

winter. *PALM WARBLER*: one on WCC (J,MK). *YELLOWTHROAT*: one on RCC at Mt. Ivy (Homer Kelsey). Eastern Meadowlark: max 18, Katonah Jan 27 (SG); numbers normal to less. Red-winged Blackbird: good numbers wintering along Hudson R; early Mar brought large flights, males on territory most areas by Mar 20, and females arr by Mar 30. Baltimore Oriole: one at Tomahawk L feeder Dec 21, and one at feeder of Mrs. John Knudsen, Mt. Kisco Jan 5. Rusty Blackbird: only report 26 wintered at Stissing (TG); WBC reports migrants on Mar 30. Common Grackle: status same as Redwing.

Cardinal: numbers good with no evidence of change. *DICKCISSEL*: one Dec 31-Jan 11 at feeder in Chester (SU); one Jan 13-31 at Millbrook (FG). Evening Grosbeak: many reports, but few from any one area, numbers small-definitely not a flight year. Purple Finch: reported normal to better in Rock, but few elsewhere. House Finch: continues to increase—81 on RCC, 57 of them reported by Wesley Hennessy in Clarkstown. Pine Grosbeak: only reports, four at Mt. Kisco Jan 18 (WG), and one on MCC. Common Redpoll: only report, one small flock at Mt. Kisco Feb 26 (WG). Pine Siskin: only report on Mar 16 and Mar 19, two at C-on-H (Carol Klanka). Am. Goldfinch: fewer than usual. Rufous-sided Towhee: more winter reports than usual and well represented on most Christmas counts; migrants moving in by Mar 29. Savannah Sparrow: scarce in some areas, but nine at Lamontville Dec 30 (Dr. Robert Pyle), and 16 on MCC. Slate-colored Junco: numbers better than usual—double the average on MCC, and the second highest count for this species on RCC. *OREGON JUNCO*: one report—one Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, banded by Pat Valkenburgh and photographed by SG. Tree Sparrow: status same as Slate-colored Junco. Field Sparrow: three near Eddyville, Ulst on Dec 30 (Hans Weber); five on MCC. *HARRIS'SPARROW*: first Dutch record—one at home of Mr & Mrs James Sweeney near Dover Plains from Jan 15 thru Mar, photographed on both 8 mm and 35 mm film (OW,EB, mob). White-crowned Sparrow: three on RCC; two wintered in Dutch and one in Oran. White-throated Sparrow: wintered in better than usual numbers. Fox Sparrow: more winter records than usual; migrants heavy by Mar 17, last report Mar 30. Swamp Sparrow: winter numbers less than usual; most Christmas Counts had at least one. Song Sparrow: normal to better; numbers definitely higher than usual especially in southern portion—twice as many as usually reported on MCC, and a record high on RCC. Snow Bunting: reported on RCC; 30 in Dutch all winter; 50 or more at Blooming Grove, Oran on Feb 29.

Spring Reports due by June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM POST

The weather in December was very mild. Numbers of birds lingering through to the Christmas Count period remained high. All the counts had ideal weather and near-record lists. We birded in our shirtsleeves the day of the Captree Count, Dec 21. The reasons new high counts were not made appeared to be: a) the lack of winter finches—no crossbills, redpolls or Pine Grosbeaks and very few Pine Siskins or Evening Grosbeaks; b) low feeder populations with few rarities reported; c) no Tree Swallows—this species was missed entirely (see previous two issues for details on its poor breeding success and fall migration).

Data from seven Christmas Counts is available this year: Brooklyn (abbreviated BkCC)—Dec 23, 74 species; Captree (CaCC)—Dec 21, 110; Central Suffolk (CSCC)—Dec 26, 115; Bronx-Southern Westchester (BxCC)—Dec 23, 98; Montauk (MkCC)—Dec 30, 118; Northern Nassau (NNCC)—Dec 30, 98; Southern Nassau (SNCC): Dec 30, 121. As is usual, Southern Nassau and Central Suffolk recorded 115 or more

species. The suprising Montauk total may be attributed to the number of observers and to Robert L. Gardiner, who permitted a party of six people to invade his island. This is the first time that Gardiner's Island, lying within the Montauk circle, has been covered on the count. The declining totals of Bronx and Brooklyn are due to loss of bird habitat to "development" and an exodus of resident birders. Northern Nassau tied its previous high species total and also recorded a very impressive number of high individuals counts. Captree recorded a new species high. This count is still growing, and with a few more observers and experience with the area, its total may soon rival that of the two perennials mentioned above.

