

REGION 10 — MARINE

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By mid-August birds were migrating in force, with the Golden-winged, both hybrids, Worm-eating, Bay-breasted and Blackburnian Warblers all noted at Far Rockaway by Aug 11. Also 13 species of warblers were listed at Idlewild and Jamaica Bay on Aug 17, including Prothonotary, Cape May and Wilson's. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was on the move downward at Massapequa Aug 13, yet a week later this writer saw an adult feeding young in northern New Hampshire and others came through Long Island in early September. Likewise Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared Aug 10 and has been common since, quite unlike the two preceding years.

No spectacular storms brought southern vagrants this fall. No freezing weather arrived until Nov 11, so late warbler migrants lingered and eight species of warblers were counted at Jones Beach, Oct 26 (Baldwin Bird Club). The heron population left early, ducks came in force in October and November. With increasing cold weather for several days around Nov 10 and 11, land bird migration tapered off sharply. A tremendous October flight of Goldfinches and Siskins along the barrier beaches caused small flocks to linger. A good flight of Snow Buntings came through in early November.

Loons — Ducks: Loons came through regularly with 30 Red-throated at Rockaway Nov 9; also present were two Common Loons, 12 Horned Grebes and 18 Gannets. Shearwaters appeared off Montauk in early fall and there were two, too far off for identification, on Nov 5 at Moriches (Elliott), these were the latest reported. 14 Wilson's Petrels were seen in the vicinity of Ambrose Light Ship, Aug 19 (E. Mudge). There was an excellent flight of Cormorants. Great Blue Herons were seen circling and ready to leave in late October; latest American Egret (two) and one Snowy Egret, Nov 9, at Jamaica Bay; good fall flight of American bitterns, few of Least; one or two records of Louisiana Heron on western Long Island. Mid-summer reports showed lesser numbers of American Egrets at Moriches (J. T. Nichols) and slightly fewer elsewhere. Several large flocks of Canada Geese came through; and by mid-November hundreds of American brant were on our western bays. Several reports of European Widgeon, none of European Teal. Canvasback showed up at South Haven, late Oct; eight Redheads at Westhampton, Oct 31 (R. Wilcox); Baldpates were very numerous by Nov 1; Ruddy Duck: two, possibly three, broods at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, five small young, Aug 25 (Mayer, Rose); 1320 Ruddy Ducks at Mecox, Oct 31, were reported by Wilson as the largest flock he ever saw.

Hawks — Owls: Fair numbers of Accipiters; no Goshawk records received; poor Buteo flight; late Ospreys into Nov; good Pigeon Hawk movement into late Oct; several Duck Hawk records; Sparrow Hawks abundant.

Two Clapper Rails at Moriches; at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, one Yellow Rail, Oct 26 (Mayer, Rose) and one Black Rail, Sept 28 (N. Smith). Fewer records this year of Florida Gallinule. Concerning shorebirds: Oystercatcher nested on south end of Gardiners Island (Wilcox); several hundred Black-bellied Plover at Shinnecock in late Sept; and an estimated 70 Golden Plover near Mecox around mid-Sept. Shorebirds came through regularly. On Sept 14, at Jamaica Bay with commoner species were: one Golden Plover, Curlew and Baird's Sandpiper (Mayer, Rose). There were several records of Northern Phalaropes, one at Jamaica Bay, Sept 1 (N. Smith). Both Godwits continue to migrate regularly with an estimated nine Hudsonian and two Marbled Godwits, Aug 23 (E. Mudge). Large numbers of Herring Gulls nested on Gardiner Island. Few white-winged gulls to date. A Little Gull was at Jamaica Bay for several weeks and seen to mid-August (E. Levine, M. Jacobson). Fair numbers of Laughing Gulls were at Montauk into Sept; one Nov 29 at Cold Spring Harbor (Nichols). Numerous records of Forster's, Roseate and Black Terns came in; a few of Royal and Arctic. Only one report to me of southern rarity: Sooty Tern, west

island of Fire Islands in Great South Bay, Aug 23, two (I. Alperin). At both Moriches and Shinnecock bays there were an estimated 200 Black Skimmers (Elliott).

