

Nyack, Rockland Co, late in the winter (Marjorie Hopper). Nowhere in the region was there any indication that Robins were numerous. All counties reported Bluebirds in small numbers, although Mrs. Javius Matsumoto of Chappaqua, Westchester Co, had as many as 18 about her place on Jan 14 and 27. John Leaycraft of West Nyack, Rockland Co, saw nearly 40 in a flock near there. Cedar Waxwings were not numerous anywhere in the region. Northern Shrikes, too, were scarce. One was noted near West Haverstraw, Rockland Co, on Dec 26 (John Orth, John Kenney), and there was another on Jan 2 in Harriman Park (M. Hopper).

Vireos — Warblers: Myrtle Warblers were extremely scarce this year. A Pine Warbler was studied closely by Mrs. Chandler Stetson on Dec 18 as it fed on her windosill feeder in South Nyack, Rockland County.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The first Red-wing was reported on Feb 22 by Stan Grierson who found one singing at Armonk, Westchester Co. The next few days found them spreading through the Hudson Valley in good numbers. From Dec 2 to 11 Mr. and Mrs. John Dye (Cornwall-on-Hudson) had another interesting visitor to their feeder. This was a male Baltimore Oriole that ate quite a variety of the fare offered — sliced oranges, ash seeds, wild bird seed, and raisins. He should have stayed! A few Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Cowbirds were reported wintering. Again the Cardinal numbers have reached new highs. In Rockland Co the Christmas Count yielded 341, the highest count of any report. This fraction alone indicates how common this bird has become in this Valley. A Dickcissel appeared at Saugerties, Ulster Co (Mrs. J. Remensnyder), early in the winter, and another remained throughout the winter in Peeksville, Westchester Co (John Given). Evening Grosbeaks wandered about the region visiting the many feeders, but it was no year of great abundance. Purple Finches were spotty. Again the Pine Grosbeak all but completely avoided us. Three were seen at Orangeburg, Rockland Co, on Jan 13 (John Zehner). In contrast to being so numerous last year Redpolls were broken down to just individual birds this year. Some areas did not report them at all. Pine Siskins were very scarce. A small flock of Red Crossbills was seen near Kripplebush, Ulster Co, on Dec 26 (F. Hough), and another flock was observed in Barrytown, Dutchess Co, on Mar 10 (Br. Michael). No White-winged Crossbills were reported.

Most of the wintering Towhees seemed to be down in the Westchester and Rockland areas. The Rockland Audubon Society had five Savannah Sparrows on the Christmas Count, and four were found up in Ulster on the count there. Savannahs were returning from the South during the last few days of March. Vesper Sparrows were found during the winter in Rockland Co (RAS); Dutchess Co (RTWBC), and in Ulster Co (JBNHS). During part of December Paul Wolfe had a Pink-sided Junco at his feeder in Putnam Valley, Westchester Co. Field Sparrows wintered quite heavily in Rockland and Westchester Counties. Rockland had a high of 33 on its Christmas Count. In Dutchess County Marion Van Wagner had four at her feeder in Pleasant Valley all winter. White-throats were about in near normal numbers. Most of the Fox Sparrows reported were down in the Rockland Co area. Marion Van Wagner (Pleasant Valley) had one at her place on Feb 24, which she believed to be an early migrant. Swamp Sparrows were low, but most of the Song Sparrow counts were high. Members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess Co were fortunate to have Brother Michael spot for them a small flock of Lapland Longspurs feeding with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings in an open area near Red Hook. This was during the January period. Snow Buntings were about usual in this region.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The winter of 1960-61 was a desperate one for numerous species of wildfowl and water birds. Cold weather prevailed for a couple of weeks after an early December snowfall, but then the cold modified somewhat and landbirds on the Christmas Counts were rather high in species, but low in number of individuals.

The Waterfowl Census (January 14-22) barely preceded a prolonged steady sub-freezing period which included the remainder of January and the first part of February. Practically all our bays, including the larger ones, were deeply frozen. There were very few channel holes, and on western Long Island these were thronged

with Brant and many species of ducks. As the prolonged cold, assisted by about two feet of snow, weakened them, gaunt and starved Great Blue Herons died on the marshy edges and Black-crowned Night Herons in the pine groves. Brant lay frozen in the snow, and there were heavy Black Duck mortalities.

