

three records; one Jan 20—Feb 3 Nanuet (Mrs. Royal Taplin) probably the same bird Feb 19 Pearl River (Robert Olley); one Jan 31 South Salem, West thru latter half of Jan; one all period at Millbrook (RD). Rusty Blackbird: sev winter reports; 11 from Dec 30 to end of period at Stissing (TH)—unusual there in winter; many reports from mid-Mar to end of season thru Region. Common Grackle: usual reports, esp in Southern portion; large movement Mar 11, all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: not as numerous as usual except for Dutch, where numbers were very high thru season.

Fringillids: An exceptionally poor season for northern species. Most reports of single bird seen once or twice throughout season. Cardinal: reported down in Ulst, but not alarmingly. Evening Grosbeak: single records of small flocks from Oran Jan 16, Dutch Dec 30; three reports totaling 10 birds from Sull during Feb; none elsewhere. Purple Finch: very low. House Finch: more numerous than last species, esp in southern portion; WBC had 44 reported thru period. Pine Grosbeak: only one Feb 11, Briarcliff (K. Hohenstein). American Goldfinch: less than usual. Red Crossbill: seven at Kanawauke L Jan 2 (FS). Rufous-sided Towhee: about ten wintered. Savannah Sparrow: one Jan 6 Pleasant Valley; two WCC. Vesper Sparrow: two WCC. Slate-colored Junco: scarce early in season, improved later. OREGON JUNCO: one Neversink, Sull Mar 23-31 (PC); one Mar 28 Coopers Corners, Sull (LMcB); one thru season Chappaqua (Mrs. A. Lentz). Tree Sparrow: same as Slate-colored Junco. CHIPPING SPARROW: one Dec 20 and Jan 3 at Pleasant Valley (MVW). Field Sparrow: a few wintering birds in Oran and Dutch. HARRIS' SPARROW: one near Kripplebush Feb 7, remained thru season (FH). White-crowned Sparrow: reported thru season at Cross R, West; two imm all winter at Salt Pt (mob). Fox Sparrow: each month thru season; very good flight in late Mar. Swamp Sparrow: one Jan and Feb in Dutch; sev others on local Christmas Counts. Song Sparrow: good thru season. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: one Mar 8 Blooming Grove, Oran (ME). Snow Bunting: reported every month by WBC, numbers low; scattered flocks elsewhere; none after mid-Mar.

Spring report due no later than June 10.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

Most observers felt that bird populations were low this winter. The accompanying table of Christmas Count data would seem to support this statement, especially regarding feeder birds, winter finches and bark feeders. Even without a table it was also clear that hawks and owls were present in below normal numbers.

The aforementioned table lists counts of 23 species on 10 of the 12 Regional Counts taken this year. They are as follows: Brooklyn (abbreviated Bk)—Dec 26, 68 species; Bronx-Southern Westchester (Bx)—Dec 26, 98; Captree (Ca)—Dec 31, 105; Central Suffolk (CS)—Dec 26, 117; Montauk (Mk)—Jan 2, 85; Northern Nassau (NN)—Dec 26, 91; Queens (Qn)—Jan 2, 85; Quogue-Watermill (QW)—Dec. 23, 74; Staten Island (SI)—Dec 26, 73; Southern Nassau (SN)—Jan 2, 121.

The weather was milder preceding this year's Counts than last year's. This may be seen by comparing total numbers of Pied-billed Grebes and Belted Kingfishers, up 33 percent this year. Their wintering populations are probably controlled by the amount of open water available more than by any other factor. The availability of water is also probably a critical factor in determining wintering populations and survival of many other birds, not only water birds but landbirds as well.

The most marked increases recorded on this year's Counts were Mockingbird (89 individuals last year, 160 this year) and Myrtle Warbler (which more than quadrupled its poor total of last year).

The population increase of Tufted Titmouse, another recent arrival, seems to have levelled off. No titmice were recorded on the 1950-51 Counts but 189 were seen on ten Counts in the Region only ten years later. This figure has varied between 140-180 individuals since then. There seems to be little chance that this number will increase unless it can expand within Nassau Co. (where its population is localized) or unless it spreads eastward into Suffolk Co. (where it is still a rare bird).

