

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A few Redwings arrived in the latter part of February. In March a partially albino Redwing arrived for the third time in a nesting site at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary near Katonah, Westchester (Stan Grierson). The female Baltimore Oriole reported in Kingston, Ulster last fall was last seen on Dec 7 (Arthur Cragin). A female **Bullock's Oriole**, visitant from the west, was found many times during the winter visiting the feeding station of Herbert Jacoby and other stations in the neighborhood in Mt. Kisco, Westchester. It was carefully studied by several people. The Cardinal population remains high throughout the Region. A Dickcissel frequently visited the feeder of Betty Van Soosten in Hurley, Ulster Co. during the forepart of the season but disappeared in January. Another immature male Dickcissel was observed by Robert Hamerslag on Mar 15 at his feeder in Katonah, Westchester. Evening Grosbeaks did not winter in any great abundance. Purple Finches, on the other hand, were very numerous. The Pine Grosbeak was virtually non-existent in this region. Redpolls and Pine Siskins were generally scarce. A solitary White-winged Crossbill was found in Katonah, Westchester on Dec. 29 by Wm. Russell and was the only winter report. Numerous Towhees remained in our region to winter and were seen in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Ulster and probably occurred in the other counties.

Eight Savannah Sparrows were tallied on the Rockland Audubon Society Christmas count on Dec 27. This is a record high. Ed Treacy had a Oregon Junco at his feeder in Highland Falls, Orange Co. on Mar 16. The lack of snow probably made the Tree Sparrows less conspicuous than otherwise. The Rockland Christmas count found another high in the 23 Field Sparrows observed on that day (Dec 27). Two Field Sparrows spent the winter in the vicinity of a feeder in Katonah, Westchester (Elizabeth Odell). White-throated Sparrows were at a winter high in the Hudson Valley. Even a few Fox Sparrows remained in our region. Three were observed up in Ulster during latter December, and there were two down in Rockland at the same time. Song Sparrows were generally common. Snow Buntings were notably absent.

Correction: The Purple Gallinule given on page 129 of **THE KINGBIRD**, vol. VIII, No. 4 should be Common Gallinule.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Low temperatures occurred in early winter and stayed throughout January with little snow. There were frequent strong northwest winds and in places ponds and bays were almost, if not completely, frozen over.

Down in winter population were both loons, Horned Grebes, Common and King Eiders, Rough-legged Hawks, Goldfinches, and Siskins. Almost entirely if not completely absent were both crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, and Redpolls.

The waterfowl count was successful, with credit given to the fifty observers, many of whom year after year respond to this challenge of facing winter's coldest blasts. Similar to last year, maximum freeze-ups of the winter came on or about census time.

Outstanding was an adult Golden Eagle on January 3 at Manorville and an immature Golden Eagle circling nearby (G. Raynor). A Bald Eagle and a Great Horned Owl were also reported on the Central Suffolk Christmas census on December 26 (D. Puleston).

A good late winter flock of some 25-30 Lapland Longspurs was present in early March at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary and the much proclaimed European Redwing, present from February 21-25, was viewed, or searched for, by an estimated 300 people.

Loons — Ducks: Loon records came mostly from Montauk. There were no Red-necked Grebes on the waterfowl census this year, and no records came in until its appearance in March in several locations. Horned Grebes were far scarcer than last year. Down also in numbers were Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons. The Jan 17-25 Long Island and New York City waterfowl census, consisting of Region 10's efforts in the entire state count, showed a grand total of 110,614. This included 89,146 for Long Island and 21,468 for New York City (including Staten Island, Bronx, and extreme lower Westchester County, bordering Long Island Sound). Counts included loons, grebes, swans, geese, brant, ducks, and coot. Chris McKeever at Water Mill again had the largest concentration of Canada Geese (879). Regarding the Mute Swan, this year's 571 greatly exceeded last year's count of 311 and the 1957 total of 357. Of these 315 were found in the Shinnecock-Moriches Bays area.

Two Snow Geese this year compares to three in 1958, and there were three Wood Ducks to last year's two. Both Eiders were down in numbers in 1959, and the Horned Grebe which last year showed a total of 1,567 was only about one-third as common this year. American Widgeon were down almost 1,300 from the 1958 total of 4,792, but there were larger numbers of some fresh-water ducks, particularly Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveller, and Hooded Merganser, and among divers, Bufflehead and Scaup.

The 1959 count of 110,614 was second poorest of all five years of the census and, except for last year, the counts have been gradually decreasing from the 141,520 in 1956. Disparity came about principally in the reduced numbers of Scaup. Until 1958 the Black Duck was always second on the list of Long Island maximum totals but gave way to the White-winged Scoter in 1958 and 1959, both species being about equal in numbers for the last two years. The Red-breasted Merganser, a typical salt water or bay duck, subject to the extended hunting seasons of recent years, has suffered a rather steady decline with a reduction of over 25 percent from last year.

Most remarkable this year was the almost complete absence of the Ruddy Duck, with a meagre total of 66 (38 from Jamaica Bay) compared to 522 in 1958 and 437 in 1957. No matter what length the hunting season, the typical feral or semi-domestic Mallard maintains practically equal numbers with this year's count of 2,950 on Long Island and that of 2,941 in 1957, an increase of nine.