Equally as tragic was the disappearance of practically all our landbirds, including Meadowlarks, which were extremely scarce in late winter after the severe snowstorms. One weakened Meadowlark at Jones Beach fell into the bay, was caught floating and devoured by a Great Black-backed Gull (N. Ward); and on eastern Long Island a wintering Pigeon Hawk was reported subsisting on Meadowlarks and other birds of the marshes. As fatalities increased, conservation-minded clubs and individuals spread out grain or provided funds for it, and many other birds were saved.

The cold broke rather abruptly in early February, and comparatively spring-like weather followed, soon melting the snow. Grackles and Redwinged Blackbirds appeared about on time (February 20), and Prairie Horned Larks were on location on ocean beaches. The winter was practically destitute of such winter finches as Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and crossbills, but Evening Grosbeaks appeared in several locations.

Loons — Ducks: Again the greatest number of loons appeared at extreme eastern Long Island. A Red-necked Grebe (rare this winter) was at Rockaway on Feb 18, and 150 Horned Grebes were seen the same day (J. Mayer, G. Rose). On the Waterfowl Census there were fewer Pied-billed Grebes than usual; one in salt water at Lindenhurst on Jan 15 appeared out of natural habitat. Great Cormorants were at several locations; there were five at Montauk on Jan 16 (P. Connor). A count of 35 Great Blue Herons at Jones Beach was made on Jan 2 (South Nassau Christmas Count), and 15 were on the North Shore in late December (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society). These practically disappeared during the sub-freezing weather of late January and early February.

The January 14-22 Waterfowl Census: Down in numbers from other years were Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, and particularly Redhead; none of the latter were reported east of Brooklyn. The count included 37 species, three over last year. Rarities included Snow Goose, European Widgeon (three), Blue-winged Teal, both eiders, and Harlequin Duck (five). Highest on the count, as usual, was Greater Scaup, totaling 80,509 for entire Region 10, including New York City, Staten Island, and Long Island Sound to the Connecticut line. Brant was second — 34,545, practically all from southern Nassau and Queens Counties. Good counts were made of the next three highs: Black Duck (15,177), White-winged Scoter (10,994), and Canvasback (6,408). Red-breasted Merganser (3,200) was up from the past several years. Common Goldeneye (2,197) and Oldsquaw (814) were considerably down. The Census total for the entire region was 165,558, of which about 48% were Scaup.

Other interesting waterfowl notes included one Whistling Swan, Quogue, Feb 25 to Mar 3; Snow Goose singles wintering at Hook Pond and Mecox (D. Puleston); four Snow and two Blue Geese at Jamaica Bay Mar 10 (numerous observers); the Lesser White-fronted Goose still at East Islip; single European Widgeons in four locations; and two Shovelers wintering at Westhampton and six at Patchogue (Puleston). Redhead reports included two at Brooklyn Jan 28 (E. Whelen) and two at Captree Feb 12 (H. Pembleton, E. Mudge). There were a half-dozen records of both eiders, Point Lookout, Jones Inlet, and Montauk. Unusual was a King Eider at Coney Island on Jan 28 (Whelen); two were at Shinnecock Inlet Dec 27 (R. Wilcox). A full adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was at Gardiners Bay, Orient State Park, Feb 22 (Elliott), and there was a presumed immature male in brown plumage on Feb 11 at Atlantic Beach (Mayer, Rose et al).

Hawks — Owls: Most remarkable among the birds of prey group was a Turkey Vulture at Jones Beach on Feb 9 (Mrs. A. Dove, Mrs. M. Matera). There were two Goshawk reports, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Jones Beach Feb 9-12 (Mrs. Dove, A. Dingnan, C. Ward). There were several reports of Redtailed Hawks, including one at Pelham Mar 4. It was another good year for Rough-legged Hawks to late February, Jamaica Bay to Quogue; there was an inland record at Dix Hills on Dec 14 (Pembleton, Good).

The only Bald Eagle was at South Haven Feb 26 and last seen Mar 26; this is

the first year in many that these birds have not been known to winter. A bird identified as a Pigeon Hawk wintered at Brookhaven, living on Meadowlarks, etc. (Puleston). There were several rail records from central to eastern Long Island: a Clapper at Shinnecock on Dec 14 (Connor), King Rail at Brookhaven Dec 25-26, and Virginia Rail Dec 26 to Jan 10 (Puleston).

Shorebird records included Piping Plover at Captree on Jan 7 and 8 (Pembleton, Good), Black-bellied Plover at Shinnecock Jan 13 and 26, Ruddy Turnstone Jan 31 and Feb 2, and Knot at Sagaponeck Dec 22 (Connor). There were good counts of Purple Sandpipers at Atlantic Beach, Long Beach, and Point Lookout; several were also seen at Shinnecock and Montauk breakwaters.

