

scarce. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brown had a Hermit Thrush near their home in Upper Nyack, Rockland on Feb. 18. Although reported, Bluebirds were also scarce in the region. Golden-crowned Kinglets, likewise, were down in winter numbers. Shrikes were off.

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-breasted Chat was noticed in Nyack, Rockland sometime in Jan and only a block from where one wintered a year ago (fide Deed).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlarks were reported in Ulster (Hough), in Orange (Earl), Rockland (Deed) and Westchester (Grierson). Some Redwings were not too late in arriving but most were slow and scattered.

The finding of the **Orchard Oriole** (male) spending at least December near Tappan, Rockland was indeed spectacular for this bird. It was in an unthrifty condition and probably succumbed later on. The record makes another Rockland first (Mr. and Mrs. Archer Stansbury et al.).

A Baltimore Oriole appeared at the home of Ed Treacy in Highland Falls, Orange County on Dec. 1 and stayed until Feb. 17. It was attracted to the suet feeder (Ed Treacy). Cardinals were abundant all through the region. A Dickcissel was found singing in Katonah, Westchester on Mar. 12 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kurka. Evening Grosbeaks were fairly common in some sections, less so in others. Feeding stations have a tendency to keep the flocks around. Purple Finches were generally scarce throughout the region. Pine Grosbeaks showed spotty occurrences and were not very common. A few flocks of Redpolls wandered about the region during the winter and some of the Redpoll subspecies were identified by alert observers. Three **Greater Redpolls** were studied carefully by Helen Braem as they visited her feeder in Mt. Kisco, Westchester on Mar. 20. William Russell also carefully identified a **Hairy Redpoll** on Mar. 20, near Katonah, Westchester. It was in a flock of Goldfinches. If flocks of Redpolls were studied persistently more such records would undoubtedly come up. Pine Siskins were decidedly common down state especially in Rockland (Deed) but were scarce up in the Ulster region. On Jan. 24 Eugene Brown estimated one flock near Nyack, Rockland to contain over 1,000 birds. A nice concentration! Both Crossbills were very scarce.

The RAS Xmas count tallied six Vesper Sparrows on Dec. 28, the second time on count. Only one Savannah Sparrow was reported anywhere in the region during the Winter. It was found on the RAS Xmas count. Tree Sparrows were one of the more common winter birds in the Region. A **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed visiting the feeder of Helen Sterley in Kingston, Ulster County on Feb. 7 and thereafter. It was checked by Henry and Ilse Dunbar and the find makes a first winter record of this bird for Ulster. Two or three Fox Sparrows wintered in Rockland (Deed). Song Sparrows were scarce in the upper part of the Region. They were over two weeks late in arriving as Spring migrants. A few Snow Buntings were wandering through parts of the region.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOT

Winter settled on the land early in 1958 and although late December Audubon Counts were high, South Nassau topping 120 species, rapid diminishing of less hardy birds showed by middle to late January. Three heavy snowfalls, including one March 20-22, brought a food shortage and hundreds of feeding stations in the region catered to numerous House Finches, Juncos, Tree and Song Sparrows. A mass migration westward on Long Island in October left Blue Jays comparatively scarce this winter in many eastern areas and fewer early winter Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds were reported.

A surprisingly large number of Red-necked Grebes and Eiders showed up on Long Island waters during the winter. The fourth Annual Statewide

Waterfowl Count, organized and directed by our editor, Gerald R. Rising, of Rochester, was successfully covered in Region 10 similar to the last three years. Most of the inland fresh-water streams and lakes were frozen, as well as large areas on the various bays, and counts of fresh water ducks, except for Baldpates, were low.

The 1958 grand total was 103,807, which included 81,332 for Long Island and 22,475 for New York City (including Staten Island) and Westchester County to the Connecticut state line. This was considerably under the 141,520 for 1956 and 139,246 for 1957.

