

A male Towhee spent the entire winter in Forestburg, Sullivan County, sleeping at night in a clothespin basket against a house (Winterberger). Another Towhee was seen at Pond Eddy on Mar. 4 by Wilber Carr. Fox Sparrows were unusually abundant during March. Snow Buntings were generally scarce, but Kenneth Niven counted 100 at Monticello on Feb. 21.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

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Cold December weather brought a freeze-up with many ponds and large parts of the bay closed; these opened to some extent with a January thaw which permitted better counts of Anatinae. Early winter snows were light on western Long Island with a mid-January fall of several inches on the western half; this developed into 11 inches in eastern Suffolk county woodland, and snow-drifts to the top of snow fences bordering the wind-blown rye fields around Water Mill.

The real heavy snowfall of the winter came March 16-19 with eastern Long Island again taking the brunt and huge drifts tying up trains and traffic. Later the weather was cold and backward into early April. Early spring migration progressed until the mid-March snowfall when the northern movement slackened and many reports come in of hungry birds at feeding stations. Excellent coverage by numerous observers on the Audubon Christmas Bird Count resulted in large number of species identified. In some cases numbers were down, but Mourning Doves, Robins, Hermit Thrushes and Cowbirds were plentiful on western Long Island along the north shore.

January highlights were the Federation's second annual waterfowl count, January 15-22 and the third annual Montauk rendezvous of birders, sponsored by the Queens County Bird Club, which was well attended and helped augment records at this slow time of the year. Regarding the waterfowl count, some 65 observers gave excellent cooperation in covering the Long Island-New York City region. Clubs well represented by individuals were: Linnaean Society, Brooklyn Bird Club, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society and Queens County Bird Club. This year's poor approach to the 1955 count of 202 Common Loons was 70, while the 1955 count of 128 Pied-billed Grebes almost doubled this year's total of 67. The 83,336 Greater Scaup listed in the entire Marine Region, over last year's 55,638, was almost 59 percent of the total of all 38 species listed.

The extended hunting season seemed to affect Black Duck, American Golden-eye, Buffle-head and Red-breasted Merganser which were drastically down from last year. Scaup on the other hand were in safe or semi-protected waters with seven-eighths around New York City wharfs and harbors, in Jamaica Bay and on the western bays of the north shore.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were large numbers of Horned Grebes; no Eared Grebes and Red-necked were rather scarce. Five Gannets were present at Montauk, Feb. 28; over 25 European Cormorants rather regularly reported at the point and several in three or four locations westward. There were also two records of Double-breasted Cormorants, one bird each. Herons: fair numbers of Great Blue; three American Egrets in the Hempstead region, Dec. early Jan., with one on Feb. 13 at Hempstead Lake State Park (D. Guthrie); one Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Lindenhurst, Jan. 14 (M. Nichols). Only one Whistling Swan reported: Brookhaven, early

Jan. into Feb. (D. Puleston). A lone Snow Goose was seen at Mecox in late Jan. Gadwall were plentiful; two European Teal were seen at Pelham Bay Park in early Jan. and two at Hempstead, Mar. 29 (A. Penberthy). Practically the only records of Wood Duck: two at Orient, Jan. 2 and two the same day at Babylon. Comparatively large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks were present into April. A maximum of five Harlequin Ducks at Montauk, with three, Feb. 26 (R. Arbib, R. Preisick). Three King Eiders were seen at Riis Park, Mar. 24, two American Eiders at Montauk, Jan. 28, three there on the waterfowl count.

HAWKS — OWLS: Hawks comparatively scarce, practically no Goshawk, very few Accipiters and aside from Sparrow Hawk, no Falcon records: Duck Hawk lacking, no Gyrfalcons recorded. There were several Red-shouldered, four or five Red-tailed and three or four Rough-legged Hawks reported. Three Bald Eagles were listed in one day at South Haven; Osprey appeared in early March. Several Grouse records; 12 Bob-white at Brookhaven, fewer Virginia Rail reports than last year; outstanding was a Yellow Rail at Orient, Dec. 31 to Jan. 2 (R. Latham).

Shore birds were about normal; late was a Piping Plover at Tottenville Beach, Jan. 15 (Brooklyn Bird Club). Purple Sandpipers and Sanderlings were regularly recorded; a Black-bellied Plover was seen at Moriches, Jan. 28. Scattered reports of white-winged gulls on Long Island, but excellent records from Brooklyn Bird Club with 1,000 Great Black-backed Gulls, three Glaucous and three Iceland Gulls at Fresh Kills, Staten Island, Jan. 15 and a Lesser Black-backed Gull, Jan. 22; two Kittiwakes were seen at Riis Park, Jan. 21 and a Black-headed Gull was reported at Dyker Beach, western Long Island, March 11 (R. Grant). Regarding Alcids, Dovekies were rare compared to many seasons; a Murre was seen at Montauk, Feb. 26; Latham had a Razor-billed Auk at Orient, Feb. 10 and one was seen at Montauk, Jan. 16. In Jan. two were also seen on Lake Montauk, at which time large oil deposits were seen on the water outside the breakwater apparently from some ship's bilge. There were three reports of Snowy Owl; a Barn Owl was seen at Brookhaven, Feb. 28 and a Long-eared at Jones Beach, Jan. 2. There were three records of Great Horned: Manorville, Hempstead and the third a breeding pair at Bronx park in Feb. and March. The Saw-whet was scarce.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Phoebees were seen on Western Long Island in late March; maximum Northern Horned Larks — 250 at Orient, Feb. 1-5 (Latham). Tree Swallows increased in numbers, March 24, 25. Magpie: first reported at East Islip, Jan. 20, followed by records from three locations eastern Long Island to Montauk. Outstanding on the north fork of eastern Long Island was a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Cutchogue, present at a feeder about two months (G. Raynor). The Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Winter Wren were scarce; two reports of Mockingbird: Port Jefferson, Jan. 15 (Queens County Bird Club) and one at Orient, Feb. 5 (Latham). Robins were locally common; one or two reports of Bluebird and a half dozen of Shrikes.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: Myrtle Warblers were scarce, the bayberry crop being a failure; other warblers practically absent until arrival of Yellow Palm in early April. Yellow-breasted Chat at Amityville, Dec. 21. Crossbills were rather scarce compared to the last two years. One winter record of White-winged: Jones Beach, Jan. 28; also 13 Red-Crossbills, same place, March 18 (R. Grant). There was a maximum count of Redpolls in the western part of the region in late March; three records of Ipswich Sparrow on western Long Island on the Christmas census and several Vesper Sparrows. As for the large finch-type birds, 26 Cardinals were reported on the Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Christmas census. Unusual was one on the very tip of the north fork (at Orient), Feb. 5. Several flocks of a dozen or more Evening Grosbeaks, one of these at Staten Island, Jan. 15, and 15 birds at Roslyn, Jan. 13. The latest record: 22 at Babylon, Mar. 11 (M. Nichols). Lapland Longspurs were reported from Floyd Bennett, Brooklyn, and Orient, but very scarce elsewhere. Latham reported 1,500 Snow Buntings, Feb. 10, at Orient.

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