

Another Corn Crane Record For Long Island: On November 2, 1963, a Corn Crane, *Crex crex*, was shot in Orient, Long Island by a pheasant hunter. The bird was shot on the ground at close range with large shot and was badly mutilated but enough of the bird could be preserved for an identification record. The bird, a female, was in a field of young rye 200 yards from salt marshes.

25 *Mallaphaga*, all one species, were collected from the bird. These lice were determined as *Rallicola ertygometrae ertygometrae* by K. C. Emerson in the Department of Entomology, Washington, D. C.

This apparently is the fourth record of the Corn Crane on Long Island and the fifth for New York State. It is of interest to note that this bird was recorded on the same date, November 2, and that the first record was established for this species on Long Island in 1880, the year of the writer's birth.

Ed. note: Although the fifth record for the state, it is the first this century. This decrease of occurrence may be related to the decline of the species in Northern Europe due to the destruction of nests by modern agricultural methods.

Roy Latham, Orient, Long Island

First Inland Record for New York State for COMMON PUFFIN: A first year Common Puffin (*Fratercula artica*) was found in a weakened and starving condition in the back yard of Mrs. Conrad Giersch, just north of Rhinebeck, New York, on September 27, 1963. It was picked up and turned over to Mr. William Hollister of the New York State Conservation Department in Poughkeepsie, and then given to Dr. Heinz Meng at New Paltz. Dr. Meng succeeded in keeping it alive for a day, but it was in too weakened condition to survive longer. So far as can be determined, this is a **first inland record** for New York State, and there are few Long Island records.

Reported by Otis Waterman, of Poughkeepsie, from the records of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, 11 N. Jackson Rd., Poughkeepsie.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

AUGUST 16 - NOVEMBER 30

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The effect of the unusual weather experienced during the period on the bird life of the state was considerable. In broad terms the weather was similar statewide. A cold September with frost, a hot, dry October, heavy rain during November but still warm until the last few days.

The first effect of the drought was a delay of about three weeks in the opening of the hunting season and the closing of the woods. This delay apparently considerably reduced the bag of ducks and the effects of this remains to be seen. The average annual bag of ducks in New York state is about 200,000. The total bag in the Atlantic flyway is about a million; this figure includes nearly a quarter of million crippled but not retrieved, surely a disgustingly high percentage. The overall picture of the duck population for the Atlantic flyway has been one of decrease since the mid-fifties. The relative importance of decrease of wetlands, conditions on the breeding grounds and hunting pressure are difficult to assess. Perhaps the figures for the population of the Atlantic flyway this winter will give some indication. The decrease of wetlands in this state in recent years has been considerable. On Long Island, between 1954 and 1959, 12.5% of the total high and moderate value wetlands were destroyed. For the state as a whole the figure was 2.1% for the same period. Even at the latter rate it will not be long before great, irreparable damage is done.