

areas; two individuals, one in Jan and one in Feb, Dutch; a flock of 40 were reported from Millerton on Mar 20 (RD).

Note: Spring reports are due by June 5

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

The winter season was characterized by slightly warmer than average temperatures during Dec and Feb. In contrast, Jan temperatures averaged well below normal.

The combined total of the 12 Christmas Counts which were taken wholly within Region 10, was 163 species (not including several additional species present during the count period). The four "biggest" counts were: Southern Nassau—124; Central Suffolk—110; Bronx-S. Westchester—106; and Captree—104.

In general, the current period was distinguished by a noticeable scarcity of birds. "Half-hardy" species were especially low in numbers as soon as the winter set in, when compared with last year. Even such a normally common wintering species as Tree Sparrow was extremely scarce, as were Field and Swamp Sparrows. "Winter Finches" were very low; for example, only two Evening Grosbeaks were seen on all the Christmas Counts.

The only group of birds that was more numerous than usual were the birds-of-prey commonly associated with open country, numbers being confined to the coastal marshes. Rough-legged Hawks were even more abundant than last winter. It was apparently the greatest flight year ever recorded in our Region; in the Orient area, as many as 15 individuals were seen in a day. Marsh Hawks, Snowy and Short-eared Owls, and both species of shrikes were present in well above normal numbers. On Jan 5, Ward saw 25 hawks of five species along the Jones Beach strip: one Red-tail, five Rough-legs, 12 Marsh, one Pigeon and six Sparrow.

Although temperatures for March averaged only slightly below normal, most spring arrivals were well behind schedule, or reduced in numbers. Norse remarked that this March was one of the poorest in recent years in Inwood Hill Park. The first major landbird movement did not occur until the last few days of the period. Although such species as Robin and Fox Sparrow had appeared earlier in March, they did not arrive in numbers until the 28th along the coast and the 30th in the city parks.

Notably rarities consisted of Common Murre, "Spotted" Towhee (present since Nov 25) and Brambling. There were also extremely late occurrences of Little Blue Heron, Scarlet Tanager, and Black-and-white and Blackpoll Warblers.

Much of our information comes from the local Christmas Counts. Those abbreviated are as follows: BkCC—Brooklyn; BXCC—Bronx-S. Westchester; CaCC—Captree; CCCC—Central Suffolk; MkCC—Montauk; NNCC—Northern Nassau; QnCC—Queens; SmCC—Smithtown; SNCC—Southern Nassau.

Abbreviations used: max—maximum one day count during the period; mob—many observers; LLASB—Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Bulletin; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; CC—Christmas Count; S. I.—Staten Island; imm—immature.

Contributors frequently cited: IA—Irwin Alperin; RA—Robert Arbib; AB—Albert Bell; NB—Ned Boyajian; PB—Paul Buckley; JB—John Bull; IC—Irving Cantor; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; RC—Richard Cohen; TD—

Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; RF—Robert Fisher; RH—Richard Harrison; FH—Fred Heath; KK—Klaus Kallman; RK—Richard Koepfel; RL—Roy Latham; EL—Emanuel Levine; EM—Ellen McMullen; LM—Lee Morgan; WN—William Norse; HP—Hugh Pembleton; RP—Richard Plunkett; PP—Peter Post; DP—Dennis Puleston; DR—Daniel Rafferty; GR—Gilbert Raynor; TR—Thomas Robben; WS—Walter Sedwitz; FS—Fred Shaeffer; SS—Si Stepinoff; RS—Robert Sutherland; ES—Esther Swayer; WT—Walter Terry; GT—Guy Tudor; CW—Cornelius Ward; LW—LeRoy Wilcox; EW—Edwin Willis; AW—Alvin Wollin.

