

of single birds elsewhere. Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 at CP 17 Dec inc to 60 by 21 Feb. Dutch had the most they've had in recent years with 60 thru Jan at Millbrook School and 10-15 all month at Hyde Park. Pine Grosbeak: one at Ashokan 14 Jan, and an amazing 12 in a yard at South Salem 29 Nov. One on PuCC; two at a Mahopac feeder and one at Carmel 22 Jan. Purple Finch: numbers very low. 42 on MCC was the highest count. Mary Yegella had 16 during Feb in Dutch. Nine were on the PuCC, and two on the PeCC. Ten frequented a Chappaqua feeder thru the season. Eight on RCC was considered very low for there. House Finch: remarkably several feeders reported none. Numbers were reported down in Ulst, but in Sull a Monticello feeder was supporting more than 70 and a Liberty feeder had more than 81 in Jan. Numbers were well up in West, but the 135 on RCC was considered low. White-winged Crossbill: what appears to be the only report was a single male at Peter Derven's feeder in Nyack 22 Jan. Com. Redpoll: only reports were Dutch with six at Rockefeller Flats 15 Jan, and a single bird at a Pleasant Valley feeder on 15 Feb. Pine Siskin: exc numbers of last fall did not persist. About 50 at one feeder in Cold Spring 30 Dec and again 22 Jan. Dutch had the most with from 15-30 birds thru Jan at a Clinton Corners feeder. About the same numbers were at Moore's Mills and Stissing. Several other reports told of one or two birds on and off thru the period. Am. Goldfinch: at least six feeders in Dutch had 10 or more; 20 were at Clinton Corners and another 30 at Pleasant Valley during Jan. 95 on RCC was considered low. Evening Grosbeak: fall migrants failed to stay. Few reports and most of few birds; max was 70 at Hankins, Sull 1-7 Dec and 65 at Monticello 6 Jan.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

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The season started mildly with the first half of December having mostly above normal temperatures. The first weekend of the Christmas Bird Count season found temperatures within a couple of degrees of normal, but on the 19th they started to fall. The 20th averaged 14° F below normal. It warmed up briefly on the 22nd, but then dropped sharply to a low of 4° F on Christmas Day, 25° below normal. The late December cold spell brought the month's average to 1.0° below normal. The total rainfall of 9.77 inches was 5.96 in. above normal. January also was cool with the average for the month 1.6° below normal, but was drier than December with only 1.67 in. of rain, 1.54 in. below normal. February, however, particularly after the 10th, was much warmer than normal with the month's average 7.2° above normal. February's rainfall of 4.86 in. was 1.73 in. above normal. (All weather data for New York City.)

The winter season did produce some interesting birds, although many of the best birds, i.e. the Black Rails and the Great Gray Owls, were seen by only a handful of people. Others were seen by many, such as the wintering Harlequin Ducks and Razorbills and the biggest invasion of Red-necked Grebes in half a century. Most Christmas Bird Counts reported above normal species totals, with Montauk finally breaking its record of 130 that it had tied several times. Montauk-

135, Brooklyn-122, Central Suffolk and Southern Nassau-121, Captree-120, Smithtown-116, Queens-114, Orient-108, Bronx-Westchester-107, Northern Nassau-104, Quogue-Watermill-101 and Staten Island-87.

The mild early December weather resulted in good numbers of lingerers and half-hardies. Some at very late dates were: Little Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Black Rail, Semipalmated Plover, American Oystercatcher, Parasitic Jaeger, Forster's Tern, an *Empidonax* flycatcher, Tree Swallow, White-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Pine Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle and Northern Oriole.

Species were reported in about normal numbers, although there were variations from place to place. Not reported in the main body of this report are: Red-throated and Com. Loons, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, No. Pintail, No. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Com. Goldeneye, Bufflehead, all three mergansers, No. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, No. Bobwhite, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Sanderling, Com. Snipe, Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls, Rock and Mourning Doves, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Am. Robin, Gray Catbird, No. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, No. Cardinal, Am. Tree, Field, Fox, Song, and Swamp Sparrows, Snow Bunting, E. Meadowlark, House Finch and Am. Goldfinch. Including the above, 193 species plus four identifiable races are recorded in this report.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Gyrfalcon, Black Rail, Forster's Tern, Great Gray Owl, Varied Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, and Western Tanager.