Highlighting the winter was the unprecedented number of Cardinals on eastern Long Island; also some 33 were listed in the Port Washington area in the Lyman Langdon Christmas count. An early winter showing of both Crossbills, Pine Grosbeak and a few flocks of Evening Grosbeaks disappointingly diminished to practically no records by late winter.

Loons — Ducks: More than half of all the Common Loons (108) in the waterfowl count were in the Montauk — Amagansett area. One or two Eared Grebes were reported on western Long Island around the first of the year, but none in the January 11-19 count. Of a total of 1567 Horned Grebes, 804 were recorded on Long Island and 763 in the New York City area. The total Long Island count of Pied-billed Grebes was 84 with only one around the city. European Cormorants were reported in late December along western Long Island Sound and later at Montauk.

A good showing of Gannets were present at the end of the year at Montauk. There were 38 Great Blue Heron in one flock north of Jones Beach, on a marshy island, Dec 29 (J. Alperin, Elliott, C. Ward). 1956's lingering American and Snowy Egrets at Jamaica Bay into late November were not duplicated last fall.

The extended hunting season over the past several years has been a probable factor in the reduction of waterfowl which appears mostly in those species more vulnerable to the hunter. For example, the Golden-eye diminished in numbers from 5,611 in 1957 to 2,213 this year. The total Bufflehead population was less than one-half that of 1957, and those of Oldsquaws and Canvas-backs were one-quarter to five-eighths less, respectively. The Greater Scaup, by far our most abundant duck, shows a fondness for waters around city wharves and harbors and made up six-sevenths (18,419) of all that area's ducks. Widespread over eastern Long Island as well, this year's total Scaup count was 50,389, almost 33,000 less than the tremendous 1956 count of 83,336 and over 17,000 less than last year's Scaup total of 67,687. The wary Black Ducks sixteen and eighteen thousands, respectively, of 1956 and 1957 were cut this year to 11,819, and the Red-breasted Merganser has also suffered greatly during the four years since censusing began.

Brant, although plentiful were not found in the usual enormous flocks on western bays this winter. Increases showed in all three Scoters during 1958 and 20 Red-necked Grebes, 17 King Eiders and seven Common Eiders at Montauk set the high records for these species for all four years of the waterfowl counts. Since the census — in Feb and Mar —, Montauk buildups of Eiders reached maximums of 40 King and 20 Common Eiders, Feb 21 (Puleston, Raynor) and 30 King Eiders were counted as late as March 16 at which time three Harlequin Ducks and 12 Red-necked Grebes were seen (P. Buckley, E. Eisenmann, R. Grant). On western Long Island, four King Eiders were seen at Atlantic Beach, Jan 26 (Bull). Surprising was the scarcity of Ring-necked Ducks this winter and spring after a consistent buildup of numbers since the general influx of this species a decade or more ago. In fact spring numbers among fresh water ducks were very poor — no European Teal this winter; the only good showing of Gadwall — 31 at East Patchogue (good spring location) Feb 15 (Puleston).

Hawks — Owls: Several Accipiter records in March; few or no Goshawks seen; three Red-tailed Hawks at Brookhaven, Mar 1; one Red-shouldered, same place Mar 16, and two Bald Eagles, Feb 13 to Mar 15 (D. Puleston). Practically no falcons except for a few wintering Sparrow Hawks. About the only Rough-legged Hawks

were on eastern Long Island. There were one or two reports of Ruffed Grouse, no word of how Bob-white or Pheasant fared in snowy weather.

King Rail: one in Brookhaven cattail swamp, Feb 18 - Mar 5; Virginia Rail wintered in Van Cortlandt Park swamp, New York City; also Wilson's Snipe. Piping Plover lingered with one at Moriches on Jan 1 (Raynor, Wilcox) and two at Montauk, Jan 10. A Black-bellied Plover appeared at Jones Inlet, Feb 2 (Bull) a good showing of 23 Purple Sandpipers were found on the new Jones Inlet breakwater on cold and blustery Mar 1 and about 80 Sanderlings were wave-chasing in the modified surf near the Breakwater on the same day (Baldwin Bird Club). Other shore birds were: nine Knots at Short Beach; two Semipalmated Plovers, Dec 29 (Buckley).

