

Waxwing: only a few reported. Northern Shrike: 1, Mt. Kisco, Dec 19-24. 2, Ulster: 1, Clove Valley Jan 1 and another Accord Jan 20. 1, Fishkill, Dec 26; 1, Wappingers Falls, Mar 8. Loggerhead Shrike: 1, Croton Pt Mar 23, 25. 1, Bashakill, Mar 28. 2 Jan reports in Dutch and 3 there in Feb. Starling: more than 1,000 roosting at a location in Poughkeepsie in Dec.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: no longer the winter resident in Rock that they were a few years ago, largely due to succession in habitat. 8 birds in Dutch dur Feb. Meadowlark: about 175 at Salt Point, Dutch dur Jan. Red-winged Blackbird: more wintering than usual. Migrants in excellent numbers by first week in Mar. 1, a partial albino, returned for fifth year to feeder of Mrs. Homer Williams in Poughkeepsie. *BALTIMORE ORIOLE*: more reports than usual. 1, Hawthorne Dec 26. 4 at various locations in Dutch in Jan, and 1 thru Feb. Rusty Blackbird: good winter reports. Migrants well represented thru Mar. Common Grackle: arr most areas last week of Feb numbers excellent thru Mar. Cowbird: large numbers in several locales, but low in others. Cardinal: normal to better. Dickcissel: 1, Dec 8, in Pleasant Valley (MVW). Northern Finches: all species well represented. Too many reports to list. All species in good numbers including Purple Finch. Common Redpolls reported by the hundreds in most areas in Mar. Siskins in excellent numbers thru end of seasons. One interesting report of House Finch diminishing in numbers. Believed driven from feeders by aggressive Siskins. One report of House Finch nesting in Dutch by Mar 24. Both species of Crossbill well represented, but numbers lower than expected. Rufous-sided Towhee: more wintering than usual in all areas. Savannah Sparrow: 9, Eastview, West, Feb 5. More than 75 near New Paltz on Feb 27 an unusual concentration for that time of year. 4 to 6 reported thru season at feeders in Dutch. Vesper Sparrow: 1, Eastview, West. Feb 21. 1, Dutch, Dec 20; and 3 reports there dur Jan. *OREGON JUNCO*: 1, Mar 15, near Bonticou, Ulst. (June Polatsekeneer), fide R. Pyle. Tree Sparrow: numbers lower than usual but still good. Chipping Sparrow: arr Rock Mar 23. White-crowned Sparrow: spent entire season at feeder of (B,TS) in Amenia, Dutch. White-thr. Sparrow: small flocks in most areas thru entire season. Fox Sparrow: a few winter reports but excellent numbers from first week of Mar thru end. *LINCOLN SPARROW*: first seen Jan 10 at Amenia. Remained thru Feb 23 (B,TS). Swamp Sparrow: all reports Dutch. 4 in Dec and 1 in Jan. Lapland Longspur: 6, MCC, Goshen 1, (no date) Kingston, first record for Ulst. As many as 3 reported twice near Red Hood in early Dec. 2 there on WCC. Snow Bunting: 2, Croton Pt. Dec 12; 15, Wurtsboro, Oct 18; 2, Ridgebury, Oran Dec 9; Dutch, Dec 7; about 50 in Dutch Dec 5. Also reported from Ulst.

Spring reports due June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Detailed information was made available from only six of the twelve Christmas Counts unducted locally this year. The relatively warm weather—with no freeze-overs preceding the counts—continued into January. Mainly this factor, perhaps, but also a light "winter finch" flight, and ever-increasing observer interest, pushed several counts species totals to new highs. Foremost (as usual) was Captree (abbreviated CaCC) on Dec. 19, with a new State high of 144 species. Except for several inexplicable "misses" (Glaucous Gull, Palm Warbler), this year's total might have reached the mystical 150 mark; in fact, at least eight additional species were

found in the count circle during January. Following Captree were Montauk (MkCC), Dec. 18, 130 spp. (new high); Southern Nassau County (SNCC), Jan. 2, 129 spp. (new high); Northern Nassau County (NNCC), Dec. 26, 103 spp.; Smithtown (SmCC), Dec. 26, 102 spp. (new high); and Brooklyn (BkCC), Dec. 26, 94 spp. All told, these six counts totaled an amazing 173 species.