Dates of Christmas Bird Counts: Brooklyn, Montauk, Queens, Quogue-Watermill and Staten Island-17 Dec; Captree-18 Dec; Bronx-Westchester and Northern Nassau-26 Dec; Central Suffolk and Smithtown-27 Dec; Orient-30 Dec; Southern Nassau-2 Jan.

Abbreviations: CBC-Christmas Bird Count; LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; SP-State Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob-many observers.

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LOONS-DUCKS: The Brooklyn CBC reported a count record 34 Pied-billed Grebes but the species was normal elsewhere. Most counts reported average to above numbers of Horned Grebes, but this gave no indication of the Feb invasion that was to come, particularly in the vicinity of Montauk. On 4 Feb there were 740 birds at Montauk (TWB); by 19 Feb this had swelled to 2,000+ (JD, SF, AS), most of them visible from the Old Montauk Hghwy with some large rafts off Hither Hills SP. There were single Red-necked Grebes on the Captree and Orient CBCs, plus three on the Montauk and five on the Smithtown counts, but in late Jan and Feb the species staged its largest invasion of the Region in 50

years. Forty birds were at Ditch Plains at Montauk 14 Jan (GSR); this increased to 67 in the same vicinity on 11 Feb (THD) and to well over 100 in a one mile stretch of coast east of Ditch Plains on 18 Feb (JD, SF, AS). Probably part of the invasion, a single **EARED GREBE** was found at Montauk 18 Feb (A. Morris). Montauk reported only 460 No. Gannets this year compared to last year's record 1,300+. Several CBCs reported high numbers of Great Cormorants: Brooklyn 96, S. Nassau and Smithtown 12, but the highest was 114 at Montauk which was far from a record there. Double-crested Cormorants were also in good numbers with the species reported on virtually every count. S. Nassau's 13 Am. Bitterns ties their total of last year which had been the highest in eight years. Great Blue Herons were in good numbers on all counts with C. Suffolk once again having the highest number with 116. Great Egrets lingered late enough to be found on four counts, Brooklyn, Queens, N. and S. Nassau, but the latest was a bird at Hempstead Lk SP 6 Jan (SBD). Brooklyn and Queens had count records of 25 and 17 Snowy Egrets, respectively, but there was undoubted duplication between the two counts; the latest Snowy was one at Forge R, Moriches 12 Feb (J. McNeil). Brooklyn had their first ever count of Little Blue Heron, a species that is not often found on our local CBCs. In contrast, Tricolored Heron was not found lingering anywhere for the first time in several years. Smithtown did find a lingering Green-backed Heron and Queens found two Glossy Ibises. The late Nov movement of Tundra Swans resulted in the species appearing on more counts than normal, one each at Montauk, Orient and S. Nassau, and the four reported in the fall stayed at JBWR for the Queens CBC; three were at Wading R 7 Jan (JR). Snow Geese were found in small numbers on a number of counts, but the highest was Brooklyn with 254, most at JBWR. S. Nassau reported 29,000 Brant, a little less than last year's count record; that total included one "Black Brant" at Oceanside (DK, *et al.*). Wood Ducks did not linger in the same high numbers as last year but were found on the Bronx-West., Captree, C. Suffolk, N. Nassau, Queens, Quogue-Water and Smithtown CBCs. Both Montauk and Queens reported record numbers of Green-winged Teals, coincidentally, both 323 birds. S. Nassau had a record 13,298 Am. Black Ducks, but most other counts were near normal. Two counts reported Blue-winged Teal: Montauk and Smithtown, one each; lingering individuals were found at Quogue 21 Jan (JR) and East Hampton 9 Feb (RA). As last year, three CBCs found Eurasian Wigeon: Brooklyn-one, C. Suffolk-one and S. Nassau-three. Canvasbacks were in above normal numbers on most counts with Montauk's 256 a count record, as was their total of 414 Redheads. Redheads were about normal elsewhere. The male Tufted Duck reported in the Central Pk reservoir in the fall remained there throughout the season; a female Tufted was reported at Inwood Pk 5 Feb (WS). Montauk found a count record 626 Lesser Scaup, but the species was in normal numbers elsewhere. Nine Com. Eiders on the Montauk CBC was the highest number reported for the species all season. One to two adult male King Eiders were at Montauk thru most of the winter (mob). Four Harlequin Ducks on the Montauk CBC remained there the rest of the winter; six appeared at Jones Inlet in late Jan and also settled in, while a male appeared at Brighton Bch, Brooklyn for only 15-17 Jan (JB, RB). The Central Pk reservoir picked up some strays from the coast in early Dec when an Oldsquaw appeared 9-10 Dec and a Surf Scoter 1-4 Dec (mob). Most CBC's reported all three scoters in lower than normal numbers. Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported: a female 26 Dec at Montauk Pt (HM) and a male in Huntington Harbor 15 Jan (A. McKay, *et al.*). Several counts reported well above normal or count record numbers of Ruddy Ducks: Bronx-West-354, Montauk-204, Quogue-Water-662 and S. Nassau-188.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: A Turkey Vulture at Roslyn 3 Feb was a rare winter LI find (K. Bloomer). An imm Bald Eagle was at Manhasset 3 Jan (J. Bartlett, H. Roth). Cooper's Hawks were down from last winter's numbers with one each on the N. Nassau, Queens and Smithtown CBCs and two each on Brooklyn and S. Nassau. It was not a big year for No. Goshawk, with individuals found on the Captree and S. Nassau counts and three on Bronx-West, with a scattering of reports the rest of the winter. Single Red-shouldered