Loons — Ducks: Red-necked Grebe: Dec 26, Gravesend Bay (ES); Jan 3-Feb 24, Jones Inlet (mob); Feb 27, Great Kills, S.I. (RS). Double-crested Cormorant: Dec 23, Jones Inlet (WS); Dec 26, Montauk (EW, RH, B. Berliner). Great Blue Heron: max 45, Jan 3, SNCC. Common Egret: six, Mar 28, Jones (EL)—arrival. Snowy Egret: Mar 14, Tobay (CW)—same arrival date as last year; widespread arrival Mar 24, JBWR to Montauk. Little Blue Heron: imm, Dec 16, Lawrence (K. Berlin, J. Glasberg, JB)—latest record for Region. Green Heron: Jan 2, E. Quogue (LW). Glossy Ibis: Mar 28, JBWR (RS)—earliest arrival.

Mute Swan: max 672, Dec 29, CSCC. Brant: 665 in three locations (Pelham, N. Rochelle, Baxter Creek), Dec 27, BxCC—high winter count away from L.I. Snow Goose: six reports of singles from L.I. Blue Goose: two, Jan 3, Tobay (NB, RH). Gadwall: max 176, Jan 3, SNCC. Blue-winged Teal: three, Dec 26, JBWR (FH, FE); Dec 29, E. Moriches (P. Stoutenburgh); Jan 3 thru period, Hempstead (mob); arrival Mar 21, Brookville, Montauk and JBWR (mob). European Widgeon: Dec 27, N. Rochelle (IC, TR); Dec 28-mid Jan, Southaven (DP); Feb 27-Mar 13, Sagaponack (mob). Ring-necked Duck: max counts: 182, Dec 29, CSCC; 72, Dec 28, SmCC; 40, Jan 2, CaCC. Canvasback: 651, Feb 16, Jerome Reservoir (WS). Lesser Scaup: 320, Mar 17, Jerome Reservoir (WS). Bufflehead: 1000, Dec 27, BxCC—new high for Bronx. Harlequin Duck: up to three, Dec 13-mid Jan, Orient (DP, RL); one pair, late Dec-thru period, Jones Inlet (mob). Common Eider: 20, Dec 13, Orient (DP); 20, Jan 30, Montauk (DP); 15, Jan 17, Captree (A. Dove)—new high for western L.I.; two reports from unusual locations—Dec 26, N. Channel Bridge, JBWR (LM, FS); Dec 28, SmCC. King Eider: one to five individuals from five locations (Jones Inlet to Montauk); three of these were perfect adult drakes. Ruddy Duck: dropoff at JBWR—920, Nov 24; 602, Nov 28; 356, Dec 2; 169, Dec 17; 71, Dec 19; 42, Dec 26 (H. Hays). Hooded Merganser: max 132, Dec 29, CSCC; 111, Jan 2, CaCC. Red-breasted Merganser: max 2100, Dec 28, SmCC.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: Jan 3, Hempstead (AW, S. Schiff, T. Lomand). Goshawk: adult, Mar 14, Rye (RA). Rough-legged Hawk: 50 individuals were seen on nine CC's; sample max counts: 15, Feb 6, E. Marion to Orient (DP, GR); 10, Feb 3-6, Jones strip (mob); eight, Dec 29, Southaven (DP). Out of 37 birds in which the plumage was noted, 21 were in the light phase, 13 were dark and 3 were intermediate. Peregrine Falcon: an individual was noted roosting on a Manhattan building, Feb 19-22 (RK, F. Davis). Pigeon Hawk: Dec 27, Cold Spring Harbor (J. Alderman); Dec 30, Shinnecock Hills (GR); Jan 3, Atlantic Beach (JB, D. Heilbrun); Jan 9, Patchogue (DP); Jan 23, Jones (CW); two, Feb 6, Orient (DP, GR, WT, et al)—apparently more common in winter than formerly; six were seen last winter, also by reliable observers. Sparrow Hawk: max 25-30, Mar 24, Montauk to Westhampton (LLAS).

Sora: Mar 8 thru period, Brookhaven (DP); Mar 29, JBWR (RS). Common Gallinule: one wintered at Hook Pond (mob); two Jan. 10, Pond X, Lawrence (R. Sloss). Golden Plover: two, Mar 31, JBWR (S. Komito)—equals the earliest record. Ruddy Turnstone: three, Jan 23, Shinnecock

Inlet (DP, SS); 12, Feb 27, Great Kills, S.I. (RS)—high winter count. Common Snipe: 75 were recorded on nine CC's—very high; max 22, Jan 30, Mecox (GR). Short-billed Dowitcher: Mar 27-28, Tobay (KK, TD, FS, RS)—second earliest record. Semiplumbed Sandpiper: Jan 2, Oakbeach (GT).