Most of the specific details concerning the above counts appear within the main body of this report, but several species deserve special comment. Mockingbird: populations "exploded" this year with new highs reported for all six counts, noteworthy totals being NNCC — 189, and CaCC — 117. Rufous-sided Towhee: wintering increases of this species have largely gone overlooked in recent years, but it was hardly possible to ignore this year's high wintering population, particularly outstanding totals being CaCC — 102, and MkCC — 8. Carolina Wren: numbers of this species fluctuate according to the severity of the winter, but over the last several years they have been increasing. Distribution however, is rather erratic. This year CaCC listed 4, NNCC 5, and SmCC 16, while the Gardiner's Island party of MkCC found the astounding total of 41!

Overall, the season could be termed mild, with only about 12 inches of snowfall, and no prolonged cold spells. Affected in particular, were wading birds. From the count period through January, observers recorded 10 of New York State's 12 breeding herons. Fourteen species of shorebirds were reported in the same period, notably Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, and Least and Western Sandpipers. Affected adversely (from the observer's point of view) were "white-winged" gulls. In contrast to last winter's high totals, both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were lacking this year, and reported almost entirely from garbage dumps. One of your editors (TD) surveyed six large metropolitan area dumps during January and February, estimating a total population of approximately 92 — 115,000 Herring Gulls. "White-wing" totals were a meager 6 Glaucous (2 adult and 4 second year birds), and 8 Iceland (one adult, 3 second year, and 4 first year birds).

If the reader notices a subtle increase in the "mob" listings for particularly uncommon species, it is because the NY Rare Bird Alert spreads the word so rapidly. For those of you who wish to hear the latest avian news, and what's been seen where, dial 516-485-2170 and listen to a six minute recording.

Rarities included in this report are Tufted Ducks, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gyrfalcon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black Guillemot, and Black-headed Grosbeak. High counts were recorded for Gannet and White-winged Crossbill. Aside from herons and shorebirds, unseasonal reports include Common Tern and Nashville Warbler.

Observers frequently cited: AB—Al Bell; RC—Robert Claremont; BC—Barbara Conolly; TD—Thomas Davis; AD—Aline Dove; OD—Orville Dunning; DF—Davis Finch; MH—Myrna Hemmerick; TL—Tom Love; DP—Dennis Puleston; GR—Gilbert Raynor; BS—Barbara Spencer; LW—Leroy Wilcox; AW—Al Wollin.

Other abbreviations: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Jones—Jones Beach State Park.

LOONS—DUCKS: Gannet: 820, Jan 2, (SNCC) — mainly by Ryan boat party, highest Regional count. Green Heron: Dec 19, (CaCC); Dec 19, Queens CC; Jan 18, Georgica Pond (BC,BS) — 45h Jan occurrence. Little Blue Heron: 3 imm, Jan 10, Lawrence Marsh (TD) — 2nd Jan occurrence. Common Egret: Dec 26, Oyster Bay (mob). Snowy Egret: 8, Jan 2, (SNCC); two remained at JBWR to Jan 12 (TD); Feb 14, Freeport (TD) — first Feb occurrence. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 6 (one adult) through Jan at Setauket (MH) — occasionally winters. Least Bittern: Jan 17-24, Brookhaven (DE) — "in cattail swamp," casual at this season. Glossy Ibis: Jan 2, Lawrence Marsh (J. Bull) — first Jan record; arr Mar 19 at Mecox (C. McKeever) — over the last 7 years, ibis have consistently arrived during mid/late March.

Whistling Swan: 10 wintered at Mecox Bay (mob); 2 wintered at Montauk (mob). Pink-footed Goose: a bird present in Babylon through the winter was almost certainly an escape. Blue Goose: one wintered at Shinnecock Inlet with Brant (mob). European Teal: drake, Dec 18, Gardiner's Island (MkCC); drake, Jan 8 through period at Belmont Lake State Park (mob). European Widgeon: 4-5 drakes reported from scattered Long Island locales. TUFTED DUCK: pair, Jan 8 through period,

Belmont Lake State Park (mob); drake, Dec 27-Jan 4, Southaven (DP, et al) — still another wintered at Bay Head, N.J. The validity of these reports is in question. Some observers would rationalize the occurrence of "wild" birds due to an increase in European populations. Tufted Ducks, however, are "the most commonly *bred* European *Anatid* in U.S. collections." (Richard Ryan). *BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE*: female, Feb 12, Montauk Point (DF,TD) — seen with Commons, both sitting and flying, all yellow bill and smaller wing patch noted; casual in the area, last reported in 1966.

