

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole: 14 individuals were reported, mostly during Dec-early Jan; unusual were two, Dec 17, at Noe feeder, Center Moriches, "to four by Jan 1 and to five later" (GR); a female, thought to be a Bullock's, visited a Setauket feeder, Jan 2-8 (M.Hemmerick). *BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE*: last year a male remained at a Far Rockaway feeder from early April to Nov 3 (Mrs.R.Berman,Mrs.J.Sorman *et al*); this same individual reappeared on Mar 10, apparently having just arrived back with a wave of redwings and Common Grackles (*vide* J.Bull). Cardinal: max 289, Dec 30 NNCC. Dickcissel: feeder reports -Dec 28-Jan 8 Deer Pk (Mrs.E.File); Dec 30 Montauk (TD,G.Tudor). Evening Grosbeak: only report-two, Dec 30 MkCC. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 69, Dec 30 NNCC-a very high total.

Sparrows: Grasshopper: Dec 21 Oak Beach (TD,WP,J.Stoneck)-at feeder; two, Dec 30 Mitchell field (*vide* R.Sloss); Dec 25-Jan 7 Quogue Wildlife Refuge (C.Helms,GR *et al*)-at feeder. This species has been recorded at this season more regularly in recent years, but three reports are quite unusual. Sharp-tailed: eight wintered in 45 acres of marsh at Oak Beach. This density was determined by mist-netting, marking, and recapture. Seaside: 44 wintered in the 45-acre study area at Oak Beach (WP,FE). Slate-colored Junco: max: 1424, Dec 30 NNCC-an amazing total; 564, Dec 26 CCCC. Tree: max 502, Dec 30 NNCC. Chipping: seven, Dec 20 Shinnecock (GR)-"in one flock;" six plus four more probables, Dec 21 CaCC-at three localities; Dec 23 BxCC; Dec 30 NNCC; two, Jan 14 Oyster Bay Cove (B. Peck)-the total of about 21 individuals far exceeds any recent winter maximum; none were reported during the previous two winters. Field: max 106, Dec 30 MkCC. White-crowned: Dec 26 CCCC; five, Dec 30 Montauk (GR)-"in one flock;" two, through winter, Jones fishing station (A.Wollin); one wintered at the Bennett feeder, East Marion, to Mar 2 (GR). White-throated: max 956, Dec 30 NNCC.

Note: I would like to thank Fred Heath for his aid in preparing the last ten Regional reports. Fred has recently departed for California, and Will Post has taken his place.-T.D.

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REVIEW BOOKS RECEIVED

A Field Guide to the Birds: Eastern Land and Water Birds. Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Company. xxlv + 290 pp., illus. Paper-bound Edition. \$2.95.

The Peterson eastern field guide is now available in a softcover edition. Contents seem to be identical with the recent hardcover printings; for example, the Cattle Egret is still not included. Non-shiny surface paper is used throughout. DM

Bird Attracting through the Year. Thelma McNett. 64 pp. \$1.25 from the author, 423 Lake Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580.

This is a small booklet of short essays incorporating bits of information Mrs. McNett, a member of the Genesee Ornithological Society of Rochester, has gathered during her years of birdwatching and feeding in her yard. Comments on behavior, interspersed with hints on types of feeders, ground feeding, summer feeding, plantings and nest boxes, are arranged chronologically from fall, when one should start putting out food, through summer. There are very brief descriptions of the birds one might expect to see at feeders in one's garden, supplemented by a few sketches of these birds and of several types of feeder. For someone with little birdwatching experience who is putting out his first feeding station, it might stimulate interest in careful observation. For a shut-in, a gift of a simple feeder, some seed and this booklet might give hours of pleasure. It is unfortunate that the mis-spelling of *Vireo* slipped by the proofreader. DM