As the count period ended "winter" began. From this point on, birding was so unrewarding that most birders sat by the fireside or flew south (via yellowbirds or whatever). The first extended cold spell began Dec 29. The temperature did not rise above freezing for more than six hours until Jan 14 (all weather data for Kennedy Airport). In this 16-day period, all coastal marshes and shallower bay waters were frozen. At Oak Beach marsh, Clapper Rails and American Bitterns were present through Dec 21. After this date, no signs (including rail tracks) were seen of either until late March (FE,WP). The temperatures from the last half of Jan through Feb were near average. Temperatures during Mar were 1.5 degrees above normal. The last two days of freezing temperature in Mar were Mar 12: 8 hrs, 31-32 degrees; Mar 25: 8 hrs, 31 degrees.

There was little snow during the period. Light snow cover was on the ground Dec 28-Jan 21 (max: 3 inches on Dec 31 and Jan 11), Feb 29-Mar 3, and Mar 12-Mar 15.

Notable rarities included Eared Grebe, Tufted Duck, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Unseasonal occurrences were Osprey, House Wren, Solitary Vireo, three Orange-crowned Warblers, two Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, and four Grasshopper Sparrows.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Jones—Jones Beach State Park.

Contributors frequently cited: PB—Paul Buckley; BC—Barbara Connolly; TD—Thomas Davis; AD—Aline Dove; FE—Frank Enders; LM—Lee Morgan; WP—William Post; GR—Gilbert Raynor; BT—Benjamin Trimble.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 455, Dec 30 MkCC. *EARED GREBE*: Mar 9-10, Patchogue (M.Hemmerick,DF,GR,A.Cooley). Double-crested Cormorant: two, Dec 21, Fire Is. (PB,J.Horowitz)—"seen quite close, obviously not *carbo*". Cattle Egret: arr Mar 26, Upton (H.Halama). Snowy Egret: seven, Dec 30 SNCC—an unusual number for such a late date; Dec 23, JBWR (Queens CC). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: adult, Dec 30 SNCC. White-fronted Goose: sub-adult, Feb 19 Mill Neck (E.Warburton,BC)—escapee? Blue Goose: the bird mentioned in the fall report remained at Southampton until Jan 1. Blue-winged Teal: Dec 26, CCCC; female, Dec 30 Montauk (PB,B.Scully). *TUFTED DUCK*: male, mid Dec to ?, Hudson R vicinity of George Washington Bridge and East R near Randall's Is. (mob)—third consecutive year it has appeared at this spot. Canvasback: max 4509, Dec 23 BkCC—a very high count. Harlequin Duck: two, Dec 30, MkCC; max 17, Feb 27, Pt Lookout (S.Roman)—by far the highest Regional count. Many other observers recorded 12-16 Harlequins here nearly every day during Jan-Feb. White-winged Scoter: max 30,000 plus, Jan 20 Montauk Pt (N.Boyajian,G.Tudor *et al*)—one hour's observation of birds flying from the ocean into Block Is. Sound.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: Feb 17, Planting Fields, Oyster Bay (O.Heck). Red-tailed Hawk: max 14, Dec 30, NNCC. Bald Eagle: imm, Dec 13-Jan 20, Belmont L State Pk (mob); imm, late Dec-Jan 21 JBWR (H.Johnson *et al*); imm, Jan 22-24 Beaver Dam Pond, Mill Neck (mob). Osprey: Jan 13, along Loop Causeway, Jones (LM)—seen sitting and flying, third midwinter report; arr Mar 16, Orient (GR)—very early. Peregrine Falcon: one each BkCC and SNCC. Pigeon Hawk. only report this winter—Jan 13 near Mill Neck (BC). Ruffed Grouse: six,

Dec 26 CCCC. Turkey: 41, Dec 30 Gardiner's Is. (mob). Common Gallinule: Dec 30, Cold Spring Harbor (J.Taylor).

