

Vireos — Warblers: Orange-crowned Warbler — one Nov 30 to Dec 29 and Jan 25 to Mar 1 in Upper Nyack (Hopper). Wilson's Warbler — one well observed Nov 23 and again Dec 19 Stony Pt., Rock (I. Kennedy) (a truly remarkable record). Ovenbird — One, positively identified Dec 23 at Pond Ridge (Radosins, Griersons). Yellow-breasted Chat — one, feeding on rose hips, Mt. Kisco (at home of W. Taylor).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlark — maintained good numbers throughout the region. Red-winged Blackbird — not reported on Christmas counts of the MBC, WBC, or SMAS this year. 106 a record count for the Rockland group, perhaps this is where they all were!, they returned a bit late, Mar 13, in Oran and Dutc. Baltimore Oriole — were at feeders in Chappaqua, West Feb 26 thru Mar 4 (Wurtzburg) and in three places in Dutc; in Pleasant Valley Nov 8-11 (Van Wagner); in Millbrook Dec 9-19 (Brown); one much of Dec in the Standford area, which died in Jan. Rusty Blackbird — 10 (unusually high) Dec 23 Bear Mt. Christmas Count; three Dec 30 RAS count; migrant birds were first seen at Cornwall Mar 30 (Dye). The following two records give evidence that many *Icterids* withdraw from the northern counties only to winter in large numbers in the southern counties of Region 9. Common Grackle — withdrew completely from Ulst, Dutc, Oran, and Putn only to produce a record count of 394 in Rock Dec 30 (Steffens). Cowbirds — likewise show record lows in Dutc and record highs in West and Rock Christmas counts.

Cardinals — If the trend continues, the northern counties of the state can expect, in a few years, to encounter the flood of cardinals now present in Dutc which only a few years ago reached Rock. 18 or 20 birds are now found about feeders in the Dutc area. Out of our area but worthy of mention is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder of J. Worrall, a RAS member from just across the border in Mahwah, N. J. This bird was present Feb 4-14. Dickcissel — reported during the week of Dec 10 from Valhalla (Fennel) and from Pleasantville (Laire) and from Germonds, Rock Jan 2 (Gamble). Evening Grosbeaks — are frequently reported but not in great numbers. House Finch — one remained during Jan in Chappaqua at Mrs. J. Matsumoto's feeder. Pine Grosbeak — as mentioned before, established records in their frequency and numbers. They were first in Dutc Nov 5 and continued to the end of Mar. Goldfinches had a good year. Redpolls were widespread but in modest numbers, first in Dutc and Oran on Jan 31 and continued to the end of the period. Pine Siskins — Feb 28 to the end of the period, Cornwall; four West (SMAS Christmas count); one Feb 21 Pleasantville (Howe); M. Dye had two siskins take seed from her hand. In all, this species was either overlooked or absent to produce so few records. Rufous-sided Towhee — three at Poughkeepsie and one at Clinton Corners, first wintering record for WBC in four years; once again, no record from Ulst; 23, a record count, Dec 30 (RAS). Savannah Sparrow — wintered in New Paltz area (Pyle); there were enough reported from Dutc to suspect wintering there. Vesper Sparrow — few reports from Dutc and Rock through the winter. Field Sparrow — few records from Ulst, Oran, and Dutc. Oregon Junco — Dec 23 Lake Sebago, Rock (Steffens); Dec 19 - Mar 26 Cornwall, Oran (Dye); Mar 10 Lagrangeville, Dutc (Brand, Claire). Tree Sparrow — seem to be in greater number this year. Chipping Sparrow — six, a remarkable count on the RAS Christmas Count. White-crowned Sparrow — Dec 25 Cornwall (Fenton); Dec 2 Mt. Kisco (McWaters). Fox Sparrow — generally late throughout most of the area; one, first migrant, at Poughkeepsie Feb 27 (Butler). Lincoln Sparrow — one late Dec thru Feb 16 (banded) Blooming Grove area, Oran (M. Earl). Swamp Sparrow — one wintered at Stissing, Dutc (Haight); one at feeder in Highland Falls Mar 3, 4 (Treacy). Lapland Longspur — Dutc was amply endowed with this species this season; Dec 31 and Jan 1 near Lagrangeville (Waterman, Key); 10 Feb 1 Barrytown (Brother Michael), two with spring coloration in evidence Feb 22 near Millbrook (Waterman et al). Snow Bunting — best year yet for eastern Oran (M. Earl); 29 on MBC Christmas count; 27 RAS count; 56 RTW count; about 100 Feb 17-21 Viola, Rock and over 300 fed in the fields thru Feb near Amenia, Dutc.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls.