were reported on the Captree and N. Nassau CBCs and two on Brooklyn was quite good; Red-tails were in normal to above normal numbers on most counts; Rough-legs were scarce this winter with many counts missing them. It was a banner winter for Merlins with only the N. Nassau and Staten I. CBCs missing them and a total of 21 reported on LI counts. Peregrine Falcons were also widely found with singles on the Captree, Queens and N. and S. Nassau counts and three on the Brooklyn CBC; a bird raised by foster parents in Manahawken, NJ in 1982 was killed in a collision with an airplane at JFK Airport on 11 Jan (HR); another Peregrine frequented the Seatuck Refuge 18-23 Jan (RH). A gray phase **GYRFALCON** was found on Shelter I on the Orient CBC (GSR), details to NYSARC. Two Ruffed Grouse were found on the C. Suffolk count, normal for this area. The growth of the Wild Turkey flock at Connetquot R SP seems to have about leveled off with 45 there on the Captree CBC; 32 on Gardiner's I. on the Montauk CBC is about normal. Four fabulously lucky birders flushed two **BLACK RAILS** from saltmarsh grasses at Tobay 11 Dec, setting a new late record date for the state, breaking the old one by more than a month (C. Ward, A. Wollin, S. Schiff, R. Kurtz). Clapper Rails were on many LI counts with a high of five at S. Nassau; two were along Dune Rd 21 Jan (JR). The C. Suffolk and S. Nassau counts each had two Virginia Rails and Montauk one; one lingered at Calverton until 25 Jan (JR). A Com. Moorhen stayed late enough to be found on the Brooklyn CBC. Am. Coots continued to be reported in the same relatively low numbers of the last few years. Smithtown found four lingering Semipalmated Plovers. Three Am. Oystercatchers lingered at Floyd Bennett Field until 7 Jan (JB, RB). Queens found one Lesser along with 17 Greater Yellowlegs and Brooklyn found two Lessers; a Greater lingered at Shinnecock to 29 Jan (GSR). Orient found 30 and S. Nassau 17 Ruddy Turnstones; other than those, only scattered birds were seen. Three counts reported Red Knots: C. Suffolk-17, Montauk-four, and Smithtown-one; nowhere near last winter's numbers. 200 Purple Sandpipers was a good count at Jones Inlet 11 Feb (GSR, JR) but they were about normal on the CBCs. Most counts reported above average numbers of Dunlins, but none rivaled last year's nearly 3,800 on the S. Nassau CBC. The S. Nassau CBC found two Long-billed Dowitchers and Queens one. Warm weather in late Feb inspired one Am. Woodcock to start calling in Manorville on 24 Feb (GSR). Two counts, Montauk and Queens, found late lingering Parasitic Jaegers. Several counts set new records for Laughing Gulls, Montauk-73, Queens-23, Brooklyn-20 and Orient-7. A Little Gull was at Fire I Inlet 3 Dec (S. & K. Feustel); one was found on the Quogue-Water CBC and three were at Montauk Pt 7 Jan (TWB); one was still there 12 Feb (JD). Six Com. Black-headed Gulls were reported: two on the Brooklyn and one on the Captree CBCs, and singles at Montauk 26 Dec (HM), the Central Pk reservoir 6 Jan (DK), and at W. 12th St. in Manhattan on 12 Jan (TS). Brooklyn reported a count record 64,500 Herring Gulls and Queens 23,000, even with duplication and overlap these are very high counts; Staten I came in with its own spectacular count of 51,500. The "Kumlien's" Gull returned to the boardwalk restaurant on Jones Bch for the seventh winter and was counted again on the S. Nassau CBC; other counts with Icelanders were Bronx-West, Brooklyn and Quogue-Water with one each and Montauk with two; two to three were at Montauk Pt all winter (mob). Montauk tied its count record with two Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Montauk also had the only Glaucous Gull found on the local CBCs; a second year imm was at Montauk Pt on 19 Feb (JD, SF). Along with their large Herring Gull counts, Brooklyn reported a count record 13,500 Great Black-backed Gulls; Queens had 4,361 and Staten I 6,208. Following 1,380 Black-legged Kittiwakes on the Montauk CBC there were good numbers of kittiwakes at Montauk all winter; the Queens and S. Nassau CBCs each had single birds, rare finds for those counts. The Captree CBC had a **FORSTER'S TERN** (AJL), a bird that was long overdue for an LI count. The Montauk CBC had three unidentified alcids. A Com. Murre was reported on the Orient CBC and a Razorbill was found at Tobay on the S. Nassau CBC (TWB). A Razorbill was seen at Montauk intermittently 14 Jan-18 Feb (mob).