

the bird; this is the second regional occurrence. Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 May 14 CP (PL et al)-high. Swamp Sparrow: 25 Ap 29 CP (HM)-high.

ADDENDA: to the winter 1973-74 report should be added one Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Merlin bringing the individual numbers to 7,5,5 respectively, the last being exceptional. Tree Sparrow: 380 Feb 3 JBWR (HM).

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WINTER REPORT RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR MAY ISSUE

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The rapid pace during most of November, of successive cold-fronts moving through our area had slowed down by December, leaving the region prone to rash fluctuations in the weather. In the interim between cold-fronts, warm southern air masses moved into the area producing unseasonably mild temperatures. The almost weekly clash of cold and warm air resulted in precipitation — snow and freezing rain often preceding a cold spell. Cold spells were characterized by harsh northwesterly winds and temperatures in the teens and below, and warm spells consisted of light winds with temperatures above 45°, sometimes above 60°. The results of these fluctuations were that for a period of about a week, ponds and lakes would be frozen, and the ground would be covered with snow or ice, thus, shutting off the food supply for many wintering birds; then, for a period of about a week, ponds and lakes would be frozen, and the ground would be covered with snow or ice, thus, shutting off the food supply for many wintering birds; then, for a similar length of time these supplies would reopen.

How the bizarre weather affected wintering avian populations is difficult to analyze. Waterfowl, especially dabblers, seemed to be higher in numbers, probably due to their ability to withstand the cold spells by feeding in open bays and estuaries. A severe ice-storm on Dec 16-17, which crippled the western half of the region, must have had an adverse effect on wintering passerines, and to a slower but more persevering extent, so must have the other cold periods. The general trend among this winter's populations, especially of the species at the northern limit of their winter range, was above normal numbers in early December which thinned towards the norm by mid February.

An unprecedented "flight" of Lesser Black-backed Gulls occurred from mid-December to mid-January. During this time no less than six individuals were present in the region: three in northern Bronx and southern Westchester; at least two in the vicinity of Montauk; and one bird at Jamacia Bay Refuge. Coincident, were a large number of reports of white-winged gulls, and, like the Lesser Black-backed Gull, the frequency of reports declined in the latter half of January. It is possible that the incursion of rarer indicates the occurrence of a large-scale southward movement of gulls; however, this conjecture is at best difficult to prove, for the numbers of the commoner gulls go unnoticed by most observers.

Most of the Red Crossbills that participated in November's flight moved through the area. Only a few small scattered wintering flocks were reported, except along the outer beaches where, through January, a continuation of the flight occurred when favorable conditions prevailed. Pine Siskin — another abundant transient last

fall – wintered in large numbers, and was also noted continuing its southward movement on favorable days. White-winged Crossbill, often unrecorded, wintered in fair to large numbers along the south shore of Long Island, whereas Evening Grosbeak was scarce, and Pine Grosbeak unreported. The culmination of the finch flight happened in late January, when, unexpectedly, Common Redpolls appeared in droves, until well over 2000 were present at one southern Long Island locale.

Birds more common than usual were: Goshawk; Black-bellied Plover; Purple Sandpiper; Red-headed Woodpecker; and Lapland Longspur. Less common: Horned Grebe; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Rough-legged Hawk; alcids; Short-eared Owl; Red-breasted Nuthatch; and Eastern Bluebird.

Late departures include: Cattle Egret; Long-billed Dowitcher; Black Skimmer; Western Kingbird; Eastern Phoebe Water Pipit Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Solitary Vireo; Nashville Warbler; Prairie Warbler; Scarlet Tanager; and Lark Sparrow. Early arrivals: American Oystercatcher; Pectoral Sandpiper; Eastern Phoebe; Tree Swallow; and Rough-winged Swallow.