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Cold weather around the end of the year reduced the previous abundance of smaller land birds, but the variety counts on the Audubon Christmas tabulations

were about normal with other years. Snowfall was light on western Long Island and rapidly disappeared in the vicinity of New York City during winter, but on eastern Long Island, in February, drifts ranged to some three feet, in places almost topping the snow fences.

March came in like a lion — windy and cold. For three days, beginning March 6, terrific north and northeast winds raged and in conjunction with the new moon's affects towards higher tides caused flooding of the seacoast and millions of dollars worth of property damage. A break through the barrier beach at Westhampton caused a new, wide inlet to develop and the necessity of filling it in later. After the storm the weather settled down into seasonable temperatures with the early spring migration of Grackles, Cowbirds, Redwings and Song Sparrows on in full swing by the end of the month.

For two previous years the Federation's Waterfowl Counts in mid-January were taken in abominable weather with heavy snow cover and deep freeze covering bays and ponds. This was reflected in a shortage of Anatinae ducks westward on Long Island and a scarcity of divers in the tremendous stretches of the frozen Peconic bays. The comparatively open winter this year yielded a large number of Pintails and more Green-winged Teal and Gadwalls than usual. Likewise the open Peconic bays this year produced large counts of Common Goldeneyes, and White-winged Scoters by the thousand. An interesting note on Alcids: a thick-billed Murre was found grounded in a snow-storm at Wading River; banded and released in the sheltered waters of Carmens River (Raynor).

As for land birds, from December on Pine Grosbeaks put in a more limited appearance than in fall. Redpolls showed in Brooklyn in late December and more wide spread in February along the south shore. It was a good year for owls; Tree Sparrows were scarce but a White-crowned remained into January at Jones Beach.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were half-again as high as last year on the Federation Count. Red-throated Loons and Pied-billed Grebes were away down. Western Grebe: Greenport, Jan 13 (S. Yeaton, J. Lamoureux and W. Astle). No Red-necked Grebes on Waterfowl census, but several before and since; Montauk, Riis Park, Jones Inlet. Great Cormorant: Rockaway Jetty, Dec 24-30, two, one Double-crested (E. Whelen). Common Egret, Jamaica Bay, Mar 21, one (H. Johnson). Several wintering reports of American Bittern; two at Brookhaven; and a Green Heron wintered at East Quogue creek (Puleston). Several reports of Snow Geese; two, and a Blue Goose, wintered at Mecox (Puleston). European Widgeon: one at East Hampton, early Jan (McKeever) — late winter (Puleston). Maximum Eider count: four Common and 13 King Eiders Montauk, Dec 9. On the Federation count Canada Geese were away up; American Brant about one-third of last year. The Mute Swan topped 600 for a record peak. Some 250 Pintails on Jones Beach pond, Jan 14 was phenomenal, or 10 times the usual winter count (N. Ward). Besides the Pintail peak of 315 Region 10 birds over last year's 32, river and pond ducks were up; there was a fair increase over 1961 in Ring-necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. The Redhead is still drastically low in numbers. The count of 163,233 almost duplicated but did not quite reach the highest of all Region 10 Waterfowl Counts of 165,588 in 1961. This closeness of figures with an absence of 22,487 American Brant from last year's top of 34,545 come about largely by this years increase of about 16,000 Greater Scaup (for an all time record of 96,193) and an increase of some 2,000 Black Ducks. Listed this year were: 33 species for Long Island and 25 for the New York city area.

Aside from the census, Buffleheads still lingered abundantly into late March. There were no reports of Common Teal or Barrow's Goldeneye. Harlequin Duck records came in from two areas. A European Widgeon report from Hewlett, Mar 5 (Dr. Berliner) and a Common Eider, Jones Inlet, Mar 10 (M. Levine), were the latest records for these species.

Hawks — Owls: Several reports of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks from Brooklyn and Dix Hills at end of year. A maximum of four Rough-legged Hawks wintered at Brookhaven (Puleston), also two Bald Eagles wintered there (same observer). Peregrine Falcon rather scarce: one at Marine Park, Dec 24 (N. Smith). Rails: several reports of wintering clappers; King Rail, Brookhaven, Jan 17-27 (Puleston); also two Common Gallinules wintered; one at East Hampton (McKeever, Puleston) and one in swamp at Blue Point, the latter coming