Glaucous Gull: good year, 11 reports from Dec 27-Mar 14; max three, Dec 27, Eltingville Beach, S.I. (F. Wolfarth, et al). An unusual concentration of "white-winged" gulls occurred Feb 7 on Central Park Reservoir—two adult Glaucous, three-four adult Iceland and one imm Iceland (PP, GC). This is a highly unusual number and proportion of adults; the following day an imm Glaucous was at the same location (GC). Iceland Gull: about 14 reports throughout period. Great Black-backed Gull: 4484 (3000 at Spring Creek—FH), Dec 26, BkCC—new national CC max. Herring Gull: the combined total of all CC's was 140,270. Ring-billed Gull: max 1616, Jan 3, SNCC. Black-headed Gull: three, thru Jan 2, Moriches (mob); adult, Jan 2, 179th St. & Hudson R. (WN); imm, Jan 2, Captree (PP); adult, Jan 3, Pt Lookout (PB); Jan 23, Montauk (DP, GR). Bonaparte's Gull: max 1500, Jan 3, Mamaroneck (SS). Razorbill: Dec 26, Montauk (R. Odell); Mar 2, Westhampton Beach (SS). Thick-billed Murre: Feb 27, Bellport (S. Bedell, S. Hunter fide A. Cooley)—found oiled; specimen in Bellport HS collection. Common Murre: Jan 26, Short Beach (W. Friton, DR)—oiled bird found alive; excellent photo will appear in future issue of Kingbird. Dovekie: two, Dec 26, Ditch Plains, Montauk (RF).

Mourning Dove: max 349, Jan 3, SNCC. Barn Owl: up to three individuals on Jones strip, Dec 3-Jan 3 (mob); three, Orient (RL)—two of these found dead in late Dec, third found dead in Feb; Mar 7, Moriches (GR). Great Horned Owl: nesting records: pair in Osprey nest, Feb, Shelter Is (H. & P. Callahan fide A. Dignan); pair with one owl three weeks old, Apr 3, Southhampton (DP, GR); pair have nested for at least past five years at Pelham, but increasing disturbance resulted in unsuccessful attempt this spring (KK). Snowy Owl: flight year; Richard Cohen's local banding and color-marking program shows that there is considerable ranging of individuals along many miles of barrier beach. Therefore, it is impossible to estimate true numbers present. Of 12 birds banded (11 on L.I., one in Bronx) seven were males, five were females; seven were adults, five were imm. Max seven, Dec 5-6, Jones strip (RC); up to four at Idlewild (fide RC)—during last flight year (1960-61) there were up to 12 here. Latest dates: Mar 27, Orient and Mar 28, Tiana Beach. Among places where birds were seen were at the World's Fair and on the rooftop of PS 64 in Flushing. Barred Owl: Dec 27, Pelham (W. Ephraim); Feb 14, Rye (RA). Short-eared Owl: 67 were recorded on eight CC's; max 23, Jan 3, SNCC. Saw-whet Owl: Jan 3, Jones (S. Yeaton); Feb 24, Speonk (LW); two, Mar 20, Jones (mob).

Goatsuckers—Warblers: Yellow-shafted Flicker: max 77, Jan 3, SNCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Jan 8, Manhasset Woods (fide LLASB). Red-headed Woodpecker: Dec 26-mid Mar, Marine Park, Brooklyn (H. McCauley, TD, et al). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Dec 26, Oakland Lake (A. May fide LLASB); Jan 2, E. Islip (M. Kleinbaum); Jan 3, Hempstead (AW, et al); Jan 15, Sea Cliff (AB). Western Kingbird: two present at Ris Park up to Dec 14, one to Jan 13 (mob). Eastern Phoebe: Dec 27, Clason Pt (LM). Horned Lark: max 248, Jan 17, Manorville to Wading River (GR). Tree Swallow: late numbers: max 34 in one flock, Jan 2, Oakbeach (GT, LM); 29, Dec 30, Shinnecock (GR); several scattered birds reported also from south shore during early winter. Fish Crow: max 77, Dec 27, Pelham (SS, M. Russak, et al)—one flock of calling birds mobbing a Snowy Owl; extremely high count for winter. Tufted Titmouse: 38 were recorded on six western L.I. CC's, none from eastern L.I.