HAWKS—OWLS: Harris' Hawk: an adult present in the Rye area through the winter (mob) was probably an escape, although its plumage showed no signs of captivity, and it was not banded *GYRFALCON*: "light gray-phase bird," Jan 15, Hook Pond (DP, GR, et al). Pigeon Hawk: 5 Jan-Feb reports were received (one an adult), all from coastal areas. Semipalmated Plover: Jan 22, Tobay Pond (TD, B. Broadbrooks); Feb 6, Jones (AW) — 3rd and 4th midwinter reports. Piping Plover: 2, Jan 17, Jones (TD) — very rare at this season. Black-bellied Plover: max 63, Jan 2, SNCC — very high winter count. Least Sandpiper: 2, Dec 18, Gardiner's Island (MkCC) — only the 3rd Dec report. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Dec 19, (CaCC); 5, Jan 2 (SNCC) — rare at this season but more frequently reported in recent years, probably due to intensive Christmas Count coverage. Western Sandpiper: Jan 2, Jones (M. and G. Kelinbaum) — 2nd Jan record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: adult, Jan 30, Pelham Bay Park garbage dump (TD) — "seen in flightsize, mantle color, primary pattern seen in direct comparison to Herring Gulls, but legs not seen." Black-headed Gull: adult wintered, Jones Inlet — Long Beach sewer outlet (mob); sub-adult, Jan 6-Feb 12, Montauk Harbor (mob). Little Gull: an adult and an imm were noted frequently at both Fire Island and Jones inlets from late Jan through period (mob). Forster's Tern: Dec 11, Shinnecock Inlet (AB,AD,OD) — extremely late. Common Tern: Jan 1, Jones (AW) — "seen close, call heard," first Jan record.

Thick-billed Murre: far better than average, 7 separate sightings reported — 4 from Montauk Point from Dec 11 to Feb 5 (3); also seen on Jan 15 at Oak Beach (S. Stepinoff, TD,TL), Westhampton Beach (LW), and Center Moriches (LW). **BLACK GUILLEMOT**: 3, Dec 11, Montauk Point (mob); Jan 15, Montauk Point (K. O'Hare) — very rare here. Snowy Owl: 4, Nov 28, Captree State Park, and western Fire Island (P. Buckley); 4-5, Dec 5, west end of Jones (C. Ward, et al); numbers declined after mid-Dec, although CaCC and MkCC each listed 4 individuals.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: individuals wintered at Oakdale, E. Islip, and Matinecock. Shrikes: both a Loggerhead and an adult Northern occupied the same territory through the winter at Heckscher State Park (mob). The only other Northern reports were one each on the Manhattan and SmCC's.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Nashville Warbler: Jan 2, Loop Causeway near Point Lookout (H. Pembleton, S. Dempsey) — 3rd Jan record. Pine Warbler: Dec 18, (MkCC). Palm Warbler: rare this year, only midwinter report was one at Captree State Park, Jan 26 (mob). Yellowthroat: 2, Dec 18, (MkCC); Dec 19 (CaCC). Yellow-breasted Chat: Jan 6, Montauk (BC,BS); Jan 16, Glen Cove (F. McDonough).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Black-headed Grosbeak: Dec 18-27, Hastings (Campbells, J. Moyle, etal). Common Redpoll: a large late winter flight barely made the coast — max 200, Feb 24, E. Marion (DP). White-winged Crossbill: max 250 *plus*, Feb 11, Fire Island State Park (DF,TD) — highest Regional count. Grasshopper Sparrow: Jan 2, Mitchell Field (M. Wheta, et al) — very rare at this season.

Note: Please submit Spring reports by June 8.

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