

toward the end of the season. Goldfinch: Numbers good in all counties. **Red Crossbill**: This rare and irregular winter visitor appeared several times in the region. Twelve were reported during Feb, and five on Mar 11 in Dutch. Three were at Bear Mt. Rock on Jan 3, and a small flock in Nyack on Jan 8. One bird was found in Somers, West on Jan 29, and five were there on Feb 1. **White-winged Crossbill**: More common than the former but still rare, this species made a good appearance. Reported in small flocks from every county in each month of the season. **Towhee**: The usual wintering reports. **Savannah Sparrow**: Wintered in the Chester area from Jan 18 thru early Mar (SU). **Vesper Sparrow**: Five or six wintered in the Hawthorne area of West, and three were reported from Dutch. Two of the latter were found in Mar, and one on the Christmas count. **Oregon Junco**: Three reports: one on Dec 28 at Monticello (KN); another male wintered again near Pine Plains (BD); and the third spent the winter at Cornwall (JD). **Tree Sparrow**: Normal to good winter population. **Field Sparrow**: One wintered at Middletown (FK). **White-crowned Sparrow**: Unusual wintering reported from Dutch. Five birds at Amenia during Jan and Feb (WS). A single bird was reported Jan 1 at Pine Plains (TH). **White-throated Sparrow**: Nothing unusual. **Fox Sparrow**: The usual wintering birds; a very good Mar movement. **Snow Bunting**: A few winter records. One at Carmel, Putn on Jan 18 (ML); ten or twenty at Dutch Co. Airport in Feb (AJ); and "a large flock" at Granville, Oran on Mar 2 and 3 (ID).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

In general the winter season was characterized by colder than average temperatures during December, warmer than average temperatures during January and temperatures during February that were only slightly below normal. The major feature of these three months, however, was the excessive amount of snow: 11.3 inches, 13.3 inches, and 8.8 inches during December, January and February, respectively.

The combined total of the 11 Christmas Counts which were taken wholly within Region 10, was 158 species (not including several additional species present during the count period). Four of these counts recorded 100 or more species, the "big three" being Central Suffolk, Southern Nassau, and Bronx-Southern Westchester, with 119, 122, and 123 species, respectively. It would be of great interest if some of these counts could be repeated during late January or February when migration is at a standstill and most of the "half-hardy" species have disappeared because of the severe weather, and/or diminishing food supply. In most cases we have tried not to utilize data from the Christmas Counts, but a certain amount of overlap is inevitable. As a rule, we have included this information when it involves either late records or unusual species, and in those certain cases where we have tried to document the widespread distribution of a particular species.

Temperatures for March were above normal with mild weather dominating much of the month. There were three periods of springlike conditions, from the 1st to the 10th with the temperature in NYC climbing to 71 degrees on the 5th; from the 13th to the 17th; and from the 23rd to the 26th with the temperature reaching 75 degrees on the 25th. Movements of migrants into the region coincided with these warm periods. The first warm period brought in numbers of Wood Ducks, Fox Sparrows and Song Sparrows. Piping Plovers and more Sparrows arrived during the second period. The last spell produced a widespread flight of Flickers, Phoebe, Golden-crowned Kinglets and a few Pine Warblers.

Practically every winter produces a number of species which ordinarily winter well to the south of our region (several of which rarely winter in the United States!). Some of these (Pigeon Hawk, Turnstone, Sapsucker, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, Chipping Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow) have been occurring with fair regularity in recent years; others occur less regularly (Blue-winged Teal, Sora, Knot, Jaegers, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler and Yellowthroat); while still others (Glossy Ibis, Least Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissel, Grasshopper, Henslow's and Lincoln's Sparrows) have only been recorded a few times previously or never before in winter. All of the above mentioned species were recorded during the current period.

The most notable finds of the season were Ivory Gull, Bullock's Oriole and Varied Thrush. Other rarities included Lesser Black-backed, Black-headed and Little Gulls, Black-backed Three-toed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Oregon Juncos, and Black Guillemots.

Abbreviations used: Max — maximum one day count during the period; mob — many observers; AMNH — American Museum of Natural History; LLASB — Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Bulletin; CC — Christmas Count; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; in the following locations only the first word is used — Jones Beach, Pelham Bay Park, and Riis Park.