A number of rarities showed up in early December, including six of the following birds: Eared Grebe; Barnacle Goose; Tufted Duck; Golden Plover; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Black Guillemot; White-winged Dove; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black-headed Grosbeak, Henslow's Sparrow. Also included are two fall records of: Wood Ibis and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: CP—Central Park; GCSI—Great Kills, Staten Island; JSBP—Jones Beach State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; MP—Montauk Point; OB—Oak Beach; PBP—Pelham Bay Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; SAG—Sagaponack Lake area, Bridge-hampton; Shinn—Shinnecock Bay and Inlet; TPS—Tobay Pond Sanctuary.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: three coastal occurrences including Mar 9 through period OB (MOB); and one Feb 23 Rye (TWB)—always rare away from the outer coast. Horned Grebe: numbers very low all winter. *EARED GREBE*: Dec 1-16 JBWR (ED,SC). Pied-billed Grebe: 21 Feb 12 Lawrence (JA)—very high winter concentration. Great Cormorant: two non-coastal locales had very high counts, the latter being outstanding; 12 Mar 23 Rye (TWB); 35 Jan 15 PBP (JDC). Double-crested Cormorant; Dec 2 JBWR (MKB); 1 imm Jan 1 through period, joined by another bird Feb 18, Shinn (GSR) — very rarely reliably reported in winter. Snowy Egret: 9 Dec 30 Southern Nassau Christmas Count; arr Mar 16 TPS, (RK,PMP). Cattle Egret: Dec 1 MP (JA). Little Blue Heron: Mar 31 OB (RK) — very early. Glossy Ibis: Dec 28 East Marion; Dec 29 Brookhaven (DP); arr 15 Mar 24 JBWR (SC,ED).

Whistling Swan: wintered at three eastern L. I. localities; at Hook Pond: 11 Dec 1-2 Dec 22, 2 Mar 2 and one remained through period (JA); at Fort Pond, Montauk: 2 Dec 22 – Jan 12 (MOB; at SAG: 5 Jan 5 (JA) numbers varying between one and five all winter, last report Mar 16 (GSR); 8 Mar 20 Mecox (THD,HM,PMP). Brant: 15,000 Jan 6 TPS (TWB,HM,PMJ) — indicative of large numbers along the coast. Snow Goose: small wintering flocks at JBWR, Mecox, and SAG; Blue phase: 32 Mar 16-24 Wainscott (JA) — extraordinary high

count. *BARNACLE GOOSE*: Mar 17-21 Wainscott (JA)—This is the first report of this old-world species, in over 45 years, that is likely not to be an escape. The bird was observed in a migrant flock of 2000, rather wary, Canada Geese. The facts that the bird was wary and in with a migrant flock, that it stayed for only five days and that there was no evidence of prior captivity (bands, dull plumage, etc.) lead to the surmise that his Barnacle Goose—a species which occurred in our area before the advent of collections—was probably a wild bird. Gadwall: 150 Dec 22 Queens CC-high winter number. Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 Mar 10 Rye (TWB). European Widgeon: Dec 1 JBWR (RH,GR); Dec 1-22 Hook Pond (JA); Dec 26 South Haven (DP); Dec 22-Jan 20 Fort Pond, Montauk (MOB); 2 Mar 22 Wainscott (JR et al). *TUFTED DUCK*: Jan 6-Feb 17 Ward's Island (JAM). Ring-necked Duck 197 Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC-very high for LI. Canvasback: 2488 Dec 22 Queens CC; 1000 Dec 29 west pond JBWR (HM). Harlequin Duck: Dec 1-9 OB (AL,HM,PMP); Jan 1 through period RMSP (AL et al). Common Eider: due to the northern winds the tremendous onshore concentrations of eider which occurred last year failed to materialize again this year. However there were some respectable counts: all at MP: 450 Dec 1; 400 Dec 16; 20 Jan 6; 30 Jan 12; 150 Jan 20 150 Mar 2. King Eider: throughout period at MPJ with max 14 on 20 (THD, DWF et al); 2 Dec 30-late Feb Ferry Pt Park, Bronx (WF)-occasional on Long Island Sound. Common Merganser: 25 Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC-High for LI.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: high numbers again this winter; over ten reports received including seven wintering birds as follows: imm PBP; 2, adult and imm JBWR; Cedar Beach; Manorville; 2 Brookhaven. Sharpshinned Hawk: numbers low; max 3 Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC; only three other reports. Cooper's Hawk: Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC—only report. Red-shouldered Hawk: low, only two reports. Rough-legged Hawk; extremely scarce this winter; only one report from Montauk, where they are usually found, plus two other reports. Peregrine Falcon: Dec 1 MP (JA); Dec 3 TPS (R Giffen); Mar 31 Bridgehampton (JA). Merlin: four reports, including a bird throughout period at Valhalla Cem, S I (MOB), show that this bird would no longer be considered casual in Region 10, rather a rare winter resident.

