the region's only Harlequin Duck at Point Breeze on the 25th.

4. Among the grebes, Andy Guthrie reported a maximum of 102 Red-necked Grebes from the Hamlin Beach SP lakewatch on the 6th. Numbers of Horned Grebe remained low, with a maximum of 20 coming from Bear Creek Harbor on the 2nd. Jay McGowan reported an impressive **360 Sandhill Cranes** from the impoundment on the north side of Armitage Road west of NY 89. The region's only report of Virginia Rail came from Alder Beach in Parma on the 27th from Jim Miles. A lone Sand-erling was found at Braddock Bay's East Spit on the 28th and stayed through the 29th. The region only had two reports of Purple Sandpiper. Mike Gullo reported a Purple Sandpiper from Sodus Point on the 13th. Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala reported another Purple Sandpiper from the East Spit on the 18th during the RCBC. Observers also reported a late Killdeer on the mudflats on the south end of Irondequoit Bay from the 25th through the 30th.

5. A group of three observers reported the region's lone jaeger on the 1st. The bird was not identified to species, but consensus leaned towards Pomarine Jaeger.

Michelle Gianvecchio reported the highest number of Bonaparte's Gull (120) from LaSalle's Landing Park on the south end of Irondequoit Bay. Decent numbers of Herring Gull continued to be found around the Braddock Bay and Greece ponds region of Monroe County. There were 25 reports of Iceland Gull, which roughly corresponded to 10 individuals, all along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Similarly, there were 18 lines of Glaucous Gull representing four to five individuals. As with any estimation of unique individuals from eBird lines, conservatism must be applied, especially when lack of details (1st cycle, 2nd cycle, adult, etc.) are provided in many eBird reports. The number of unique individuals for gulls, falcons, and others noted in the Noteworthy Table is almost certainly an under estimate. Among the loons, Andy Guthrie reported a maximum of 21 moving past Hamlin Beach SP on the 21st. The Great Egret on the south side of Irondequoit Bay from November continued until the 13th.

6. Dave Tetlow had the region's only Northern Goshawk coming to his feeders in early December. Good numbers of Bald Eagles were reported from Irondequoit Bay. Mike Tetlow and Wade and Melissa Rowley each had Red-shouldered Hawks, the only reports for December. It remained a non-irruption year for Rough-legged Hawk, with only six eBird lines representing three indi-

viduals. This is stark contrast to 2021, where there were as many as 14 Rough-legged Hawks were seen consistently all month. All three falcons were reported in average numbers, with estimates of American Kestrel individuals (21), Merlin (26), and Peregrine Falcon (7) coming in about average for December.

7. Passerines were scarce, likely due to warmer temperatures and lack of snowfall for most of the month. One long-time local birder claimed half hardies and general concentrations of groups like sparrows were some of the worst he as ever seen. However, an exception, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, continued to have an increased presence in the region into this year’s winter months. This is a growing trend, especially in recent years. There were 35 lines of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the eBird download, representing about 21 individuals. One Bohemian Waxwing was found at Hamlin Beach State Park on the 7th. One or two Bohemian Waxwings continued to be seen at Webster Park up until the 11th. The Evening Grosbeak irruption also continued, but now with the biggest concentrations and highest counts coming out of the Bristol Hills region instead of the Lake Ontario shoreline, with as many as 30 being reported daily from a private residence. The three Pine Grosbeaks continued at Webster Park, drawing much attention from birders and photographers. The first hints of Common Redpoll movement showed up as well, with occasional reports from the lakeshore. Sparrow numbers remained generally low. Late/overwintering Fox Sparrows were observed at Webster Park and Mendon Ponds Park. Black-bird numbers remained low as well, especially for those who remember the winter roosts in times past, although perhaps more of a lack-of-coverage in the usual locations for large icterid flocks in southern Monroe County. There was one report of Common Yellowthroat from Durand-Eastman Park on the RCBC. Overwintering Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were also very low, with two being the highest count. Finally, a Yellow-throated Warbler was reported at a private residence in the village of Conesus on the 15th. It continued to come to a feeder through the end of the month and was recorded on the CHCBC.

8. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send them by the 5th of the month to Nick Kachala nicholaskach@gmail.com or 1141 Rush-Scottsville Rd. Rush, NY 14543

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Don Belmont, Linda Clark Benedict & Steve Benedict, David Benvent, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Linda Birkel, Nancy Bloechl, Allan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Bra-

band, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Bob Buckert, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Keigan Case, Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Chris Chappell, Robert Cicotta, Richard Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D’Anna, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Jayne Dean, Peggy Dempsey, Steve Donohue, Ted Drozdowski, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Joe Fell, Debra Florio, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Janis George, Jessica George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, Kimber Godfrey, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Linda Howes, Pam Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Blaise Jenner, Alyssa Johnson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Annette Kalinoski, Jacob Kearney, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Evelyn Kirkwood, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Hans Kunze, Griffin & Michael Kutny, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Peggy Marces, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Mary McGreal, Ann McMican, Scott & Sophie Meagher, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Megan Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Mary Moore, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Kevin Murphy, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Michael Palermo, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Michael Peter, Joseph Petre, Steven Pitt, Norma Platt, Sandy Podulka, Jo Popma, Malise Prieto, Bill Purcell, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salsbury, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Mickey Scilingo, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Rob Sielaff, Judy Slein, Dee Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Kimberly Sucy, June Summers, Holley Sweeney, Stephen Taylor, Annette Teng, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Thaddeus Trzeciak, Nathan Ukens, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Matthew Voelker, Jules Wagner, Davey Walters, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Jim Wood, Cecile & Morris Yarrow, Ryan Zucker. (There were 327 observers in the eBird download, which was nearly the same as 2021).

	2022	2021	10-year Average
Species for Dec	137	142	133.3
New for the year	1	3	4.4
Total for the year to date	298	299	292.1