Contributors frequently cited: Robert Arbib — RA; Albert Bell — AB; Ned Boyajian — NB; Paul Buckley — PB; Irving Cantor — IC; Geoffrey Carleton — GC; Richard Cohen — RC; Tom Davis — TD; Adrian Dignan — AD; Frank Enders — FE; Robert Fisher — RF; Michael Gochteld — MG; Earl Good — EG; Richard Harrison — RH; Helen Hays — HH; Fred Heath — FH; Otto Heck — OH; Joe Horowitz — JH; Herb Johnson — HJ; Michael Kleinbaum — MK; Roy Latham — RL; Emanuel Levine — EL; Kevin Malone — KM; Lee Morgan — LM; William Norse — WN; Hugh Pembleton — HP; Richard Plunkett — RP; Peter Post — PP; Dennis Puleston — DP; Daniel Rafferty — DR; Gilbert Raynor — GR; Richard Ryan — RR; Richard Sloss — RS; Si Stepinoff — SS; Walter Terry — WT; Guy Tudor — GT; Allen VanSant — AV; Cornelius Ward — CW; LeRoy Wilcox — LW; Alvin Wollin — AW; John Yrizarry — JY.

Note: Unless a specific number is indicated, all records refer to single birds.

Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: max 50, Jan 26, Montauk (RS). Red-necked Grebe: nine reports, Dec 28 to Feb 9 and Mar 28 — Montauk to Riis. Great Cormorant: max 17, Jan 22, Pelham (WN) — high count for this location; max 10, Jan 18, Montauk (GR); migrants — two, Mar 21, Jones (KM); Mar 28, Tobay Beach (PB, WN). Common Egret: max 15, Mar 28, Tobay (WN, PB). Snowy Egret: Dec 21, JBWR (FE); Dec 26, East Moriches (P. Stoutenburgh *fide* GR); Dec 29, Freeport (CW, T. Lomand) — only one previous record as late as these; Mar 14, Tobay (TD, LM, FH) — arrival; max 40, Mar 28, Tobay (WN, PB). Least Bittern: Jan 26, Carmen's River (DP) — found dead in fresh condition, second winter record. Glossy Ibis: one remained at JBWR until about Dec 14 (HJ) — only winter record.

Whistling Swan: Nov 30-Dec 10, Tobay (mob); one to six, Jan 8-25, Yaphank (DP, AV). Snow Goose: five, Dec 21-23, Riis (mob); wintering singles at Millneck (LLASB) and Southhaven (mob). Gadwall: sample max counts: 130, Jan 11, Wantaugh (GR) 52, Jan 11, Patchogue (GR); 44, Jan 11, Bellmont Lake (GR). Blue-winged Teal: Dec 29, Hemstead (AW, D. Heilburn). European Widgeon: good year; Dec 22, Wantaugh (OH); Jan 12, Hook Pond (RF, RP); pair, Jan 28-Feb 8, Baisley Pond (mob); Feb 22, Mecox (RF, RP); Feb 22-Mar 21, Brookville (mob); Mar 22, Baldwin (KM). Canvasback: max counts: 300, Dec 7, Southhaven (GR); 570, Mar 1, Jerome Reservoir (FE). Lesser Scaup: for several years large numbers of this species have been known to winter on the Hudson River in the vicinity of