Mockingbird: 60 were recorded on nine L.I. CC's (44 on five western L.I. CC's). Brown Thrasher: 50 were recorded on eight CC's; max 14, Dec 29, CSCC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 13 were recorded on six CC's; max five, Dec 27, BxCC; the 25 individuals recorded on the NNCC is an error. Cedar Waxwing: max 79, Jan 3, SNCC. Northern Shrike: up to four individuals present on Jones strip, Jan 3-Feb 14 (mob); Dec 26, MkCC. Loggerhead Shrike: Dec 26, Spring Creek (FH); Dec 27, Cold Spring Harbor (J. Alderman); Jan 3-Feb 14, Tobay (mob); Jan 31, Mecox (HP, E. Good); Mar 7, Great Kills, S.I. (RS). Black-and-white Warbler: Dec 27, Cold Spring Harbor (J. Taylor). Blackpoll Warbler: Jan 3, Jones (RP)—a month later than previous late date. Palm Warbler: max five in one flock, Jan 2, Oak-beach (GT, LM). Yellowthroat: Dec 26, Dyker Beach (ES); two, Dec 28, SmCC; Dec 29, CSCC. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jan 5-15, Northport (E. Mudge); Jan 9-13, E. Patchogue (A. Cooley).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Baltimore Oriole: Dec 11-20, Huntington (fide EM); Dec 13-Jan 31, Northport (EM); Dec 15-27, Malverne (LLASB); Dec 27, Glen Cove (NNCC); Dec 26-Jan 4, Babylon (IA); Dec 29 thru period, Westhampton Beach (LW); Jan 3, Hempstead (fide R. Sloss); Feb 19, Woodmere (R. Sloss). Rusty Blackbird: max 54, Dec 26, QnCC. What appeared to be a very late Scarlet Tanager was reported on the Christmas Census, Dec 27, Pelham (M. Russak et al). (Ed Note: With the possibility of confusion with other tanagers, details of identification are being checked.)

Cardinal: 397 were recorded on 10 L.I. CC's (346 on six western L.I. CC's). **Brambling:** male, Feb 11, Idlewild (R. Ryan)—four other reports from the northeast in recent years. The strong possibility of an escape cannot be ruled out; it should be noted, however, that all these records occurred in the winter. Dickcissel: two, Dec 27, Lloyd Harbor (NNCC); Jan 13-Feb 22, Marine Parkway, Brooklyn (H. McCauley). Evening Grosbeak: only six reports of one-four individuals received all winter. House Finch: 1704 were recorded on 11 CC's; note the great increase over last year's total of 992 birds on nine CC's; 223 were banded at Atlantic Beach during Mar (RC). Common Redpoll: four, Dec 28, SmCC; five, Jan 3, Tobay (NB, N. Smith).

Rufous-sided Towhee: max 24, Dec 26, MkCC. **"Spotted" Towhee:** bird reported in fall was present until Jan 24, Bellport (DP)—excellent photo will appear in future issue of Kingbird. Grasshopper Sparrow: Dec 15, Hewlett Harbor (R. Sloss, et al)—exact same location as last year. Sharptailed Sparrow: max 13, Dec 29, CSCC; seven, Jan 2, Cedar Beach to Oak-beach (GT, LM, FE). Vesper Sparrow: max 21, Jan 17, Calverton (GR). White-crowned Sparrow: Dec 29, Mastic (R. Schaeffer); one banded and photographed, Feb 22, Syosset (J. Taylor)—two banded here last winter. Lapland Longspur: max 40, Jan 3, Lido Beach (JB, HP).

Corrigendum: The Kentucky Warbler in the previous fall report should be deleted.

Note: Please have Spring reports in by Jun 7 (preferably a week earlier).

Post, 575 W. 183 St., NYS 10033; Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, NYC 10025