Populations of two other species, House Finch and Cardinal have remained static over the past two and three years respectively. This is probably a temporary condition, both species should be expected to show future increases in Suffolk Co. House Finches arrived in Staten Island only last year, no doubt the same holds true here also.

Major snow storms occurred on Dec 24 (6-8"), Feb 7 (12-14"), and March 22 (9-10"). Temperatures averaged slightly above normal during December and January and dropped to four and five degrees below normal during February and March. Precipitation averaged slightly above normal during the season.

Notable rarities included a "black and white" shearwater, Fulvous Tree Duck, Tufted Duck (photographed), Lapwing (photographed) and Bridled Tern (specimen). Unseasonal occurrences included Red Phalarope, Least Tern, Black Tern, Nashville Warbler (photographed), Orchard Oriole (banded) and Lark Sparrow (photographed). Also unusual were wintering reports of one Red-headed and four Red-bellied Woodpeckers, perhaps holdovers from the excellent flight last fall.

Contributors frequently cited: PB—Paul Baicich; JB—John Bull; TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; FH—Fred Heath; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; RR—Richard Ryan; GR—Gilbert Raynor; BT—Benjamin Trimble; CW—Cornelius Ward; LW—Leroy Wilcox.

Abbreviations used: AMNH—American Museum of Natural History; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Riis—Riis Park; Jones—Jones Beach State Park; CC—Christmas Count.

LOONS—DUCKS: "*black and white*" shearwater: Jan 2 off Jones (R. Ryan)—see field note in this issue. Double-crested Cormorant: Jan 2 MkCC (GR, DP) Snowy Egret: Jan 17 Tobay (JB)—first Regional mid-winter report. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 184 Jan 2 SNCC. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: imm Jan 2 Jones (D. Cooper, et al)—well seen by observers thoroughly familiar with young night herons. Glossy Ibis: the individual mentioned in the fall report remained at JBWR until Dec 4 (mob).

Whistling Swan: one at lower Yaphank L until mid-Jan (DP) Brant: max 14500 Jan 2 SNCC. Blue Goose: Dec 26 Pelham Bay Pk (fide WN) FULVOUS TREE DUCK: shot by hunter Dec 18 Flanders (fide LW)—seventh Regional record. Black Duck: max 6205 Jan 2 SNCC. European Teal: male Dec 18—early Feb Hempstead Reservoir (mob). European Widgeon: Dec 26 Bronx Pk (fide WN); Jan 2 SNCC; Jan 22 Mamaroneck (I. Cantor). TUFTED DUCK: male, Hudson River vicinity of George Washington Bridge and Edgewater N.J. Dec 12—Feb 21 (F. Lohrer)—photographed by Peter Post, probably the same bird present here last winter, if so, its returning to this same spot would indicate that it is probably a wild bird and not an escaped cage bird. Common Goldeneye: max 2205 Dec 31 CaCC. Oldsquaw: max 828 Jan 2 SNCC. Harlequin Duck: up to seven seen at Pt Lookout throughout winter (mob); female Jan 2 MkCC (GR, DP); Dec 26 Moriches Inlet (A. Cooley); 15 Dec 26 Mastic (W. Nichols, D. Weld)—highest Regional count. King Eider: max 16 Jan 28 Montauk Pt (Queens Co Bird Club).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Dec 3 Pelham Bay Pk (I. Cantor). Bald Eagle: an imm on the lower Carman's R. until Jan 5 (DP). Pigeon Hawk: Dec 26 CCCC; Feb 1 Freeport (CW)—"chasing Starlings". King Rail: one wintering Brookhaven (DP). Virginia Rail: up to four individuals seen to Dec 28 and at least one throughout the winter at the Shu Swamp, Mill Neck (A. Bell et al) American Oystercatcher: two Mar 26 Jones (M. Kleinbaum)—extremely early. LAPWING: Dec 3-18 Montauk, vicinity of Deep Hollow Dude Ranch (mob)—photographed in color, third State record, further details to be published in "State Rarities" article next issue. Common Snipe: max 13 Dec 26 SICC. Lesser Yellowlegs: Dec 19 JBWR (L. Jones)—late. Dunlin: max 925 Jan 2 SNCC. **BLACK TERN:** two Jan 28 Montauk Pt (PB, et al)—"flying over the breakers", were considered to be this species by two separated groups of birders. An amazing record as this species winters in South America and would be casual even in Florida at this date. Close examination of this report by the editor has eliminated the possibility of Sooty or Bridled Terns which superficially resemble Black Tern or of an oiled tern of some other species. The observers noted small size, dusky nape with blackish mark, gray mantle and square-cut tail. However, the possibility of its having been a White-winged Black Tern cannot be ruled out. **BRIDLED TERN:** (specimen) Jan 15, Jones Beach (CW)—second state record. Wing found lying on the sand in fresh condition suggesting that it had not been there long. Identified by John Bull and Dr. Kenneth Parkes (AMNH). Razorbill: Dec 11-18 Montauk (mob); Dec 31 off Fire Is (FE); two Jan 2 off Jones (RR); Feb 22 Fire Is (DP). Thick-billed Murre: Jan 25 Lawrence (J. Glassberg). Dovekie: seen daily at Montauk to Dec 18; at Fire Is to Dec 31; two Dec 23 QWCC. Barn Owl: max five Jan 2 Jones SNCC. Snowy Owl: light flight, about ten reports Dec 16-Mar 14. Saw-whet Owl: only two reports.

COATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: four feeder reports—female Dec 6—thru period Hauppauge (Mrs. W. Klein); male Dec 11—Feb 12 Garden City (R. Calder)—photographed by Peter Doyle; Dec 16—Mar 1 Highrock Pk Staten Is (E. Stoneck, et al); Dec 24—Jan 7 Elwood (S. Ince, B. Reeves). Red-headed Woodpecker: an adult wintered on a farm at Orient (DP). Western Kingbird: one remained at Riis until Dec 19 (mob). Tree Swallow: high wintering populations noted—75 Jan 2 MkCC (30 still present on Jan 31); 34 Dec 26 CCCC; 11 Dec 31 CaCC. Tufted Titmouse: Mar 1-18 Shoreham (GR et al). Northern Shrike: four reports with a max of 3 Dec 31 Orient (GR). Loggerhead Shrike: Jan 28 JBWR (DP); Mar 11 JBWR (Lymon Langdon Audubon Society).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: at feeder Feb 4-8 Remsenberg (LW) **NASHVILLE WARBLER:** at feeder Jan 5—Feb 7 Lloyd Neck (S. Ruppert, A. Dove, B. Conolly, TD, BT, et al)—eating suet, photographed by Sally Ruppert, second Regional winter record. Palm Warbler: four Christmas Counts listed 15 individuals—three Dec 26 CCCC; Dec 26 SICC; ten Dec 31 CaCC; Jan 2 SNCC. Yellowthroat: two Dec 26, one to Jan 29 Yaphank (GR et al); Jan 2, Montauk (K. Malone). Yellow-breasted Chat: Dec 26 Brooklyn Heights (T. Zorach); Dec 26 BxCC; Jan 2 SNCC.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** the individual mentioned in the fall report remained at Riis until Dec 11 (mob)—see Field Note in this issue. Baltimore Oriole: eight individuals reported; male with injured wing Dec 23—Feb 7 Huntington (B. Wheeler, et al), found dead after blizzard on Feb 7, specimen at AMNH; three Jan 2-7 Forest Pk (PB, TD, FE, et al) in pine grove, no feeders nearby; Jan 1—Feb 8 Glenwood Landing (J. Doran); Jan 9 Rockville Center (R. Roberts); Jan 17 Pt. Lookout (JB); Feb 3 Great Neck (Mr and Mrs Berv). Western Tanager: the individual at Riis mentioned in the fall report was found