There were a half dozen records of Glaucous Gull, including two at Shinnecock on Jan 23 (Wilcox). Iceland Gulls were rather widespread. There was an inland record at Wantagh on Jan 7 (Elliott); other records were at Montauk on Jan 28 (Puleston, G. Raynor), Jones Beach on Jan 28 (Dignan, Levine, Ward), and at Atlantic Beach Feb 12 (P. Gillen, O. Dunning). A Kumlien's type was at Atlantic Beach Feb 22 (Mayer, Rose). Two Black-headed Gulls were identified at Captree on Jan 7 (Puleston, Raynor).

There were several reports of Razor-billed Auk, Dovekie, and Thick-billed Murre from Atlantic Beach to Montauk, and there was a report of a dead Common Murre at Moriches (Guthrie).

Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, and two Saw-whets were seen at East Norwich. A Great Horned Owl, seen Dec 26 at Mill Neck (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society), was heard later through the winter (O. Heck). At Pelham on Dec 29 there were one Barn, one Great Horned, and 14 Long-eared Owls (Queens County Bird Club). The Snowy Owl was present in numbers in early winter; after their arrival in mid-November there was a maximum of six or seven at Jones Beach in early December (numerous observers). The maximum Short-eared Owl count for eastern Long Island was eight on Jan 10 from Moriches to Shinnecock (Connor). Long-eared Owls appeared openly along the coast in mid-winter; two were at Gilgo Jan 29 (Dignan, Ward). The Saw-whet was found in about half a dozen locations, with an eastern record of one banded at Westhampton Jan 22 (Wilcox).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Eighteen Belted Kingfishers on the Dec 26 Lyman Langdon Audubon Christmas Count was the most in six years; the last winter record was at Hempstead on Jan 14 (Mayer, Rose). Flickers were very scarce after mid-January. There were no Three-toed Woodpecker reports. Prairie Horned Larks were singing by Feb 18-19. Twenty Tree Swallows were at Jones Beach on Dec 3, and three were noted Dec 17 and Jan 7. An increase was noted in the numbers of Tufted Titmice on the north shore of western Long Island, with four in late December (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society). There were no winter Red-breasted Nuthatch records. A scattering of Winter Wren reports at the end of the season included two at Riverhead Mar 13 (Connor). Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were at Brookhaven through Dec 6 (Puleston). There was a fairly good early winter count of Carolina Wrens, but this species should be watched for a decline, often occurring after a severe winter. Mockingbird singles were reported in December and January from Oceanside, Quogue, Hampton Bays, Shinnecock, and Amagansett. An usual flock of 15 Bluebirds was at Mill Neck on Dec 10 (Puleston). A Loggerhead Shrike was at Mecox Dec 2 (Connor), and there were other shrike records around the end of the year (Northerns?).

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warblers were reduced in numbers this winter. A Yellow-breasted Chat was noted Dec 4 (numerous observers). There was a good early winter count of Meadowlarks in fair-sized flocks, heavy mortality later. Rusty Blackbird records included 20 at Mill Neck on Dec 10 (Puleston) and three at Northport Mar 7 (E. Mudge). A Scarlet Tanager was present at Short Beach through Dec 10 (numerous observers). There were several Dickcissel records. Two Evening Grosbeaks were at a Great Neck feeder early in the winter (R. Adelson), and there were very small flocks in several other locations, including five at Freeport in mid-January (Dignan) and five at Westbury (E. Costich). There were two reports of Purple Finches: at Roosevelt on Feb 18 (Ward) and a small flock at Springfield on Jan 7 (Rose). The House Finch was found at Quogue and East Quogue for the first time on Dec 31; two were at Southampton Dec 27. There were no Redpoll, Siskin, or Crossbill reports to the end of the period.

Two Oregon Juncos were present at Cutting Arboretum during a large part of the winter and were seen by numerous observers. A White-crowned Sparrow was seen daily at Brookhaven through Dec 30 (Puleston). There were a half dozen reports of Ipswich Sparrows, with an easterly record of one near Shinnecock Inlet Jan 25. A Lapland Longspur was noted on the same date at the same place. At Jamaica Bay Sanctuary there were seven Longspurs on Feb 19 and about none on Jan 28 (Dignan, Levine, Ward). Snow Bunting counts included 35 at Jones Inlet on Jan 7 (Larrabee) and 150 at Jamaica Bay on Jan 24.

Addendum: Omitted from the previous summary and worthy of interest is a Western Kingbird banded at Speonk in mid-November (Wilcox).

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