Ruffed Grouse: GSR reports low numbers on central LI. Clapper Rail: 6 Feb 18 Shinn (GSR)—high number for mid winter. American Oystercatcher: arr Mar 10 Shinn (D&M Powers) and Captree (B Conolly)-earliest arrival date. Semipalmated Plover: up to 3 Jan 12 wintered at JBSP (AW). *GOLDEN PLOVER*: Feb 3 JBSP (S Schiff, AW)-all field marks noted at close range; first mid-winter record. Black-bellied Plover: abnormally high numbers in early winter: 150 Dec 1 JBSP (E. Levine); 50 Dec 27 Smithtown CC; 50 Jan 7 JBSP (TWB,HM). Ruddy Turnstone: 40 wintered GKSI (MOB)-unprecedented for winter. Red Knot: max 7 Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC; Purple Sandpiper: 125 Dec 8 Breezy Point (JA); 200+ Jan 5 GKSI (JAM, P Tozzi)-both numbers very high. Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Mar 2 Halsey Pond (JA)-earliest record by 16 days. Dunlin: 5000 Mar 2 RMSP (DWF,AL)-over two times higher than previous regional maximum Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Dec 30 TPS (TL et al)-heard calling, these birds represent the latest regional occurrence. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jan 22 JBSP (H Raffaele).

Iceland Gull: max 4 late Dec (E Mills). *LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*: at Montauk: 1 Dec 16 MP-2 Dec 22 MP (DP,) — Dec 30 Hither Hills. (R Boardman); in northern Bronx-southern Westchester there were three individuals; an adult with yellow legs seen at Jerome Res, Bronx Dec 23 (PAB) through early Feb; an adult with pale, flesh colored legs seen at Jerome Res Dec 25 (PAB); and a sub adult with vestiges of immature plumage seen at Hillview Res, Westchester Dec 23; at JBWR an adult bird was seen sitting on the ice Jan 19 (JA). Ring-

