

REGION 10—MARINE

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The highlight of the fall season was Hurricane Donna, September 12, which swept up the coast bringing many southern rarities and blowing in offshore species. Spectacular were the great numbers of Common Terns and Black Skimmers, Royal and Caspian Terns estimated into the hundreds, some 28 Gull-billed Terns, a few Sandwich (formerly Cabot's) Terns, Oystercatchers (seen by many observers), and one hasty look at a Magnificent Frigate-bird at Babylon (I. Alperin). As an example of the incursion, several eastern Long Island observers noted on September 13 and 14, from Mecox to Moriches, the following: two Louisiana Herons, three Glossy Ibises, five Oystercatchers, 12 Willets, 70 Knots, three Marbled and five Hudsonian Godwits, six Northern Phalaropes, 150 Laughing Gulls, three Gull-billed Terns, seven Royal Terns, seven Caspian Terns, one Sandwich Tern, and two Sooty Terns. Equally good or better listings came from Jones Beach and westward with more numerous counts of Royal, Caspian, Sooty, and Gull-billed Terns.

Of the total of some dozen Sooty Terns listed, about one-half were found dead or exhausted; one was blown inland as far as Levittown (E. Morgan), and there was one north of the bay at Great River (R. Wilcox). Wilcox also found a dead immature Sooty Tern at Shinnecock, September 14, which had been banded at Dry Tortugas, Florida, on July 14.

A few hurricane species were in evidence for a week or two after the storm. The rest of the fall was warm and rather pleasant with a fair migration of some warblers and good numbers of sparrows and Dickcissels. Purple Finches and Goldfinches were common, but other finches were rare or absent. Spectacular was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Atlantic Beach from October 30 to November 6 (Ed — see field notes section, this issue) and a Gray Kingbird at Westhampton Beach on September 18. Remarkable was the banding at Shinnecock of 4,153 birds from September 3 to October 31 (H. Terry, R. Wilcox).

Good numbers of certain species, including Wilson's Petrels and Northern Phalaropes, were observed on an offshore fishing trip on September 7 (Elliott).

Loons — Ducks: There was an incursion of Red-throated Loons, with 34 at Riis Park on Oct 29 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). A Leach's Petrel was banded and released at East Moriches; two were found dead at Quogue (Wilcox), and there were several others reported about mid-September. The maximum count on Wilson's Petrel was 150 on Sep 7 at Ambrose Channel (Elliott). There were great numbers of white herons in late summer — an estimated 200 to 300 Common Egrets and 300 to 400 Snowy Egrets from Meadowbrook Causeway to Cedar Beach. Maximum East Moriches roosting numbers: 37 Common Egrets and 103 smaller white herons (Snowies or Little Blues), these on Aug 7 (G. Raynor). There was a maximum of eight Louisiana Herons in mid-Sep on the south shore; they roosted at Cedar and Jones Beaches, where several were seen in September and early October. The Little Blue Heron, formerly more common than the Snowy Egret, is now greatly reduced in numbers on Long Island; five or six were seen at Jones Beach in mid-Aug (Elliott, C. Ward). There were five or six Long Island records of the Cattle Egret, including one at Riverhead on Sep 13 (H. Evans) and two at East Moriches on Sep 21 (Raynor). Glossy Ibis were rather scarce until mid-Sep; the maximum was three at Shinnecock on Sep 13 (Raynor, Wilcox).

There was one Whistling Swan report at Jamaica Bay. Some 575 Canada Geese flew over Dix Hills from Oct 3 to Oct 18 (Plembleton; Good). A Goose first seen by Wilcox on Oct 2 at Islip, and subsequently seen by others, was identified by Puleston as *anser erythropus*, the Lesser White-fronted Goose, a European species. It remained until early November and perhaps to the end of the period. A bird resembling this was seen at Babylon in early September (R. Snyder); its tameness suggested an escape. Five Snow Geese were at a pond near Jones Beach on Oct 16 (J. Bull, D. Amadon), and the maximum Gadwall count was 30 there that same day. Both teal were very scarce, but there were fair numbers of Shovelers and Scoters. Wood Duck were present at several locations; four were at Baldwin on Oct 9 (Mrs. Benedict).

Hawks — Owls: Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were principally on the south shore. Buteos were scarce on Long Island, and there were few or no Rough-

legged Hawks to the end of the period. A few Peregrine Falcons, eight to ten Pigeon Hawks, and large numbers of Sparrow Hawks were the average on good flight days at Jones Beach and eastward around the end of September. There was a big flight of falcons on the outer beach, Brookhaven, Oct 1, with two Peregrines, 15 Pigeon Hawks, and 200 Sparrow Hawks (Puleston); 644 Sparrow Hawks were counted from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM that same day at Fire Island Inlet (H. Darrow).

A King Rail was reported at Jamaica Bay on Oct 15, and a Sora was there on Sep 14 (Norse). The Common Gallinule was recorded at Jamaica Bay and Brookhaven. An estimated 12 American Oystercatchers were reported after Hurricane Donna, with a maximum of five at Moriches on Sep 14 (Puleston). Golden Plovers were reported around mid-September, and there was a fairly good flight of Black-bellied Plovers. There were one or two records of the Baird's Sandpiper. The maximum Willet count was 25 at Moriches on Sep 14 (Puleston). Five Stilt Sandpipers were at Mecox Aug 21 (Puleston), and ten were seen at Sagaponack on Sep 9 (Raynor). Three Marbled Godwits were observed at Moriches on Sep 14 (Puleston), and there were also three at Spring Creek on Sep 18 (Mayer, Rose). The maximum Hudsonian Godwit count was five at Moriches on Sep 14 (Puleston). A Wilson's Phalarope was at Baxter's Creek on Sep 25 (Buckley Norse). Northern Phalaropes were reported along the south shore after Hurricane Donna (numerous observers), and 21 were seen in Ambrose Channel on Sep 7 (Elliott). Laughing Gulls were numerous in mid-September, and Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from mid-September to the end of the period. Unusual was the Sabine's Gull observed at Jones Beach on Sep 12 (Buckley, Fisher). Fairly large numbers of Roseate Terns, and fewer of Black Terns, were present on the south shore, and ten species of terns were counted with Donna's departure. All-time highs came in for Royal, Caspian, Sandwich, Sooty, and Gull-billed Terns; there were an estimated 28 of the latter, phenomenal for this species hereabouts. Hundreds of Black Skimmers were present after the hurricane; there were 300 at Jamaica Bay on Oct 2.

