

and Ulster Counties, yet Sullivan County had a flock of more than 400 in Monticello on Dec. 26 (Pauline Chernick and Edward McBride) and a flock of more than 100 from Nov. 16 through the winter at Ferndale (WPC).

Beside the Katonah Dickcissel, the Dickcissel remained at the feeding station of Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper in Nyack from Jan. 20 through Feb. 15, and was reported at Stone Ridge, Ulster Co., in late December (Tom Morgan, fide Fred Hough). Two Towhees were counted on the Bear Mountain Trailside Museum census Jan. 2. A Savannah Sparrow was reported near New Paltz on Dec. 27 (RP) and an early Fox Sparrow at Katonah on Mar. 4 (Mrs. William Grierson).

Snow Buntings, normally irregular, were distributed about as usual, except that they were scarce in Ulster County (FH). Robert J. Hammerslag reports that the Bedford Audubon census on Jan. 9 yielded 26 Buntings at the Amawalk Reservation (John Kelly and family). On Jan. 15, Wilber P. Carr saw more than 25 at Ferndale, Sullivan Co. A big count of about 50 on Jan. 17 at Vista, Lewisboro Township, northeastern Westchester, was reported by Mrs. Walter S. Poor. The only Rockland County records came from Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River: Jan. 19 (FS), Jan. 21, three birds (MRH, ERB).

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REGION 10 — MARINE

This marine region consists of New York City's five boroughs — Kings, Queens, Manhattan, Bronx and Richmond — part of Westchester and the eastern counties of Long Island — Nassau and Suffolk. Long Island, approximately 125 miles long, occupying the bulk of the territory, comprises a hilly north shore which extends into a central "backbone" of glacial moraines, ending in terminal moraines which slope to an almost flat, sandy plain reaching south for variable distances. This ranges from the Hempstead plains on the west (the widest distance) to a mile or less on the south fork near East Hampton. Margin lands occupy the lower part of the plain; then come the marsh lands, bordering the many bays which are contained by the outer barrier beaches and fed through inlets. The outer beach extends along the Atlantic ocean from the Rockaways to Shinnecock. Further east, dune-lands on the main island go to the high bluffs at Montauk, whose steep sides undergo considerable erosion during major storms. Similar bluffs range along the north shore on the Long Island sound westward to Port Jefferson, where sheltered bays are to be found intermittently westward to the Little Neck Bay area in Queens county. Along the sound, the shore-line is mostly rocky or pebbly, the fine white sand being restricted mostly to the vicinity of Eaton's Neck, Sunken Meadow and a few other locations. Between the sound and the ocean, east of Riverhead, the island is divided into two flukes or forks. Between these are the broad Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay. Islands of importance in the region are Shelter, Gardiners, Cartwright, Plum and Fishers. There are fairly large tracts of salt march in the sheltered bays between the forks.

Numerous small streams flow in shallow, sandy beds southward on the coastal plain, but the largest — the Peconic River — flows east into Peconic Bay. Streams are insignificant on the north shore. Small artificial ponds and reservoirs add diversity to the flat plains, which around Hempstead are completely inhabited, and almost fully populated to Bayshore on the south shore. The hilly north shore offers more difficulty to builders and it is here that the best breeding populations among birds are found. Elevations range from sea level to 420 feet in the center part of the island on High Hill, the highest of the Manetto or West Hills. There are a few other prominent hills ranging from the 391-foot Harbor Hill at Roslyn to Bald Hill, north of Speonk.

Parts of Staten Island are also hilly and hills range northward to the upper border of the region around New York City. The Carolinian flora typified by the tulip tree (*Liriodendron*), covers the northwestern part of Long Island to Cold Spring Harbor and intermittently further. Along the south shore from Bellmore and Massapequa irregularly, and consistently from Babylon to the eastern end of Long Island, great tracts of scrub oak and pitch pine barrens give sanctuary to colonies of Hermit Thrushes, and to Pine and Prairie Warblers.

About New York City the parks are the only open places to contain migrating birds, but being in the Hudson River flyway they are veritable meccas during spring and fall flights. Most famous are Forest Park in Queens, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Central, Bronx, Inwood, Van Cortlandt and Pelham Bay parks ranging upward through the city. On Long Island, good areas for shore birds are the disturbed (pumping, filling, etc.) tracts around Jamaica Bay, the Rockaway and Atlantic Beach jetties (mostly in winter), Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond, Moriches and Shinnecock inlets, and in the Mecox and Sagaponack areas. Good water bird observations points are the above mentioned jetties, Hempstead Lake, Point Lookout, Jones Beach ocean front, Montauk Point, Orient Point, Bayville, Mill Neck, Little Neck Bay and off Beechhurst. Occasionally good winter counts of Scaup, Canvas-back and other diving ducks may be taken around the East River end of the Sound, and good records occasionally come from lower New York Bay. Land birding on Long Island is generally believed, in spring, to be progressively worse the further one goes from the city line. This is particularly true as to varieties. Counts over eastern Long Island are fairly good in the fall, however, with many good records coming from Suffolk county.

