

REGION 10 – MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO and BARBARA J. SPENCER

Weather Data for the period:

	AV. HIGH TEMP.	AV. LOW TEMP.	PRECIP.
December	42.2° F (5.7° C)	29.5° F (-1.4° C)	3.63 In. (.04m)
January	34.2° F (1.2° C)	20.5° F (-6.4° C)	5.78 In. (.15m)
February	48.5° F (9.7° C)	31.1° F (-0.5° C)	3.13 In. (.08m)

The winter period for Region 10 can be best characterized as the year of the gull. Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were present at the usual wintering spots at the inlets of Long Island. "White-winged" gulls, Black-headed and Little Gulls could be readily found at Fire Island Inlet, Moriches Inlet, Shinnecock Inlet and Montauk Point. The flower of the flock of this "Larid Assemblage" was the Ivory Gull discovered in February on the North Fork of Long Island. This is the fifth record for northeastern North America this winter.

Record high temperatures in February probably accounted for the presence of a Rough-winged Swallow at Cold Spring Harbor and a Forster's Tern at the Fire Island Inlet. A grey phase Gyrfalcon was found at Tobay Sanctuary, where an immature Goshawk also was noted.

Winter finches were present in erratic numbers, both in speciation and quantity. Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce, Red Crossbills were present throughout the period in good numbers; Common Redpolls briefly invaded the barrier beach area in January and moved inland where they were found with regularity through the season. Pine Siskins were generally hard to find on the south shore but they too were present at scattered interior locations.

The best duck found in the area was a female Barrow's Goldeneye at Montauk; a male and female Harlequin Duck wintered through most of the period at the Shinnecock Inlet and an awesome number of scoters blanketed the surf at Montauk Point although curiously, eiders were scarce. Two White-fronted Geese of doubtful origin were found co-mingling with other feral waterfowl; one at Lake Montauk, the other at Connetquot State Park.

The 1975 Christmas Counts for the area produced average results as to species, numbers and new birds to the count if one discounts the gerrymandered Lower Hudson Count whose results, while impressive, nevertheless came primarily from the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. The highlight of any Christmas count is of course the new birds added to the count. Obviously the longer a count is in existence, the harder this gets. The new birds in the Marine area counts: Bronx-Westchester—Indigo Bunting; Brooklyn—Least Sandpiper; Captree—Ruddy Turnstone; Central Suffolk—Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Turkey, Iceland Gull, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Orient Point—Wood Thrush; Queens—Black-headed Gull, Glossy Ibis, Red Crossbill; Southern Nassau—Lincoln's Sparrow; Staten Island—Great Egret.

Another winter season comes to a close without the discovery of a Mew Gull. This bird is not on the New York State list. Considering that such exotica as Ivory Gull, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull have been found this past fall and winter, it's puzzling that this bird goes undiscovered year after year. The bird has been found in practically all, if not all, of the surrounding states of our region. It is only, of course, a matter of time until *Larus canus* is placed on the state list. Watch those Ring-billed Gulls!

The Federation Waterfowl Count produced a total of 71,455 birds. An eight year summary by compiler Stephen B. Dempsey shows high counts this year for Red-throated Loon, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, European Wigeon, American Wigeon, Redhead, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck and American Coot. The low counts this year for that same eight year period are Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck.

Another European Goldfinch has appeared at a feeder. This time it was a feeder in Seaford in late January. Seaford is directly west of their former breeding locale in Massapequa. Last summer one was found in North Massapequa. We know of no other foreign *Fringillid* appearing at south shore feeders and we question if these goldfinches can be continually dismissed as escaped cage birds. By the time this issue is in your hands, the breeding season will be upon us and the regional editors urge members living on the south shore of Long Island to look for breeding evidence of this bird, particularly in conjunction with breeding House Finches—because one of the regional editors was told that the bird noted in North Massapequa last year was nesting in the proximity of active House Finch nests. (See *American Birds*, Special Attention note October, 1975 Volume 29, Number 5, p. 954).