Fort Washington Park; two counts taken during period totaled 245 and 400 on Dec 21 and Feb 23 respectively (PP); max counts on Jerome Reservoir: 56, Jan 20 and 140, Mar 8 (FE). Common Goldeneye: Max 2210, Dec 28, Heckscher (FH). Bufflehead: max counts; 600, Dec 22, Clason Point (NB, PP); 300, Dec 28, Shinnecock (GR); 360 Mar 28, JBWR (FE) — greatly increased in past five years. Harlequin Duck: up to five birds (four males, one female), Dec 29-Mar 6, Point Lookout (mob) — third consecutive winter Harlequins have been found here; three females, Jan 11-12, Shinnecock (RP, RF); female, Jan 18-26, Montauk (mob). An excellent year for Eiders. Common Eider: wintered at Montauk with max counts of 66, Jan 18 (GR) and 100, Jan 26 (RS); two, Jan 4, Orient (GR); small flocks of up to seven were reported from five localities between Jones and Moriches Inlets, Dec 26-29 — formerly very rare away from Montauk. King Eider: wintered at Montauk with max count of 36, Jan 5 (RF, MG); Dec 2, Tobay Beach (GT); 14, Dec 29, Jones Inlet, (NB, PB); three, Jan 4, Orient (GR). Seven unidentified Eiders migrated past Tobey Beach, Mar 28 (WN, PB). Scoters: ratio of white-winged to Black to Surf, 2500:650:150, Montauk, Jan 5 (MG). Hooded Merganser: max 98, Dec 1, Quogue (HP, EG). Common Merganser: 70, Mar 23, JBWR — only two on Mar 28 (FE).

Hawks — Owls: Accipters continue to decline; only three reports received of Sharp-shinned all winter. Red-shouldered Hawk: one to two, Jan 4-Mar 28, Lawrence (RC) — one of these was feeding on a Clapper Rail on Feb 15; uncommon on south shore. Broad-winged Hawk: Dec 22, Rye (CW, EL); Dec 26, Mastic (W. Nichols, D. Weld fide GR) — both adults in direct size comparison with crows. Kough-legged Hawk: excellent year; at least 40 individuals recorded throughout the region; up to four in sight at once on Jan 2, Oakbeach (MK). Out of 18 birds in which the plumage was noted, seven were in the dark phase. Bald Eagle: adult, Dec 26, Mastic (W. Nichols, D. Weld fide GR); immature, Feb 5, Southaven (GR, DP). Pigeon Hawk: birds in female or immature plumage unless otherwise noted; Dec 1-Mar 28, Jones (mob); adult male, Dec 22, New Rochelle (IC, HH); Dec 26, Calverton (GR); Jan 5, Westhampton (MG); Jan 26, Valley Stream (MG); Feb 22, Mecox (RF, RP) — formerly considered accidental in winter. Ruffed Grouse: "apparently at high point of cycle. Seen frequently at Manorville and Upton; max 12 together, Dec 22, Manorville and five, Jan 6, Upton" (GR); Dec 28, Deer Park (MG). King Rail: Dec 26, Mastic (DP); Jan 1, Quogue (P. Puleston). Sora: Dec 29, Massapequa (JY, E. Simon). American Coot: 92, Mar 28, JBWR (FE).

Ruddy Turnstone: three, Dec 21, Staten Island CC; Dec 22, Clason Point (NB, PP); Dec 29-Mar 14, Short Beach (mob); Jan 18, Shinnecock (mob). American Woodcock: max nine, Dec 26, East Moriches (GR). Common Snipe: max 30, Jan 12, Mecox (GR) — 19 of these were feeding in one tight flock on open mud flat. Greater Yellow-legs: Jan 25, Lawrence (RC). Knot: Dec 29-Jan 19, Short Beach (PB, TD). Purple Sandpiper: max 300+, Feb 15, Short Beach (KM). Unidentified Jaegers: two, Dec 8, Jones Inlet (AD). Glaucous Gull: seven individuals reported throughout region, Dec 28 to end of period. Iceland Gull: many individuals reported; impossible to give exact or even approximate numbers because the birds are constantly moving about. As usual, peak numbers were reached in Mar during the return flight. Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 2000, Montauk Reservoir (GC, PB, JH) — an immature well observed: it matched perfectly specimens in the AMNH, and was markedly different from any of the specimens of the various Herring Gull races. Black-headed Gull: three, Dec 21, Upper and Lower N. Y. Bays (RH, E. Swayer); Feb 9, Riis, (TD). Laughing Gull: exceedingly rare in winter; large numbers usually remain until the first cold snap (about the third week in Dec) when there is a mass exodus; one or two are usually seen on the CC's, but not thereafter. Bonaparte's Gull: impressive numbers wintered in Jones Inlet, estimates running from 2000-3000 (mob) to as high as 10,000 birds on Feb 24 (AV). Little Gull: two adults, Feb 24, Jones Inlet (AV); thereafter one frequently seen to end of period (mob). Ivory Gull: Feb 13, Coney Island (RR) — an immature well observed both standing and in flight by an observer previously familiar with the species; first L. I. record in 30 years.