Previous to the census a King Eider put in an appearance at Atlantic Beach on Jan 12 (J. Bull). In late February the Harlequin Duck, missing in the census, was present in its old location near the Montauk Lake breakwater.

Hawks — Owls: Two Red-tailed Hawks and three Rough-legged Hawks were at Brookhaven on Dec 26 (Puleston). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen near a garbage dump at Greenridge, Staten Island, several times during the winter (H. Cleaves). There were no Gyrfalcons this winter. A Peregrine Falcon was at Jamaica Bay on Feb 28 (Baldwin Bird Club). Two Virginia Rails were at Brookhaven Dec 26, and a Common Gallinule was at Wantagh for a month or more. There were fairly good numbers of Common Snipe early in the winter, with six daily at Tackapausha Preserve (E. Morgan) and three wintering at Mt. Loretto, Staten Island (Cleaves). Thirty to thirty-five Purple Sandpipers were at the Jones Beach jetty in January. There were few reports on white-winged gulls. A second-year Glaucous was at Fresh Kills dump, S. I., on Jan 18 (Wolfarth); another Glaucous was at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary in late December (Whelan, Nielsen, Myerdielks), and one was at Marine Park fill from Jan 14 to 17 (Whelan). Bonaparte's were uncommon; individuals were in Massapequa and Meadowbrook in late December. A Little Gull was at Far Rockaway Feb 14 (J. Mayer). Quite unusual was a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Orient on Jan 8. According to Roy Latham it was standing on plowed land, was Herring Gull size, and had yellow legs and a back not as dark as a Great Black-backed Gull. Latham presumed it to be the British sub-species.

There were several Murre records. Two unidentified alcids and one Dovekie were at Montauk on Mar 1 (M. Levine, A. Penberthy). At Seaford on Mar 9 a Dovekie was found exhausted in a yard (Mrs. J. Carroll), taken to Tackapausha Preserve, fed minnows, and restored that day to Zach's Bay at Jones Beach (Elliott, Morgan).

Two Barn Owls and two Long-eared Owls were at Jones Beach on Feb 7 (O. Heck). Snowy Owl singles were at Orient on Jan 5 (Latham) and Spring Creek Feb 15 (Mayer), the only two records for the winter. There were several records of Long-eared Owls — Montauk, Orient, Jones Beach, Shelter Rock pines, and a maximum of six at Pelham Dec 30 (Heck). A Saw-whet Owl was at Shelter Rock pines Dec 27 (L. Garland); two were at Meadowbrook Dec 30 and two daily at Jones Beach in early February (Heck). Short-eared Owls were found principally around the Jamaica Bay area, but surfacing the Spring Creek region has eliminated the vegetation and driven them out of there, at least temporarily.

Swifts — Shrikes: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Northport on Jan 10 was feeding on the ground with Robins on rotten apples (E. Mudge). The first Phoebe report was at Roosevelt on Mar 22 (C. Ward). Horned Larks were scarce this year around Orient (Latham), and there were no wintering Tree Swallow reports. There appeared to be less of a migration of Blue Jays off Long Island, but more found during the winter. The Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, in its 1957-58 Christmas census, listed 58; this Christmas, 240. There was also a slight increase in the number of Chickadees. Unusual was the record of a Brown-capped Chickadee at Montauk on Mar 1 (Levine, Penberthy). No Tufted Titmice were reported. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Creepers, Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes were scarce on Christmas counts and have been practically absent since. The Long-billed Marsh, however, was well represented on the Christmas counts. Four Carolina Wrens were on North Shore (L.L.A.S.), and two were at Seaford in February (Morgan).

A Mockingbird was at Baldwin during February (E. Simon). Five Robins were at Babylon on Feb 20 (I. Alperin), and a Hermit Thrush was at Lawrence Jan 18 (Bull). A Northern Shrike was at Mecox on Jan 2 (Puleston, Raynor).

Vireos — Sparrows: An Orange-crowned Warbler was noted at Shinnecock on Jan 2 (Puleston, Raynor), and Myrtle Warblers were in regular numbers. A Chat was seen in mid-December at Amityville (D. Warren). Tremendous numbers of Cowbirds and quite a few Redwings were listed on the southern Nassau Christmas census. Cardinals were fairly numerous, with 42 being listed on the North Shore Christmas count. A half dozen flocks of Evening Grosbeaks showed up on Long Island during the winter, principally in eastern Long Island. House Finches ranged westward to Brooklyn borders and north to Port Washington, with a colony averaging 26 for several years at the latter place (Mrs. A. Dove). There were several records of the Ipswich Sparrow on Christmas censuses, but the old haunts at Gilgo were temporarily up-rooted and sand-drifted with the widening (to four lanes) of the Ocean Boulevard. Three Ipswich Sparrows were at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary during the winter, and four were reported at Spring Creek before present surfacing operations. Eight were recorded in early March at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary (Mayer, Rose), and one was at Quogue on Mar 25 (Puleston).

Seaside Sparrows wintered well to all appearances at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, and on Feb 28 four came up into the top of the grass clumps for easy observation. The 25 to 30 Lapland Longspurs that were found at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary in late February and early March were occasionally accompanied by several Snow Buntings. A fair flight of the latter was found on western Long Island in early winter.

3994 Park Ave., Seaford, Long Island