Observers: BC—Barbara Conolly; THD—Thomas H. Davis; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; DP—Dennis Puleston; GSR—Gilbert S. Raynor; BS—Barbara Spencer.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: 1 Napeague Jan. 10 (DP). Eared Grebe: 1 Gardiner's Island Dec. 20 (T. W. Burke). Great Egret: 2 Dec. 6 Tobay (GSR); 12 Dec. 21 JBWR (THD *et al.*). Green Heron: 1 Hecksher S. P. (J. Black). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: imm. Mastic Dec. 27 (D. MacKenzie). **LEAST BITTERN:** 1 Dec. 27 Calverton (GSR). Rare in winter. Glossy Ibis: 1 to Dec. 6 Lawrence Marsh (R. Kelly); to Dec. 20 JBWR (mob); 1 to Dec. 20 Flushing Park (mob). Whistling Swan: 7 throughout Feb. Southampton-Sagaponack (mob). European Wigeon: 4 Feb. 16-29 Southampton (mob). **FULVOUS TREE DUCK:** 1 Tiana Beach Feb. 7 (M. & L. Scheibel *vide* A. Cooley). **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** 1 female Lake Montauk Jan. 31-Feb. 12 (THD, T. O'Connor, M. Reiss, BS, BC, *et al.*). Tufted Duck: 1 male Ward's Island Dec. 6 to early Feb. (J. A. Machado *et al.*). Harlequin Duck: 1 male Shinnecock Inlet Dec. 30, joined by a female Jan. 24, together to Feb. 28; pair wintered at Orient Point (P. Stoutenburgh); 1 male Easthampton Feb. 8 (Jill Hamilton). Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter: 20-30,000 Jan. 24 to Feb. 29 Montauk Point (mob), over 90% White-winged.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: 1 imm. wintered at Tobay Sanctuary; 1 imm. wintered at Brookhaven around residence of (DP) mainly feeding on Mourning Doves; 1 Manorville Feb. 9 (GSR). Merlin: 1 adult male Southampton Jan. 21 (GSR). **GYRFALCON:** 1 Tobay Dec. 6, gray phase, "flew few feet above ground ahead of Dave Larson and me along trail north of pond, wingspan nearly width of path, broad-based pointed wings, very uniform color" (GSR). **COMMON GALLINULE:** 1 Queens Christmas Count Dec. 20 (R. Dieterich). American Oystercatcher: 3 Dec. 4 Oak Beach Marsh (K. Feustel). Greater Yellowlegs: several wintered in the marshes at Jones Beach; also several along Dune Road in Shinnecock (GSR). **WILLET:** 1 West End, Jones Beach Jan. 17 (S. Stepinoff *et al.*), new late date. **LEAST SANDPIPER:** 1 JBWR Dec. 21 (THD). Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 Tobay to Jan. 4, very few winter records. Common Snipe: 35 Clove Lake Park, S. I. (H. Fischer *et al.*), new high winter total, 19 Water Mill Jan. 15 (BS, BC), 12 Sagaponack Feb. 20 (AJL). Red Phalarope: 1 Sunken Meadow S.P. Dec. 7 (M. Lindauer). Great Skua: 16 Miles south of Fire Island Dec. 6 (A. Lorenzetti). Pomarine Jaeger: 1 adult light phase plus a probable dark phase immature Dec. 13 Jones Beach State Park (THD, T. W. Burke, J. Gee). Glaucous Gull: several at Fire I. Inlet, Moriches Inlet, Shinnecock Inlet (mob), 1 Southold Feb. 8 (mob). Iceland Gull: as many as 4 at Fire Island Inlet Jan. 15 (AJL), most south shore inlets had one or two throughout the period. Black-headed Gull: 2 Dec. 20 Fire Island Inlet (THD), 1 Shinnecock Inlet Feb. 9 (DP). Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 John Burns Park, Massapequa Dec. 9 (AJL). Laughing Gull: 1 Moriches Inlet Dec. 27 (A. Cooley), 1 Shinnecock Inlet Feb. 12 (BS, BC). Little Gull: Every major south shore inlet had one or two birds present at one time or another throughout the winter. **IVORY GULL:** Paul Stoutenburgh discovered an immature bird at Southold Feb. 8, which unfortunately expired on Feb. 9 or 10. Tom Davis and Davis Finch found the dead specimen on a small off-shore island on the afternoon of Feb. 10. The bird was very emaciated and cause of death was attributed to starvation. The bird was prepared as a study skin at the AMNH and the sex of the bird was determined to be

female. Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 Montauk Jan. 10 (GSR), an oiled bird at Fire Island Inlet in Jan. **FORSTER'S TERN**: 1 adult winter plumage Fire Island Inlet Feb. 23 (J. Bloss, S. Birnback) appeared during a relative heat wave. Second winter record. **Razorbill**: 1 Montauk Point Jan. 25 (THD). **Thick-billed Murre**: 1 Montauk Point Feb. 15 (R. W. Smart, D. Crumb). **Dovekie**: 1 off Montauk Dec. 20 (J. Trimble). **COMMON PUFFIN**: 2 Smith's Point Park, Fire Island Dec. 5 (approx); we quote Dennis Puleston "two birds were picked up on the ocean beach at Smith's Point in early December. One bird was dead and was turned over to me by the finder, in good condition in early Feb. It was not oiled or otherwise in poor condition. I have turned this bird over to John Bull. The other bird was living but apparently exhausted. It was taken into a beach cottage, warmed and given water, and after a couple of hours was released on the beach and flew out to sea in apparently good condition."

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: 1 Calverton Jan. 1, Jan. 21 (GSR); 1 wintered at Oak Beach from Dec. 20 on (THD, AJL). Snowy Owl: wintering birds; 1 vicinity Shinnecock-Moriches Inlet, 1 Jones Beach, 1 Port Washington area, 4 JFK Airport. **WHIP-POOR-WILL**: found dead Dec. 24 Brookhaven (DP), see *Kingbird*, Vol. XXVI, No. 1, p. 28 for details. **Sapsucker**: 2 Dec. 27 Central Suffolk C.C. (GSR). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 1 imm. Brentwood Dec. 6 (GSR).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Tree Swallow: 2 Tobay Feb. 26 (R. Steinberg). **ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW**: 1 Cold Spring Harbor Feb. 19-20 (T. O'Connor, C. Loscalzo, BC, *et al.*), no previous winter record. **Boreal Chickadee**: 1 Bronx-Westchester C.C. late Dec.; 1 Moravian Cemetery, Staten Island, first S.I. record. **Wood Thrush**: 1 Shelter Island Dec. 29 (J. Clinton). **Loggerhead Shrike**: 1 wintered at Spring Creek Park, Howard Beach (mob). **Northern Shrike**: 1 imm. Beachhampton Dec. 20 (mob). 1 imm. Great Kills Park S.I. Jan. 25 (J. Yrizarry).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Rye Dec. 6 (T. W. Burke); 1 Shinnecock Hills Dec. 20 (R. Hoefflich). **Pine Warbler**: 1 R. Moses State Park, Feb. 28 (D. Wimpfheimer).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: 1 Cypress Hills Brooklyn Jan. 15 (Mrs. Roberts). **ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK**: 1 Brookhaven Dec. 27 (DP) (GSR) state that this bird (which was a female) was definitely *not* a Black-headed Grosbeak. **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**: 1 Williamsbridge, Bronx Co. Jan. 26-Feb. 28 (J. Gillen *et al.*), photographed. **INDIGO BUNTING**: 1 Bronx Park Dec. 21 (T. Peszel), appears to be second winter record for state. **Dickcissel**: 1 Flushing Dec. 26 (W. Astle); 1 Matson feeder Eastport Feb. 21-29 (GSR). **Chipping Sparrow**: 8 Brookhaven Dec. 27 (DP). **White-crowned Sparrow**: 3 Yaphank (H. Halams *et al.*) Dec. 27. **LINCOLN'S SPARROW**: 1 Jones Beach Jan. 4 (A. Dignan). **Common Redpoll**: 90 Rye Jan. 11-17 (J. Gee *et al.*); present through Jan. and Feb. at Alley Pond Park with a peak of 150 on Jan. 13 (A. Wagner). **Red Crossbill**: 250 Jan. 4 Southern Nassau C.C.; 50 Tiana Beach Feb. 1 (AJL).

Anthony J. Lauro—9 DeSoto Road, Amityville, N.Y. 11701
Barbara J. Spencer—154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579