COUNTS OF SELECTED SPECIES ON THE MARINE REGION CHRISTMAS COUNTS

120

	Bk	Bx	Ca	CS	Mk	NN	Qn	QW	Sl	SN	Total
Pied-billed Grebe	1	2	4	27	4	0	0	0	0	1	39
Great Black-backed Gull	1,372	740	497	487	232	141	70	310	1,399	985	6,233
Herring Gull	17,950	11,480	9,505	3,455	2,855	7,017	2,036	3,050	24,676	15,030	97,054
Mourning Dove	105	390	74	302	9	368	297	101	158	278	2,082
Belted Kingfisher	0	2	4	8	14	11	1	3	1	13	57
Downy Woodpecker	5	87	119	40	5	82	36	8	38	93	420
Blue Jay	27	394	635	359	341	164	141	53	31	311	2,456
Black-capped Chickadee	0	310	128	213	180	217	43	126	56	43	1,316
Tufted Titmouse	4	85	5	0	0	14	3	0	15	10	136
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	57	47	29	1	59	29	4	14	23	265
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	1	15	7	6	7	0	8	0	14	58
Mockingbird	4	4	12	15	20	37	17	6	16	29	160
Catbird	0	2	4	3	4	4	1	2	0	6	26
Brown Thrasher	0	2	2	5	5	6	2	0	1	9	32
Myrtle Warbler	4	0	375	211	283	10	2	20	2	582	1,489
Cardinal	5	100	22	31	12	214	48	13	75	77	597
House Finch	130	170	248	152	0	576	132	48	8	259	1,723
Pine Siskin	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	3	79	42	33	31	69	13	17	20	24	331
Slate-colored Junco	42	550	113	192	71	413	129	46	167	223	1,946
Tree Sparrow	57	200	466	326	107	110	67	39	268	288	1,928
White-throated Sparrow	6	193	52	119	12	168	74	47	80	124	875
Fox Sparrow	13	23	26	20	5	36	14	7	35	35	214

dead on Dec 26, apparently a victim of the Dec 24 snowstorm, specimen now at AMNH. Dickcissel: at feeder Dec 2–Jan 2 Brookhaven (DP); Dec 26 Riverdale (FH, S. Anes, et al). Evening Grosbeak: none reported. Red Crossbill: Dec 6 Montauk (RR)—only Crossbill report. LARK SPARROW: Dec 26–Jan 5 Shirley (P. Puleston, DP, GR)—photographed by D. Puleston, first Regional winter record. Oregon Junco: Dec 6–10 Montauk Pt (RR, DP). White-crowned Sparrow: adult Dec 26 Fire Is (D. Scott); two imm Dec 31 Captree Is (P. Post, J. Horowitz, TD, PB); imm Jan 2 QnCC; imm Jan 2, Jones (CW).

Corrigendum: "The White-fronted Goose reported in the *Kingbird*, 15(3):194, July 1965 apparently was *not* of the Greenland race. Several of the observers believe it was an escape." (P. W. Post).

Thomas Davis, 8613–85th Street, Woodhaven, New York; Fred Heath 11–15 F.D.R. Drive New York, New York 10009.

Please send spring reports in by Jun 7.

BOOK REVIEW

Enjoying Birds around New York City. By Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and Sally Hoyt Spofford for the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Houghton Mifflin Company 1966. 171 pp., illus., maps. Soft cover \$2.95, hard cover \$4.50.

Attractively illustrated by William Dilger and graced with a number of excellent maps by Colbert, Harrison, Noland and Samuels, "Enjoying Birds" is an attractive eye-catcher which under closer inspection proves a bit puzzling. It is really two books; or better, a book and a non-book. One the long-awaited birding baedeker for southern New York, the other a beginner's guide to bird-watching at the list-making level. The first is excellent; the second, something else again.

This latter category includes sketch accounts of "How to bird-watch", "How to attract birds", etc., all a rehash of material found in a dozen other books. Yet the information is accurate and well written, and the beginner who makes it his first book will probably benefit. At least the list of local bird clubs and comprehensive bibliography should show the way to sources of more detailed information. It just seems unfortunate the book itself could not have been more comprehensive. If space was the problem, certainly more could have been made available by eliminating the rudimentary field guide (about 80 pages). It is of value to no one.

Learning birds is an empiric process. The beginner looks at what birds are available and puts names to them; he does not search selectively for those for which he has descriptions. Pre-knowledge of what birds to expect is helpful, but this requires nothing more than a series of lists. For actual identification nothing short of a comprehensive field guide will do. Consider a beginner who, on his first field trip, sees an egret (none mentioned). He has two choices: pound away until his bird fits one of the descriptions offered (pretty difficult with an egret), or dash off and buy a Peterson's. In either case the few brief descriptions in "Enjoying Birds," though very well done, profit him not at all.

So just skip to page 53, this is the real book and offers ample justification for its existence. Besides the list of birding localities, valuable to even the most experienced local observer, it contains a combination checklist-calendar graph and other tabulations that are just the thing a beginner or visitor needs at his fingertips. One might balk at the dates for a breeding bird census (much too late) but by and large the information is first rate.