So far no reports of Alcids; fairly good numbers of Mourning Doves; very poor cuckoo migration again this year, as it has been since hurricane distortion of fall flight in 1954. Early Nighthawk, Mastic, Sept 1, one flying west (Nichols); flight of 14 over home of Geo. Rose at Mineola, Sept 15. Owls: no Snowy to date; several records of Barn Owl young out of nest at Westhampton, Aug 15 (Wilcox). Two records of Short-eared, one of Long-eared Owls. Five or six Saw-whet Owls seen: three at Jones Beach in late Oct, early Nov.

Swifts — Shrikes: Swifts left early and were later unreported. Several Red-headed Woodpecker reports; fewer than usual Western Kingbird records; there was a good early Sept flight of small flycatchers; Olive-sided — Aug 13 and Sept 8 at Massapequa (Elliott). No Crested Flycatcher records after Sept 15. On Sept 24 a Cliff Swallow, and an estimated 3,000 Tree Swallows, were noted at Jamaica Bay (Mayer, Rose). A heavy flight of Bluejays passed through western Long Island in Oct, crossed the city line and presumably left the island. With the early invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatch in mid-Aug, fair numbers of them are still present, especially at Jones Beach. Carolina Wren: two at Mastic (Nichols) Sept 7; three at Moriches, Nov 5 (D. Puleston). There were two Short-billed Marsh Wrens at Speonk, Nov 2 (Wilcox).

Two summer records of Mockingbird — pair feeding two young at Ft. Tilden, Rockaway; one reportedly nesting at Southold (VanCleaf); a fall bird at Riis Park, Sept 28 (N. Smith). There was a large late Sept flight of Olive-backed Thrushes on eastern Long Island; maximum Bluebirds, 15 at Far Rockaway, Oct 27 (Bull). Good flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets at Brookhaven, 40 between Oct 12 and Oct 16 (Puleston). Practically no fall records of Gnatcatcher; a Pipit appeared at Moriches Inlet, Oct 26 (Puleston). Cedar Waxwings were plentiful along the shores of Peconic Bay in late Sept. Several Migrant Shrikes reported at Far Rockaway and eastward.

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo, Aug 23 one at Brookhaven (Puleston). Several reports of Blue-headed and Philadelphia early to late Sept. After the mid-Aug warbler flight numbers tapered off, increased again in early Sept and again around Sept 28, 29, when there was an excellent movement along eastern Long Island, especially along the north and south shores. Present in fair numbers were Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Green, Black-poll, and Palm. Almost the same species were seen as stragglers along the south shore of western Long Island around Oct 26. First Myrtle Warbler: Idlewild, Aug 17 (Mayer). There were several reports of Orange-crowned Warblers; a Kentucky and two Connecticut Warblers were seen at Idlewild Sept 14 (Mayer, Rose). A definite movement of Northern Water-Thrushes came through in late Sept; four at Massapequa in damp depressions of a dried up pond Sept 30, and two or three elsewhere around that date (Elliott). First Northern Water-Thrushes, generally in Aug, announce the fall migration. Stragglers: Magnolia Warbler, Far Rockaway, Nov 2 (Bull); Chat, Baldwin, Nov 20 (Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Teale); Hooded Warbler, Gilgo, Oct 20 (E. Levine, R. Priesick).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Last Orchard Oriole, Far Rockaway, Aug 18; little of note came in on Tanagers; the Cardinal has made news by its spread on eastern Long Island; besides a couple of pairs which have occurred at Noyac and Southampton in the past few years, Puleston had four at his feeder at Brookhaven in early Dec, Roy Wilcox one at Speonk, Oct 27, for the first record. He reported a first record for East Quogue last winter. Another first report, just in, tells of a pair at Oak Beach (Dr. and Mrs. H. Kimball). Rarities were Blue Grosbeak, Riis Park, Sept 21 (R. Grant, E. Daly); Far Rockaway, Sept 25 (Bull); half dozen reports of Evening Grosbeak, one or two Pine Grosbeak; Red Crossbill at Jones Beach, Sept 28 (N. Smith); White-winged Crossbill, Orient, Nov 24 (R. Latham). There were a few Dickcissels in late Sept; one at Riis Park, Oct 20 and a Lark Sparrow, same day. Maximum of three Ipswich Sparrows on a short search at Gilgo, Nov 23; good flight of White-crowned Sparrows; very few records of Clay-colored or Lincoln's. Several flocks of Snow Buntings and two reports of Lapland Longspur, singles each.

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