Moderate fall and early-winter weather into January resulted in unprecedented number of half hardy birds being reported around the first of the year. With the storm and cold weather on January 10, 11, no more reports came in of earlier reported Phoebe, Palm Warbler and Northern Yellow-throat. About this time an immature Western Tanager also disappeared from Riis Park, almost identical to the time that one was last reported at Jones Beach in January, 1953. Moderate weather returned and in mid-February, following a few warm days, Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles appeared, and, as with last year, there was no cold weather to retard the movement. The count of Prairie Horned Larks on territory at this time east of the Jones Beach tower along the grassy strips was 19, two more pairs than in 1953. Killdeer arrived about February 20 following several warm days. The November storm piled up a mile-long sand bar westward of the Fire Island inlet breakwater (a long, rocky jet extending offshore to the southwest), rendering it practically useless. Presumably the feeding ground just offshore of the barrier beach was affected as the great concentrations of all three Scoters and large flock of Oldsquaws of last year were represented by small straggling numbers this year around the same date.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were no unusual records among loons or grebes — no Pacific Loon, no Western or Eared Grebes; Holboell's Grebes were scarce — two at Atlantic Beach, January 30 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Phenomenal numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were listed on the western Long Island Christmas Census with many remaining through the winter; maximum, 17 at Riverhead, February 3 (G. Raynor). The White Pelican, at Mill Neck 18 months, reportedly left during cold weather, but is thought to have moved to another pond to the west; this is being investigated. Only winter Gannet report came from Montauk. For many years Long Island's American Egret records terminated the year in early November. This season we had three winter records: singles, Riis Park, December 26 (R. Grant); Merrick, January 24 (E. Morgan); Hempstead, February 13 (E. Phelan). Maximum Great Blue Heron: 20 at Shinnecock, January 30 (Baldwin Bird Club). There were several mid-winter records of Snow Goose; Canada Goose was rare on western Long Island, but

was present in large numbers around Water Mill. Some 6,000 Brant wintered on our western bays. The fairly open winter assisted in maintaining a good Anatinae duck population resulting in good numbers of Gadwall, Pintail, Baldpate and Shoveller. Red-head was scarce on western Long Island, with one at Belmont Lake State Park, February 8 (A. Way). The Ring-necked Duck, once regarded as almost accidental, may be found in late winter in nearly any fair-sized pond — maximum, Eastport, January 3, 65 (Raynor). The European Teal, now regarded as a migrant where formerly a winter resident, appeared at Jones Beach pond after spring-like weather on February 20; one was seen at East Patchogue, March 7 and the most recent record comes from Milburn Pond, between Baldwin and Freeport, March 28 (R. Arbib, R. Sloss). No Eiders were reported on western waters, but two drake King Eiders were seen at Montauk, February 21 and 20 American Eiders the same day (Grant, Kramer). Hooded Merganser was not commonly reported, and there appears to be a decline in winter numbers of this bird for the past several years. Unique were five Harlequin Ducks on January 30 at Montauk.

HAWKS — OWLS: There were several reports of Red-shouldered Hawk on western Long Island and a few of Red-tailed on eastern Long Island; Rough-legged Hawk was scarce; latest report, two at Brookhaven, February 27 (Raynor). No Gyrfalcons reported; Duck Hawk was casual. A fully identified Pigeon Hawk was seen at Canarsie, March 22 (Alperin), and a Bald Eagle at South Haven in late January. A Florida Gallinule was recorded at Lawrence, January 10 (Bull). Wilson's Snipe were reported from several locations; there were four or five records of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls throughout the region. Several Kittiwake records came from the south shore of Long Island.

The European Black-headed Gull and Little Gull have been almost unrecorded since the elimination of the sewer at The Narrows some time ago, but there was one winter record of Black-headed Gull seen from the Staten Island Ferry. The ever increasing numbers of wintering Mourning Doves showed 116 in the Queens group count, December 26.

Concerning Owls: three Barn, seven Screech and six Short-eared were reported on the Queens census. Several Saw-whet Owls were observed at Jones Beach during the winter and a good concentration of Long-eared Owls were reported from Pelham (P. Buckley). Snowy Owl invasion was rather meager compared to the last two, although records were well spread over the region.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Unusual flycatchers were: an Arkansas, or Western Kingbird, seen at Glen Head, January 2 (D. Mills) and a Phoebe, East Moriches, January 1 (G. Raynor). Tree Swallows were again resorting to the Cedar-Oak Beach area. This is now the third or fourth year that they have been wintering there. A Tufted Titmouse appeared at Tackapausha Preserve, Curator Morgan feeding it from early December on sunflower seed and is still present. Red-brasted Nuthatch has been rare and irregular with only one record for late winter; this from February on (Cedar Beach). Winter Wrens were somewhat more common on the Christmas census, especially in Queens, whose census reported nine. There was a good flight of Gray Shrikes, being reported from a dozen locations, and nearly as many Migrant Shrike records.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: A Pine Warbler, several Palm Warblers, one or two Chats and several Yellow-throats were seen around the first of the year, but practically none since. There was one record of Baltimore Oriole at Idlewild in January. Records of some 15 Cardinals in western Long Island and several at Southampton indicate that this species is maintaining its numbers. A puzzling Grosbeak, wintering at Idlewild shows definite indications of being a Black-headed as it assumes the spring moult. Northern Finches were practically absent: one Redpoll reported and very few of Siskin. The Ipswich Sparrow was consistently reported throughout the winter from several locations, with seven reported on the South Nassau Christmas census and a good March migration noted. Tree Sparrows were plentiful. An immature Golden-crowned Sparrow was first seen at Jones Beach on January 31 (G. Carleton) and was present daily until March 20. The Lapland Longspur, observed in fair numbers around Jamaica Bay in late fall, disappeared by the end of the year, but the January 10 snowfall brought an influx of several hundred Snow Buntings to Jones Beach and large numbers elsewhere. A rapid disappearance was noted in February and the latest report was 10 at Moriches, March 14 (Raynor).

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