billed Gull: 2500 Feb 16 CP (HM)-very high concentration. Black-headed Gull: low; only three reports. Laughing Gull: high numbers through most of December, but virtually gone by Jan. Bonaparte's Gull: 8000 Jan 26 Jones Inlet (JA). Little Gull: in Dec reported from Shinn; OB; and Jones Inlet; from Feb to early Mar at least four individuals were in the flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls between Long Beach-Jones Inlet-Fire Island Inlet. Black Skimmer: Dec 29 JBWR (JA); Dec 30 TPS (TL et al); Dec 31 RMSP (AL); this series of observations remains unexplained, as most winter occurrences of Skimmer have occurred after hurricanes. Razorbill: Dec 28 Shelter I (GSR); Jan 12 MP (DP,GSR). *BLACK GUILLEMOT*: Dec 8 MP (PAB); Jan 12 MP (GSR et al)-it is strange that this regionally rare alcid should occur twice in a season when the other alcids are so rare (no reports of Dovekie). *WHITE-WINGED DOVE*: Dec 8 Riis (RH,GR)-this second regional record was seen at close range feeding on the ground; all field marks noted. Photographed that afternoon by ED. Intensive searching the following day failed to relocate the bird. Snowy Owl: only four reports, two of them transient birds. Long-eared Owl: scarce until heavy snows in mid Jan when they occurred throughout the region; max 12 Jan 19 PBP (R Kane). Short-eared Owl: scarce throughout the region; max 5 Jan 20 GCSI (H Fisher).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Red-headed Woodpecker: high winter numbers followed last fall's excellent flight; 2 ad wintered PBP (JDC); 1 wintered E Islip (L Ford); 2 additional winter reports. Western Kingbird: Dec 1 Montauk (JA). Eastern Phoebe: dep Dec 26 Calverton (GSR); arr Mar 4 Bayride Brooklyn (JDC)-earliest arrival date. *ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER*: Dec 1-5 Ridge (JG,GSR,DP)-bird was captured, subsequently died, in a highly emaciated condition, and was identified as this species. Tree Swallow: Jan 28 JBWR (JDC)-the 60 degree weather of the preceding week makes it probable that this bird was an early migrant. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 Mar 24 Bridgehampton (TWP,HM)-earliest arrival. Tufted Titmouse: GSR reports this bird is continuing its spread eastward on LI. Red-breasted Nuthatch: much less common than usual this season. Eastern Bluebird: one winter report; 2 Jan 28 Upton (fide GSR)-following mild weather these may have been north bound migrants. Water Pipit: usually late in departing; 4 Dec 15 Captree CC; 7 Dec 22 Queens CC; 2 through first week of Jan at JBWR. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Dec 2 Easthampton (JA). Northern Shrike: 2 Dec 15 Captree CC; Mar 13 JBSP (fide TL). Loggerhead Shrike: Dec 4 Orient State Park (JAR); Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC; Jan 5 Meckox (JA).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: Dec 16 Cunningham Park (A Wagner)-latest departure date. Orange-crowned Warbler: Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC-only report. Nashville Warbler: Dec 26 Central Suffolk CC-fourth winter occurrence. Prairie Warbler: Dec 15 Gilgo Beach (G G Daniels, HM, R Smart)-latest fall date by 13 days. Yellow-breasted Chat: Nov 19-Jan 11 Brooklyn Civic Center (J Porter Reilly)-bird found dead on latter date; the bird was found on a plot of land "100 feet square" in downtown Brooklyn.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: max 9 late Nov-early Dec East Meadow (H Hopping, R Wolk et al)-birds appeared at a feeder. Scarlet Tanager: Dec 3 Bronx (Mrs. Cass Gallagher)-found dead with eyes still visible; latest regional occurrence by 12 days. *BLACK-HEADED GROSBILL*: Dec 8 Scarsdale (John Moyle)-appeared at a feeder. Dickcissel: Dec 22 Queens CC-only report. Common Redpoll: in Dec scattered reports of small flocks from Westchester; arr Dec 10 Larchmont (TL); reaching coast Jan 20 Jones (GSR); then 500 Feb 10 RMSP (TL et al); 2000-3000 Feb 11-27 RMSP (MOB); 1 bird Mar 31 RMSP (RK); despite numerous reports of Hoary Redpoll none of these were ever verified; Darrel Ford banded well over 700 at RMSP, some of these very pale, yet all were

Common Pine Siskin: 530 Jan 6 RMSP, Jones (TWB, HM, PMP); 1000+ (in one flock) Jan 19 RMSP (THD, DWF, TL). Red Crossbill: 655 Jan 6 RMSP, Jones (TWB, HM, PMP); 800 Jan 13 RMSP (AL). White-winged Crossbill: 28 Jan 20 MP (THD, DWF, TL); 25 Feb 10 RMSP (TL et al); 100+ Mar 2 Cedar Beach (HM, ROP); both crossbills remained through the period at RMSP (RK). *HENSLOW'S SPARROW*: Dec 1 Riis Park (RH, GR). Lark Sparrow: Dec 15 West Babylon (G Tudor). Lapland Longspur: good sized flocks only at JBWR; beginning mid-Dec with up to five birds; 60 Jan 6; 75 Jan 19; 175-200 Feb 10 (H Tetrault, R Sitchell).

ADDENDA: late fall reports: *WOOD IBISs* Oct 11-12 Fresh Kills, S I (Gloria Deppe)-seen in flight both days; large size, extended neck, dark head, neck and in wings noted. *SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER*: Oct 28 Massapequa Park (Harry Volz). Ovenbird: Nov 25 Port Washington (J Lamoureux)-latest fall occurrence by one day.

Summer reports due Sep 5
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