Reported at Manorville were two Screech Owls on Sep 23 and a Great Horned Owl on Oct 29 (Raynor). Single Snowy Owls at Baldwin around mid-November and at Shinnecock on Nov 15, plus two at Riis Park on Nov 13, comprised an early advance of this species in an apparent flight year. The Long-eared Owl was seen at Jones Beach. A half dozen Short-eared Owls were at Jamaica Bay in early November, and a Saw-whet Owl was seen at Jones Beach on Nov 13 (Linnaean Society).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: There was a poor flight of Nighthawks at Brookhaven, with a maximum of ten on Aug 31 (Puleston); 16 were at Manorville on Sep 1 (Raynor). A large flight of Flickers was noted in September, and Sapsuckers were fairly common in mid-October. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Jones Beach on Sep 13 (Buckley, Elliott), and one was also reported Nov 6 (Ward). A Gray Kingbird was seen on a field trip at Westhampton Beach on Sep 18 (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society); the bird was seen again the following day (Wilcox). A Western Kingbird was observed at Riis Park on Oct 29 (Mayer, Rose), and there was also a Nov 6 report (Norse, Cantor). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Atlantic Beach from Oct 30 to Nov 6 (Buckley and numerous other observers). The Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at Quogue on Sep 9 and 10 (Wilcox). Tree Swallows were found in large flocks at Jones Beach Sep 20-30 and were still present to Nov 15. A tufted Titouse was observed at Manhasset on Oct 27 (Mrs. Closs).

There was a poor flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches. The peak of the Brown Creeper flight at Shinnecock was from Oct 4 to 6 (Wilcox). Wrens were comparatively scarce, and Bluebirds extremely so, on Long Island. There were two November records of Short-billed Marsh Wren at Brookhaven (Puleston). Four Mockingbirds were seen together in Freeport on Nov 6 (M. Wheat). An estimated 100 Water Pipits were noted at Jones Beach on Nov 13 (Linnaean Society trip). Loggerhead Shrikes were at Jones Beach on Nov 14 (Norse) and at Shinnecock on Sep 5 (Wilcox).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, scarce as breeders on Long Island, were also scarce in the fall migration. Several records of Philadelphia Vireos, Worm-eating Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and two of

Prothonotary Warblers, came in — the latter at Jones Beach and Gilgo, Sep 22 (Levine, Wollin). Fair numbers of Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackpoll Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes, Yellowthroats, Chats, and Redstarts were noted. Wilcox and Terry banded 76 Palm Warblers, the first on Sep 9 and a peak of ten on Sep 27. The commonest warbler banded was the Myrtle (1,525), with a peak of 214 on Oct 10. There was a fair flight of warblers on western Long Island on Oct 22, including Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Connecticut. A Wilson's Warbler was seen at Jones Beach on Oct 7 (Elliott, Ward).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Some 40 Bobolinks were seen at Moriches on Sep 13 (Raynor); the last one was at Jones Beach on Nov 6 (Ward). The Baltimore Oriole was present at Jones Beach to the end of the period. The Scarlet Tanager was common at Jones Beach to late October, and a female Summer Tanager was at Speonk on Oct 22 (Wilcox). On dates ranging between Oct 15 and 22 single Blue Grosbeaks were noted at Gilgo, Riis Park, and South Ozone Park, and two were in Prospect Park. Indigo Buntings were fairly common, as were Dickcissels; there were about a dozen records of the latter to the end of the period. The maximum Purple Finch count was 50 in Dix Hills in September (Pembleton, Good). The first Pine Siskins were observed Oct 22 in Shinnecock (Wilcox).

Several Ipswich Sparrows put in an appearance at Jamaica Bay at the end of the period (A. Dignan). The last Grasshopper Sparrows were at Atlantic Beach on Nov 5 and Riis Park Nov 6. Vespers Sparrows were particularly numerous at Jones Beach, and six were banded at Shinnecock on Oct 18. The first Tree Sparrow was seen on Oct 27 (Wilcox). Several Lark Sparrows were noted Sep 11 to Oct 7, and a Clay-colored Sparrow was reported at Riis Park on Oct 1. Lincoln's Sparrows came through at Shinnecock Sep 14 to Oct 10. The Lapland Longspur first showed up at Shinnecock on Oct 4, and the first Snow Bunting was there on Oct 8 (Wilcox). Snow Buntings were seen in small flocks subsequently.

Birds banded at Shinnecock included 724 Slate-colored Juncos (132 on peak day, Oct 18), 216 White-throated Sparrows (31 peak, Oct 8) and 406 Song Sparrows (51 peak, Oct 18).

Corrigendum: In the previous issue, Vol 10, No. 3, p. 120, change "The Louisiana Waterthrush nested at Manorville for the second time as many years" to read "The Louisiana Waterthrush was found for the second time at Manorville."

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