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Six counts found Com. Barn-Owls: S. Nassau-five; Brooklyn-four; Queens-three; Smithtown-two and Captree and Staten I one each. All CBCs reported E. Screech-Owls in normal to above normal numbers with the highest being Smithtown with 29. The Brooklyn CBC had its first ever Great Horned Owl. It was not a good winter for Snowy Owls with only the Queens and Quogue-Water CBCs finding singles; other singles were at Smith's Pt 9 Dec (J. McNeil), Shinnecock 21 Jan (J. Clinton) and the West End, Jones Bch in Feb (mob). One of the finds of the season was the one to two **GREAT GRAY OWLS** seen on the north shore this winter; the first sighting was in upper Brookville 25 Jan (RC, A. Bell); this bird was seen very irregularly thru 25 Feb; the same or another individual was seen at Ft. Salonga 29 Jan (T. Caggiano, E. Mudge), at Huntington 30 Jan (B. Kolodnicki) and at Caumsett SP 1 Feb (M. Hemmerick). The max Long-eared Owl report was eight on the Montauk CBC. Short-eared Owls were widely reported on the CBCs with the highest on the Brooklyn count with 20, at least eight of which were at JBWR. There was a veritable explosion of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the region this winter; 22 were reported on the LI CBCs with Queens leading with nine; eight birds wintered in Forest Pk alone (mob). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were also widely reported with the high going to the N. Nassau CBC with 14. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered in amazing numbers with 23 reported on the LI counts, 11 of these on the Queens CBC. Most counts reported normal to above normal numbers of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and No. Flickers, with both Montauk and Orient setting count records for flickers with 323 and 248, respectively.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: An *Empidonax* flycatcher (sp?) was found on Gardiner's I on the Montauk CBC (P. Bernath). An E. Phoebe on the Brooklyn count was the only one reported. The mild early Dec weather resulted in lingering Tree Swallows being picked up by three counts; Montauk had seven and Brooklyn and Captree each had five. Com. Crows were in well above normal numbers on most counts, with the prize going to Staten I with an amazing 12,276. 45 Fish Crows at Owls Head Pk, Brooklyn 7 Jan (JY) was a high winter count, but the species was about normal on the CBCs. Black-capped Chickadees were in above average numbers on many counts, with 719 at Montauk a count record. Tufted Titmouse continues its increase on LI, particularly the eastern end with Montauk and Orient setting new count highs for the second year in a row with 18 and 89, respectively. After a good fall flight, Red-breasted Nuthatches were in good numbers on the local counts with Brooklyn and Montauk setting count records of 63 and 92, respectively. White-breasted Nuthatches were also reported in good numbers. Brown Creepers were in normal to above normal numbers. Winter Wrens were very widespread with a total of 15 reported on the LI counts, with Montauk and N. Nassau tying for top honors with four each; in addition Bronx-West had three and Staten I one; one lingered at Yaphank till 7 Jan (JR). Three CBCs found lingering Marsh Wrens: Captree-one; and Brooklyn and Orient-one each. In contrast to last winter when no E. Bluebirds were reported, 36 were found on LI counts this year, with Montauk leading everyone with a count record 22; another four were on the Staten I CBC. A Swainson's Thrush was reported on the N. Nassau CBC, but no details were received. Hermit Thrushes lingered in above normal numbers with the high being 30 on the Montauk CBC, a count record, followed closely by N. Nassau with 29 and Bronx-West with 27; one was at JBWR 11 Feb (GSR). A male **VARIED THRUSH** was at Forest Pk 7-11 Jan (G. Dadone, W. Reilly, THD). Three counts had Water Pipits: S. Nassau-ten; Bronx-West-seven; and Montauk-four; two were at Robert Moses SP on 13 Jan (JD, AS, P. Cane). Several counts had good numbers of Cedar Waxwings: N. Nassau-84; Bronx-West-79; Orient-18; Brooklyn-17; Staten I-16; and Montauk-six. Two No. Shrikes were reported: the Captree and C. Suffolk CBCs each had one. Two Loggerhead Shrikes were also reported: Muttontown Preserve 15-16 Dec (A. Lindberg, B. Paterson) and Calverton 18 Dec (RA).