Razorbill: good year, nine individuals reported; Jan 10, Fisher's Island (H. Ferguson) to Feb 22, Montauk (HP, EG). Thick-billed Murre: Mar 25, Seaford — an oiled bird found alive; for details and photograph see *Newsday*, Mar 25, 1964. Dovekie: three reports from Montauk; Dec 14 (GT) to Feb 22 (HP, EG); Jan 5, Easthampton (RF) — found dead. Black Guillemot: Jan 26, Montauk (RS); three, Mar 23, Jones Inlet (SS) — winter plumage, swimming in inlet 50 yards from shore. In addition, there were four reports of unidentified large alcids. Barn Owl: Dec 26, East Moriches (P. Stoutenburgh, et al, *vide* GR); Jan 18, Montauk (GR, DP) — hunting in daylight; Feb 2-9, Jones Beach (mob). Snowy Owl: four to six, Dec 8-Mar 18, Jones Beach Strip (mob); Dec 7-8, New Rochelle (mob); Dec 26, Fire Island (A. Cooley, et al *vide* GR); Feb 3, Orient (RL); Feb 15, Shinnecock (LW); Feb 22-24, JBWR (mob). Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were well below normal. Barred Owl went unrecorded, and only five reports of Saw-whets were received.

Goatsuckers — Warblers: Red-bellied Woodpecker: Dec 21-Feb 14, Pelham (OH, et al); Dec 27-Feb 8, Commack (J. Ralston, EG, HP). Red-headed Woodpecker: Dec 22, New Rochelle (IC, HH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: three, Dec 8, Rockville Center (RH, et al); Dec 23, Ardsley (W. Hastings, E. Manning); Dec 29, Cold Spring Harbor (J. Murray *vide* AB). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: male, Dec 16, Tackapausha (AV). Eastern Phoebe: Mar 8, Central Park (PP) — early. Purple Martin: male at nesting site, Mar 10, Center Moriches (K. Helms *vide* GR) — early. Tufted Titmouse: still an uncommon bird on L. I.; Nov 13-Dec 6, Sayville (WT); two, late Nov-early Dec, Centereach (WT); Dec 21, Seaford (GR); two, Dec 21, Brooklyn CC; two, Dec 27, Smithtown CC. House Wren: Dec 15, Pelham (SS). Short-billed Marsh Wren: Dec 10-26, Brookhaven (GR, DP). Varied Thrush: Dec 17-Jan 17, Bellport (GR, DP, et al) — immature male or female at feeder; well documented, including photographs in color (LM); first L. I. record since 1905. Northern Shrike: Dec 25, Roslyn (M., D. Nathanson *vide* AB); Jan 5, Montauk (MG). Loggerhead Shrike: Jan 18, Meadowbrook Parkway (CW). Orange-crowned Warbler: Dec 7, Tackapausha (AV). Yellow-throat: Dec 4, Bronx Park (DR).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Baltimore Oriole: Dec 7, Mount Vernon (J. Copeland *vide* M. Cornwell); Dec 8, Jones (EL); Dec 18, Jones (AW); throughout Jan, Seacliff (E. Boyd *vide* LLASB); two, Jan, Easthampton (LW); Jan 23-Feb 12, Eastport (GR, LW, et al); two, latter half of Mar, Southhampton (LW) — all except Jones Beach birds were at feeders. Bullock's Oriole: Dec 12-mid Mar, Eastport (LW, et al) — immature male at feeders; extremely well documented, banded and photographed in the hand (LW); second L. I. report. Cardinal: "Increasingly common at Orient, as many as seven in one group" (RL); about 20 wintering in Manhattan north of 155th St., 12 in one group (PP). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: male, Dec 1-21, Bronx Park (E. Edler *vide* RR). Blue Grosbeak: Dec 15, Jones (L. Garland) — convincing report by an observer previously familiar with the species both locally and in the south. The report specifically mentions the lateral tail-flicking that is characteristic of this species. To the best of our knowledge, none of the standard bird guides contains this behavioral information, although it has been noticed many times in the field by a number of experienced observers. Dickcissel: Dec 16, Scarsdale (K. Heffron *vide* M. Cornwell); Dec 22-23, Riverdale (PB); Dec 25-Jan 23, Freeport (CW); Dec 26-Feb 22, Eastport (LW, GR, et al); Dec 28, Shinnecock Hills (GR); Jan 1, Plandome (O. Dunning *vide* AB); Jan 16, Marine Parkway (H. McCauley); one wintered at Center Moriches (K. Helms *vide* GR) — all except one at feeders; only three or four previous winter records!

