Another Corn Crake Record For Long Island: On November 2, 1963, a Corn Crake, **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 enougth 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 Crake 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 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.

The effect on migration of the long warm spell was a general lack of noticeable waves of migrants since weather conditions were not favorable to the grounding of migrants. TV tower kills were much lower than last year at Buffalo. A moderately heavy kill occurred at Elmira, and it is interesting to note that ten Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded among the two hundred birds killed. An indication that this secretive bird passes in good numbers. The effect on last dates on which species were recorded was considerable, but the fine weather did not seem to delay the bulk of the migrants. As might be expected most, but by no means all, of the record late dates were for the later migrants.

In the middle of the last century the Dickcissel nested and was a common species in a wide range of the eastern United States extending from the Carolinas through New York to New England. But by the end of the century it had completely disappeared. Since 1928 it has occurred regularly in the fall, especially on the New England coast, although numbers fluctuate considerably (Gross, Auk 73:66). As far as this state is concerned the flight this fall was unprecedented. There were an estimated fifty individuals on Long Island with groups up to fourteen. Six were reported in the lower Hudson valley and there were also a few scattered upstate records.

A wide variety of winter finches was recorded early this fall. The flight of Evening Grosbeaks was moderate to good throughout the state. The numbers of Goldfinches were unusually high on Long Island and the lower Hudson valley. Pine Siskins were also reported as numerous in the Hudson valley and some central portions of the state. However the most exciting feature of the winter finch movement has been the crossbill invasion. On Long Island the movement was described as the largest of the century. Both species occurred although Red Crossbills were much more common than White-winged. Upstate, even as near as the lower Hudson valley, the position was reversed and the White-winged greatly outnumbered the Red, although in most areas both species were reported. It seems that two distinct movements were involved, perhaps information from New England which will doubtless appear in Audubon Field Notes will clarify the position.

The flight of many species of winter finches recorded in this state must have started early. Svardson (British Birds 50:314) in his studies on invasion migration in Northern Europe, has suggested that invasion migration starts as regularly and is caused by the same proximate factors — day length and hormonal control — as normal migration. The difference between normal and invasion migration lies in the fact that the latter is readily retarded by movement into areas of abundant food. Thus the movement starts early and regularly but the direction is variable and movement may quickly end. Returning to the same breeding area does not occur with the same regularity as it does with normal migration.

As usual there were a number of rarities, Wheatear in the Adirondacks, Corn Crake and Townsend's Warbler on Long Island, Puffin in the Hudson valley, to mention a few.

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