VIREOS-WARBLED: A **WHITE-EYED VIREO** found on the Staten I CBC (NS, WS) is a new late record for the state by nearly a month. The Staten I count had two and Montauk

one Orange-crowned Warbler. The Brooklyn CBC found lingering Nashville Warbler in Prospect Pk. Late lingering Pine Warblers were found on four counts: C. Suffolk had three and Captree, Montauk and Quogue-Water each had one. Palm Warblers were found in there usual one and twos on most LI CBCs. A total of eight Com. Yellowthroats were found on the LI counts with Montauk having nearly half of them with three birds. The single Yellow-breasted Chat reported was at a feeder in Seacliff till 24 Dec (A. Bell).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: A WESTERN TANAGER was found at Montauk 9 Dec (P. Gillen). A Dickcissel was on the Smithtown CBC. Rufous-sided Towhees were in average to above average numbers on most counts. Smithtown reported two Chipping Sparrows and Brooklyn, Captree and C. Suffolk each reported one. Single Vesper Sparrows were on the C. Suffolk, N. Nassau and Queens CBCs. The "Ipswich" (*princeps*) race of the Savannah Sparrow was reported on most counts with Queens leading with four. 14 Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported on LI counts with S. Nassau leading with six. C. Suffolk had the only Seaside Sparrows with two birds. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was found at Marine Pk on the Brooklyn CBC (TS). White-throated Sparrows were reported in above average numbers on many counts. C. Suffolk had the only two White-crowned Sparrows for the counts; one was still at Westhampton 21 Jan (JR). Dark-eyed Juncos were also reported in above average numbers. Lapland Longspurs were only sparsely reported this winter with one on the Brooklyn CBC; three at Smith's Pt 16 Dec (GSR), one still there 3 Jan (JR) and one at Calverton 12 Jan (RA). Red-winged Blackbirds were in above normal numbers on most counts. Rusty Blackbirds were reported in their usual small numbers on most counts. Boat-tailed Grackle only recently established itself as a breeder in this region and it is now showing up as a winter bird with two on the Queens CBC and even more astounding 12 birds in Broad Channel, south of JBWR on 17 Jan (AR, HR); one was at JBWR 23 Jan (SBD). This year's big Com. Grackle roost was found on the Orient CBC with 2,035 on that count. Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported in small numbers on most counts except for Brooklyn which reported 227. N. Nassau had a No. Oriole for the fourth year in a row, but it was joined this year by Montauk and Orient each with one each and surpassed by Smithtown which had four; one was at a feeder in Roslyn Heights 7-14 Jan (F. Shapiro) and one was in Westbury from 16 Jan to late Feb (E. & J. Taylor). Good numbers of Purple Finch were found on the Bronx-West-31, N. Nassau-23, and Montauk-20 counts, elsewhere they were only in small numbers. No Crossbills were reported. Quogue-Water was the only CBC with a Com. Redpoll with a single bird; one was at a feeder in Glen Cove on 31 Dec and 5 Jan (A. & J. Gehde). Pine Siskins were reported in small numbers on virtually all counts. Evening Grosbeaks were also widely reported in small numbers with C. Suffolk-91 and Montauk-48, the leaders.

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