Evening Grosbeak: many large flocks at feeders throughout L.I.: i.e., 160, Feb 12, Eastport (LW); 150 banded, Blue Point (WT); 80, Dec 28, Bayard Cutting Arboretum (MK, JH, FH). Common Redpoll: Dec 8, Rye (RA); five reports totaling 23 individuals from Dec 27-29; 150, Dec 21, Riis (PB);

three, Jan 24, Clason Point (WN) — the 150 birds at Riis is the largest number recorded since the late Jan-late Mar flight in 1960, when as many as 3000+ were seen at Jones on Jan 24. Goldfinches and Pine Siskins occurred in much larger numbers than usual on L. I., throughout the period — for example, Alperin noted 700 Goldfinches and 175 Siskins at Captree on Dec 17, while Lanyon reported that 100 Siskins are still present at the end of the period at Huntington. With the coming of Dec the Crossbill invasion, which lasted throughout Nov, virtually came to a standstill; the population stabilizing in areas where an adequate supply of cones could be found. Generally both species were scarce or uncommon (particularly White-wings), except along Jones Beach strip and the extreme southwestern part of the L. I. pine barrens. This is well illustrated by the numbers of crossbills recorded on the various CC's. The two counts having the greatest concentration of birds were Southern Nassau (with 734 Reds and 50 White-wings) and Captree (with 357 Reds and 8 White-wings), while the remaining nine counts combined totaled only 149 Reds and 117 White-wings. Both species got progressively scarcer after Dec, although small numbers continued to be reported up to the end of the period.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Dec 29, Hewlett Harbor (K. Berlin, J. Glassberg, RS, RA) — at feeder. Henslow's Sparrow: Dec 27-Jan 1, Patchogue (WT, DP) — at feeder, apparently first winter record. Vesper Sparrow: "good late Dec flight. None were found after Jan 1 in the Manorville-Riverhead area although searched for" (GR) — max 25 (in one flock), Dec 26, Calverton (GR). Oregon Junco: adult males at feeders: Dec 27, Smithtown (H. Potter); Dec 28-29, Plandome (C. Burnett). Chipping Sparrow: Dec 22, Clason Point (NB); Jan 18, Eastport (TD) — at feeder. White-crowned Sparrow: Dec 7, Cold Spring Harbor (R. Houghton *vide* AB); Dec 7, Woodlawn Cemetery (GT, JH); Dec 21, Howard Beach (TD); two banded, Jan 12-Mar 16, Syosset (J. Taylor) — at feeder. Lincoln's Sparrow: Dec 22, Baychester (GT, JH) — extremely well observed; four previous winter records in recent years. Snow Bunting: max flock of 250 present at Short Beach from Jan 11-Mar 1 (mob).

Addendum: The following items should have been included in the Fall Report. Magnificent Frigatebird: Aug 20, Fisher's Island (G. Simmons *vide* H. Ferguson) — observer familiar with species from Florida and the Bahamas. European Teal: Nov 5, JBWR (SS, C. Young, J. Mayer). Mourning Warbler: Oct 9, Central Park (GC) — late.

Corregendum: Corrections in Boldface. **Kingbird** 13(4):230, Shoveler: one pair also bred in 1963 at JBWR. **Kingbird** 13 (4):231, American Oystercatcher: one pair, Moriches (GR) — **three** eggs laid. **Kingbird** 14 (1):62, Boreal Chickadee: two, Nov 10, Grassy Sprain (S. Friedman).

Note: Please have spring reports in by Jun 7. Post, 575 W. 183 St., NYC 33; Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, NYC 25.