

Snow Bunting: reported less frequently than usual, but several flocks of good size; one flock at Pine Plains Jan 10-25 contained about 150 birds; another flock at Stissing in Mar contained more than 100, MCC reports 75 at Hamptonburgh Jan 3 (EDT).

Spring reports due no later than June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Last fall's spectacular "winter finch" invasion was all but over by early December except for fair numbers of migrating Red Crossbills. Flocks were noted through the end of January along the outer beaches, and many persisted beyond January in coastal pine habitat. Smaller numbers were noted inland, some even visited backyard feeders.

The Christmas Counts and the month of December are best remembered for the amazing total of 16 species of shorebirds, the most notable of which were: White-rumped, Baird's, and Western Sandpipers. Captree Christmas Count (abbreviated CaCC), utilizing 48 observers in 15 parties, "racked up" 135 species on December 20, a new State high, and the second straight year this count established a state record. Other counts mentioned in this report are: Brooklyn (BkCC—87 species, Dec 28), Bronx (BxCC), Central Suffolk Co. (CSCC—114 species, Dec 27), Montauk (MkCC—108 species, Dec 27), Northern Nassau Co. (NNCC—100 species, Dec 28), Southern Nassau Co. (SNCC—125 species, Dec 28), and Queens Co. (QCC—88 species, Dec 20).

An offshore warmfront the night of March 24-25 brought a number of surprises—along with newly arrived egrets at Oak Beach was an adult White Ibis, a Louisiana Waterthrush was found at Southaven, an exhausted Prothonotary Warbler was picked up at Manorville, and a male Summer Tanager was seen searching the ground for food at North Sea.

Other rarities reported this season were: Western Grebe, Tufted Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Murre (2), Varied Thrush, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Contributors frequently cited: AB—Al Bell; NB—Ned Boyagian; PB—Paul Buckley; RB—Robert Budliger; JB—John Bull; RC—Robert Claremont; BC—Barbara Conolly; ED—Ed Daly; TD—Thomas Davis; SD—Steve Dempsey; OD—Orville Dunning; FF—Frances File; DF—Darrel Ford; FH—Fred Heath; HK—Henry Kemp; CM—Chris McKeever; RP—Richard Plunkett; DP—Dennis Puleston; GR—Gilbert Raynor; BW—Bill Ward; CW—Cornelius Ward; CW—Charles Wellander; HW—Harold Wellander; LW—Leroy Wilcox.

LOONS—DUCKS: WESTERN GREBE: Jan 3 Shinnecock Inlet (CM)—a sight report of an accidental species by a single experienced observer. This species has occurred on four previous occasions on our Region. Greater Shearwater: found dead on beach, Dec 1 Point O' Woods, Fire Is. (S. Hopkins)—specimen to the American Museum, latest Regional record by three weeks. Common Egret: arr Mar 27 (5) at Tobay (SD). Snowy Egret: Dec 28 (SNCC) 3 at separate localities; arr Mar 27 (16) at Tobay (SD). White Ibis: adult, Mar 27-29 Oak Beach (W. Graves, R. Cohen)—its arrival coincided with that of the locally breeding egrets, the only other Long Island reports are three pre-1850 records and one seen last fall, also an adult. Whistling Swan: 4 birds were reported this season, mirroring last fall's "incursion"—one at Big Reed Pond, Montauk (mob); a pair on the lower Carmans River which remained to Mar 22 (DP) and one at E. Moriches on Jan 3 (GR). European Teal: Jan 1