regularly to a feeder (Terry, Puleston). First Piping Plover, Short Beach, Mar 10 (Levine). Woodcock: one wintered at Yaphank (Raynor, Puleston) and two at Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford (E. Morgan); first heard performing, Feb 28 — six at Brookhaven (Puleston). First Upland Plover: late Mar, seen on Northern State Parkway strip (R. Cohen). There was a large wintering flock of Dunlin and Sanderlings at Short Beach — a report of 117 Purple Sandpipers on the Jones Beach breakerwater, Jan 13. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls reported from western Long Island and Montauk. European Black-headed Gull and Little Gull reported from Rockaway at end of year (Brooklyn Bird Club, E. Whelen); 10,000 Bonaparte's est. at Gravesend Bay late Dec and Jan; and 1,500 to 2,000 est. at Jones Beach, late Jan and Feb. Alcids scarce, Black Guillemot: Montauk, Feb 12, one (R. Cross). Barn Owl: Marine Park, Dec 24, one (N. Smith); Great Horned Owl: wintering at Mill Neck, heard into Mar (Heck); reported nesting in Southampton (Puleston); Snowy Owl: one at Brookhaven, Dec 1 and 2; two later at Mecox (Puleston); one Fire Island, Jan 25; (Alperin) two Brooklyn at end of year (Brooklyn Bird Club, E. Whelen). Barred Owl: Pelham, Dec 9, two (Kallman). Both Short and Long-eared Owls numerous: some 40 to 50 Short-eared and at least two dozen Long-eared reported, well spread, over Long Island alone.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Flickers scarce, no report of Black-backed Woodpecker this winter. Phoebe: Baldwin, Mar 26, one (E. Simon). No Tree Swallow flight to end of period; Prairie Horned Larks scarce. Magpie: Greenwood Cemetery, Bklyn, Jan 13, one (Bklyn Bird Club). Boreal Chickadee: Neponsit, Dec 24, two (N. Smith). Tufted Titmouse: three in Prospect Park at end of year (E. Whelen); Wantagh, one through Dec (Mrs. Gewecke). Mockingbird: Northport, Jan 16, one (E. Mudge); Port Washington, one daily since early Dec. (P. Gillen); one at Babylon, mid-Sept to Jan 14 (Alperin); also singles reported at Sayville, Bayport in early winter. Latest: one at Center Moriches, Feb 22 (Raynor). Latest Catbird, one through mid-Feb, Seaford (Elliott). Hermit Thrush, Dix Hills, Jan 5, one (Good, Pembleton); one wintered at Manorville (Raynor). Robin: influx, Jan 10, Babylon (Alperin); North Baldwin, Feb 16, flock of 18 (R. Snyder). Several reports of Bluebirds; two on Dec 9 at Montauk; two at Manorville, Mar 24 (Raynor); eight at Mill Neck, Mar 10 (Lyman, Langdon Aud. Soc.). Pipit: Orient, Jan 2, one (Latham); Jan 28, flock of 18 (the largest mid-winter flock I can find recorded in Region 10 (Elliott)). Waxwing: maximum, North Baldwin, Feb 14, 30 (R. Snyder). Northern Shrike: Montauk, Jan 14, one (Puleston). Another shrike was seen at Port Washington, Dec 1 (P. Gillen).

Warblers — Sparrows: Palm Warbler, Jones Beach, Dec 28, one (Dignan); Montauk, Jan 17, one (Raynor). There were one or two Orange-crowned Warblers reported and one wintering Chat. Rusty Blackbird: Manorville, four on Mar 14 (Raynor). Other Blackbirds came through about on time; there was an increase of wintering Meadowlarks at Orient. Yellow-headed Blackbird, Hewlett, Jan 13, one (Sloss); one, Wantagh in mid-Jan (Gewecke). Maximum winter grackles: 35 at Little Neck, Jan 4 (E. Klein). A Yellow-billed Cardinal was reported at a feeding station at Middle Island, Nov 2 — Jan 9 (Wilcox). Dickcissel: East Marion, Oct 10 to Jan 18, one (Latham); maximum, two at Oakdale, Jan 2 (Puleston, Raynor, Halame). Half dozen reports of Evening Grosbeak; flock of about 75 Purple Finches at Mill Neck, Mar 10 (Lyman Langdon Aud Soc). Pine Grosbeak reported from half dozen areas on Long Island, also from Westchester, Dobbs Ferry. There were several good flocks of Redpolls in late winter; Goldfinches and both Crossbills scarce. Towhees very plentiful on Eastern Long Island, locally — eight in a group at Orient feeder (Latham); seven males at Brookhaven feeder (Puleston). Maximum Ipswich Sparrows, four at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, Jan 29 (Alperin). Vesper Sparrow: singles, Dix Hills, Jan 4 (Good, Pembleton); Jones Beach, Feb 25 (Fykes Bird Club); maximum 13 at Manorville, Dec 26 (Raynor). Two Chipping Sparrows were present at Dix Hills, Jan 8 (Pembleton, Good). White-crowned Sparrow: singles, Jones Beach, Dec 30 (Alperin, Dignan); Jessop's Neck, Jan 8 (Liehr); Orient, Feb 8 (Latham). Lapland Longspur: Jamaica Bay, Jan 29, two (Alperin); 10, same location, Feb 3 (Puleston). Snow Bunting: fairly good flocks at Short Beach, Captree; maximum, 400 at Orient, Feb 1 (Latham).

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