Among gulls were: Glaucous at Jones Inlet, early Mar (D. Guthrie); Iceland at Montauk, large part of winter; Laughing Gull, Riverdale, late Dec, adult; Black-headed Gull at Central Park reservoir, Jan 10 (P. Post); 50 Bonaparte's Gulls at Montauk, Jan 18 (G. Raynor).

Alcids were rare. About half-dozen records of Dovekies, one found dead, Dec 20 at Jones Beach (I. Alperin); one seen at Montauk, Jan 25. A report came in of one Snowy Owl and one found dead at Shinnecock, Jan 1 (Wilcox). There was a fair number of Barn Owls reported: maximum of four at Montauk, Dec 28; one Great Horned, Baldwin, Mar 3 in yard in early morning; large size, ears, and white at throat noted (Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Way Teale); good Short-eared Owl records, maximum, four at Jamaica Bay, Mar 18 (E. Mudge), also two at Montauk, Jan 18 and singles noted in several other locations; one Long-eared Owl Mar 29 at Jones Beach and a Saw-whet in same grove of Japanese black pines (Queens County Bird Club); there was also one at Montauk, Mar 8.

Swifts — Shrikes: Fair numbers of Flickers on Audubon counts; Downy Woodpeckers scarce. No Three-toed Woodpeckers this winter; Phoebe on Lyman Langdon Audubon count, Dec 29. Tree Swallows were unreported after late Dec, when several birds were found on eastern Long Island; no Jones Beach wintering Tree Swallows noted this year, presumably because of very poor Bayberry crop and Myrtle Warblers scarcer probably for same reason, although the latter feed on poison ivy berries at Jones Beach.

Tufted Titmouse, Dec to Mar 15 at a Lynbrook feeding station (Mrs. W. Arthur) and 10 Carolina Wrens were listed in the Port Washington Christmas count. Two Mockingbird reports, one wintering in Center Moriches (Raynor); one at Inwood, L. I., Mar 5 (B. Berliner); Robins scarce; five Bluebirds, Westhampton, Jan 4 (Raynor). Shrikes scarce: Northern Shrike, Orient, Jan 12 (Latham).

Warblers — Sparrows: Several Palm or Yellow Palm Warblers were reported on Christmas censuses: Chat, singles, Riverdale, Dec 31 (Scully); Orient, Jan 8 (Latham); 14 Red-winged Blackbirds and two Cowbirds, Heckscher Park, Jan 19 (Elliott); Baltimore Oriole, Freeport, late Dec to Feb 1 (A. Penberthy); seven Meadowlarks were seen at Orient, Jan 12 (Latham).

Cardinal numerous and widespread. Unprecedented records from eastern Long Island — half a dozen locations, maximums: four at Brookhaven and five or six at Wading River in early winter. Several small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Baldwin to Brookhaven, Jan and early Feb; a Pine Grosbeak at Orient, Jan 13; two Redpolls, same day (Latham) and three Feb 25 at Hewlett (Berliner). A Dickcissel appeared at a Freeport feeding station Feb 1 and two later (A. Dignan). Small flocks of Siskins throughout winter. Fair numbers of Ipswich sparrows: Three at Moriches, Jan 1; two at Orient, Jan 13; also present on Christmas censuses and half a dozen other records from Short Beach, Jones Beach and Gilgo to latter March (numerous observers).

Field Sparrows, Tree Sparrows and Juncos were numerous; a Vesper Sparrow Jan 18 and Feb 1 at Garden City — "only record here of overwintering" (J. T. Nichols). Lapland Longspur, one at Gilgo, Dec 27; (Alperin); two at Great Kills, Staten Island, Jan 12 (Brooklyn Bird Club). Snow Buntings were present throughout the winter with maximum of 40 reported (Bull); also 20 at Short Beach, Mar 1 and 10 at Captree, Mar 8 (Baldwin Bird Club).

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