

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Very late warblers: Pine, two, Bronx Park, Dec. 23 (Kane, Buckley); Black-poll, Rye, Nov. 4 (Ryan); Wilson's, Bronx Park, Oct. 29 (Komorowski); Yellow-throat, Croton Point, Nov. 25 (Ryan, Harrison, Boyajian).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

A few Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Grackles and Cowbirds are always found in the Starling roost; some birds of these species were also noted during the winter at Hillview Reservoir, Bronx and Pelham Bay Parks.

Twelve Evening Grosbeaks in Central Park Oct. 21 (Maumary), 30 at Rye Nov. 4 (Ryan), and 9 at Bronx Park Nov. 5 (Young); the birds soon disappeared from the vicinity of the City, being last reported on Dec. 17 from Bronx Park Solomon), but small flocks have been occasionally seen throughout the winter in northern Westchester. Five Pine Grosbeaks (a rare bird here) noted at Hartsdale Nov. 20 (Oppenheim), 2 at Croton Point Dec. 22 (Ryan, Fischer et al.) and a few through January and February in the Bedford area (Grierson). Other northern finches: Common Redpoll 1, New Rochelle Nov. 21 (Ryan); Pine Siskin, small flocks wintered; Red Crossbill, 1, New Rochelle, Jan. 8 (Ryan); Lapland Longspur, 2-4, Crook's Point, Staten Island Nov. 11 (Ryan), and March 2 (Dawn, Eisenmann); Snow Bunting, Van Cortlandt Park, Dec. 3 and 17 (Kane, Kieran), Crook's Point, March 2 (Dawn, Eisenmann). Other unusual finch records: Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Baxter Creek, Dec. 23 (Norse, Kantor); House Finch, Yorktown Heights, Nov. 10, 11 (Pearl); this bird seems to be wandering from its Long Island breeding area.

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REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

The winter season was characterized by mild weather, few cold periods and very little snow, none lingering. The open winter led to an abundance of Anatinae ducks, Mourning Doves and Towhees. Winter finches occurred rather regularly early in the season but diminished in numbers by mid-winter. Rare or wanting were most species of hawks, white-winged gulls and Lapland Longspur.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Maximum Loon and Grebe count (rather scarce elsewhere) Montauk, February 17, 48 Common and 32 Red-throated Loons, also 40 Horned Grebes. Holboell's Grebe less common than usual; no Eared Grebes reported. Great Blue Heron common; maximum, Lawrence, flock of 21 on February 12. American Bittern wintered in several locations. Usual large flock of Canada Geese at Mecox in mid-winter and some 1,200 American Brant on western bays of south shore.

Among the great numbers of Baldpate and Pintail wintering at Jones Beach in February were a maximum of 50 Gadwall and 32 Shoveller. A European Teal, same location, February 9 was the only winter record of this

bird. There were several large flocks of Canvas-backs from widespread locations. Some 200 Redheads and 50 Ring-necked Ducks were reported at Water Mill, February 17. Harlequin Duck and American Eider were present at Montauk mid-February; no reports came in of King Eider.

HAWKS – OWLS:

The Rough-legged was practically unrecorded until February; other Buteos scarce as was Duck Hawk; Bald Eagle at Water Mill, February 17 and Gyrfalcon at Lawrence, February 11. Among the lingering shore birds were a Semipalmated Plover, Jamaica Bay, January 29; early January Black-bellied Plover, Orient, Short Beach. Purple Sandpiper numerous on breakwaters. There were one or two wintering flocks of Red-backed Sandpipers. Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were scarce; a Kittiwake was irregularly seen at Rockaway from December 23 to February 2. The Black-headed Gull was present at the Narrows, but fewer noted than in the past two years. Two Atlantic Murre records: oiled bird at Jones Beach, December 23; Montauk, one examined closely February 24. Maximum Razor-billed Auks, 12 at Montauk, January 26. The Mourning Dove was reported in many locations, several flocks up to 30. No Snowy Owl reports; Barred Owls rare; several records of Great horned on eastern Long Island, no late winter Saw-whet Owls.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

There was an abundance of Flickers especially in early winter; a female Red-bellied Woodpecker was found at Cedarhurst, February 10. Tree Swallows wintered at Gilgo ranging from over 150 in November to 41 on March 8. A Brown-capped Chickadee was banded at Idlewild, December 25 (J. Mayer). The Red-breasted Nuthatch wintered commonly. A Mockingbird was found daily at Farmingdale into February, and an Olive-backed Thrush was recorded at Woodmere, January 1. Scarce were Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Waxwing. Some half-dozen reports of Migrant Shrike into January and several midwinter records of Northern Shrike came in.

WARBLERS – SPARROWS:

One record of Orange-crowned Warbler: Baldwin, late December; two of Chat; Oyster Bay into midwinter, one daily at Massapequa. Records of Evening Grosbeak came through regular in early winter, but very few reports from January on; several records of Pine Grosbeak; Redpoll and White-winged Crossbill. Some 300 Pine Siskin spent the winter at Jones Beach; Red Cross-bills were fairly abundant, American Goldfinches were rather scarce; one European Goldfinch, Seaford, March 9. The Tree Sparrow was surprisingly scarce, especially on western Long Island, but the Towhee was abundant and widespread; maximum six wintering at Manorville, all banded. Unvegetated sterile tracts and dunes along the outer strip, although replenishing, are still evidence of the great November 29, 1950 storm with resultant scarcity of sparrows and Lapland Longspurs in these areas. Snow Buntings were more numerous.

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