Am. Oystercatcher: arr Mar 29 (pair), Oak Beach (WP); three, Mar 31, Moriches Inlet (GR)—John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* records the extreme arrival date as May 9. Last year a pair was seen at Jones on Mar 26; there are also several April records in recent years. In light of these records, it would be proper to revise this species' normal arrival period to late March. Piping Plover: two very late records—Dec 20, Shinnecock (GR); Dec 30, Acabonack Harbor (PB,B.Scully). Ruddy Turnstone: a flock of 25 birds wintered at Great Kills Pk, Staten Is. (E.Daly *et al*)—the highest winter count that we know of locally. Common Snipe: nine, Feb 28, Mecox (BC,AD). Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Mar 25 (seven), Oak Beach (WP). Purple Sandpiper: max 120, Feb 24 Jones Inlet (GR). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Mar 25 (six), Oak Beach (WP)—early. Least Sandpiper: Dec 26, CCCC.

Black-headed Gull: Dec 23, Gravesend Bay (E.Swyer,M.Noyes); Dec 30, SNCC. Razorbill: Dec 30, SNCC—only report. Dovekie: Dec 4, Seaford (R.Wolk); four, Dec 21, CaCC—only reports. Mourning Dove: max 822, Dec 26 SNCC—highest Regional count. Great Horned Owl: Dec 17, Cedar Beach (A.Wollin)—very rare on the coastal strip, only recorded about once every five years. Long-eared Owl: max 36, Jan 18, Pelham Bay Pk (J.Doran,L.Shore)—an amazing number—nine were seen there three weeks later on Feb 7 (BC,AD). Saw-whet Owl: "a wintering bird was last seen on Mar 30" Glen Head (A.Bell).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: max 19, Dec 30 NNCC; 18, Dec 26 CCCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Dec 30, NNCC; Feb 7, Pelham Bay Pk (BC,AD)—this individual apparently present through the winter. Red-headed Woodpecker: imm Dec 21 Oak Beach (J.Stoneck,TD,WP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 11, Dec 30 NNCC—an amazing number; Dec 30 MkCC; Dec 23 Queens CC. Eastern Phoebe: two, Dec 23 Queens CC; Dec 24 Northport (S.Ince); Dec 30 MkCC. Tree Swallow: none reported all winter. Blue Jay: max 801, Dec 30 NNCC. Black-billed Magpie: Dec 23, Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn (*vide* F.Schaeffer)—this bird has been present here since 1961. Common Crow: max 1678, Dec 30 NNCC. Fish Crow: max 35, Dec 30 NNCC. House Wren: Dec 30, Gardiner's Is. (BT,M.Cashman)—seen at close range; these observers also saw Winter and Carolina Wrens the same day. Winter Wren: max four, Dec 30 Gardiner's Is. (MkCC). Carolina Wren: max 15, Dec 30 Gardiner's Is. (MkCC); six Dec 30 NNCC. Long-billed Marsh Wren: six wintered in the *Phragmites* at Oak Beach marsh (WP,FE). Mockingbird: max 63, Dec 30 NNCC—the highest number yet recorded on a local CC; 33, Dec 21 Fire Is. (PB,J.Horowitz)—from the lighthouse to Sunken Forest, a distance of about seven miles. Catbird: max 25, Dec 30 NNCC—a high number. Hermit Thrush: max 37, Dec 30 NNCC—by far the highest Regional winter count; Feb 9 Setauket (M.Hemmerick). Starling: max 230,000, Dec 23, three upper Manhattan roosts (FE).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: Dec 10, Islip State Hospital (BT)—"with a flock of chickadees;" there are only three other Dec–Mar records in our Region, Orange-crowned Warbler: Dec 21 Oak Beach (TD,J.Stoneck); Dec 30 Montauk (DP); Jan 1 Center Moriches (GR)—"at Noe feeder, present several days then and stayed a week or two longer." Myrtle Warbler: max 1256, Dec 30 SNCC. Pine Warbler: arr Mar 27 Upton (GR). Prairie Warbler: male, Dec 2 Montauk (R.Paxton, T. Chase)—well-described, chestnut back markings seen clearly; Dec 26 E. Moriches (P.Stoutenburgh *et al*)—the latest Regional records. Ovenbird: Jan 26–Feb 19 Lloyd Harbor (Mrs.C.Cooke,BC,TD)—first midwinter occurrence in Region. Yellowthroat: Dec 23 BxCC; Dec 26 CCCC; two, Dec 30 Montauk (GR). Yellow-breasted Chat: five reports—Dec 2 Montauk (R.Paxton,T.Chase); Dec 7–30 Glen Cove (Mrs.A.White,Mrs.E.Banach); Dec 23 BxCC; Dec 26 CCCC; Dec 30 Syosset (B.Goleeek).

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