Lawrence (E. Levine); Mar 22 JBWR (ED). *TUFTED DUCK*: male Feb 19–21 Oakdale (RB, BW, G. Bergen, B. Giffin, B. Reeves, H. Greenwalt)—“associated with a mixed flock of Lesser Scaup, Canvasbacks and Ring-necked Ducks, it acted warily, staying in the middle of a large pond; a later check of all the local aviaries showed no missing Tufteds.” (RB). Greater Scaup: max 23800 Dec 20 QCC—over 90% reported from Jamaica Bay east of Crossbay Blvd. Oldsquaw, Surf and Black Scoter: single individuals of each species were recorded on the Hudson R. on Dec 21, miles from the ocean (Manhattan CC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: two migrant reports—Mar 15 Lloyd Neck (mob); Mar 17 Montauk (BC). Red-tailed Hawk: max 21 Dec 28 (NNCC). Pigeon Hawk: five reports this winter—Dec 20 Alley Pond Pk (QCC); Dec 28 (BkCC); Dec 28 Massapequa (R. Sloss); Jan 24 Jones (DP,GR)—photographed; Feb 6 Sea Cliff (B. Spencer). Sora: Dec 28 Lawrence (JB); Dec 14-Jan 3 Carmans R. (DP). Semipalmated Plover: 2 Dec 20 Oak Beach (NB,RP), rare at this season. Black-bellied Plover: max 24 on Dec 20 (CaCC). Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 Dec 20 Oak Beach (TD, R. Dickerman, et al)—studied at close range, rare at this season. Knot: max 8 on Dec 28 Jones (CW)—this species is quite regular at Jones Inlet in the winter. Pectoral Sandpiper: Nov 10 Tobay (W. Friton)—very late, excellent color slide submitted to editor. White-rumped Sandpiper: Dec 6 JBWR (GR); Dec 21 (BxCC—I. Cantor et al)—first winter record for our Region. Baird’s Sandpiper: Dec 7–13 JBWR (J. Machado, HK et al)—wing length, soft parts, other field marks noted, the latest Regional record by nearly a month. Semipalmated Sandpiper: four winter reports totalling nine individuals—Dec 20 Oak Beach (NB,RP); 2 Dec 28 Jones (CW); 4 Dec 28 Lawrence (R. Arbib) and 2 Jan 1 JBWR (CW,HW). Western Sandpiper: one reported from JBWR on Dec 28 (BkCC) remained to Jan 1 (CW, HW)—seen at close range in direct comparison to the above mentioned Semipalmateds, the third Regional winter record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: adult Feb 21 Fresh Kills, Staten Is. (R. Kane, D. Sonneborn). Common Term: Dec 7 Moriches Inlet (GR)—latest Regional record; 12 Mar 1 Plum Beach (E. Kaplan, *vide* PB)—a strange date for such a number, possibly a wintering flock, but more likely the result of a southerly storm. *Common Murre*: dead bird in excellent condition found washed ashore Jan 3 Hither Hills State Pk. (CW,HW)—specimen to American Museum; oiled bird Feb 8 Montauk Pt. (PB, TD et al)—captured, cleaned, photographed and released the following day, see Field Note in this issue. Mourning Dove: “two eggs found on ground” Mar 14 Jones (SD)—the earliest egg date for the Region; max 1174 Dec 28 (SNCC). Barn Owl: max 6 Dec 28 (SNCC). Great Horned Owl: nesting pairs were found at Pelham Bay Pk (mob), Oakdale (*vide* RB) and Southaven (DP); a stray migrant was found at JBWR on Feb 23 (H. Johnson).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: at least 13 individuals were reported this season from Long Is., mainly at feeders. The center of “abundance” appeared to be northern Nassau Co. in oak woods and suburban areas. Eastern Phoebe: two reports—Dec 27 Mastic (P. Puleston et al); Dec 28 Lloyd Neck (J. Ricks). Black-billed Magpie: the individual mentioned in the fall report remained in the Tobay area to mid January (mob)—photographed by H. Knoch. Boreal Chickadee: only one report following last fall’s flight—Feb 4–16 Port Washington (M. Brigg et al)—at feeder. Tufted Titmouse: Dec 27 Brookhaven (CSCC); Dec 27 Gardiner’s Is. (MkCC)—first ever for both counts. This species is known to nest on Long Is. east to western Suffolk Co. Mockingbird: max 98 Dec 28 (NNCC)—by far the highest number ever recorded on a local Christmas Count. *VARIED THRUSH*: male, “late Oct-Feb 9 Quogue (LW, GR, TD, PB et al)—at feeder.

The following reports of three *Hylocichla* thrushes, all seen solely on the day of a Christmas Count are possible correctly identified. None was photographed, col-

lected, or ever seen again. In banding fall migrants "I have infrequently handled Hermit Thrushes with very little rusty coloring to the rectrices, making them quite similar in appearance to Swainson's or Gray-cheeked Thrushes." (TD). Swainson's Thrush: Dec 21 Bronx Pk. (C. Young et al)—no details received. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Dec 21 Bronx Pk. (C. Young)—no details received. Veery: Dec 20 Oak Island (J. Trimble)—"seen briefly at close range, Hermit Thrushes noted nearby." Northern Shrike: Feb 25 Oyster Bay (*fide* BC)—"shot and killed by someone because it was killing birds at a feeder!"

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Prothonotary Warbler: Mar 27 Manorville (GR)—"picked up exhausted, died during night, specimen saved for American Museum;" Apr 2 Oakdale (C. Kessler)—earliest previous date was April 19. Ovenbird: three reports—Dec 20 Fire Is. (R. Kane, CaCC); Dec 21 Inwood Pk. (*fide* R. Ryan, Manhattan CC); Dec 27 (MkCC, *fide* PB). Louisiana Waterthrush: Mar 25–26 Southaven (DP, C. Tveekrem)—"seen at close range... unstreaked throat clearly noted" equals earliest date. Yellowthroat: 2 Dec 20 CaCC; Dec 27 (MkCC), singing male Mar 21 Bethpage (R. Kuhne)—a wintering bird or an unusually early migrant.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole: received five reports, all at feeders; latest was at Greenvale on Feb 8 (Mrs. E. Wetmore). BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: arr Feb 24 Far Rockaway (Mrs. R. Berman, *fide* JB)—third year at this locality. Summer Tanager: adult male Mar 25 North Sea (F. Schmid)—earliest Regional record. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: Dec. 1–10 Northport (H. Knowles, B. Golecke, Mrs. P. Nixon, A. McKay)—at feeder, probably an immature male. Dickcissel: four reports—Jan 11 Jones (AB,OD); Jan 27 through period Brookhaven (DP)—at feeder; Dec 27 Quogue (C. Helms); mid-Feb Westbury (M. Schmid). Evening Grosbeak: A feeder survey in northern Nassau Co. listed 75 individuals in Dec, 11 in Jan, none in Feb. Common Redpoll: max 30 Feb 8 Montauk (GR). Red Crossbill: counts of migrants at Fire Is (DF)—Dec 7–100, Dec 13–250, Jan 3–350, Jan 24–250; heaviest concentrations were found at Jones—908 Dec 28 (SNCC); 1000 Jan 11 Jones (AB,OD); fairly numerous along outer beaches to Montauk—125 Dec 27 (MkCC); 192 Jan 18 Westhampton to Shinnecock (GR); small numbers—up to six—present at many feeding stations—Islip (J. Gaden), Brookville (BC), Deer Park (FF) et al. White-winged Crossbill: small numbers recorded throughout season; max 21 Dec 28 (SNCC). Chipping Sparrow: two reports—Dec 30–31 Deer Pk (FF,BW)—at feeder; an individual wintered at a Far Rockaway feeder (JB). White-crowned Sparrow: max 11 Dec 21 (BxCC).

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