

Lark Bunting on Long Island: On September 6, 1964, an immature Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) was observed at Jacob Riis Park, Brooklyn, by Eliot Hirshberg and myself.

An unfamiliar and distinctively different note from high above drew our attention to a small Fringillid dropping from several hundred feet altitude, flashing brilliant white wing patches and white marks in the tail. It perched on the far side of a large bush as we maneuvered into position to obtain a better look. The crown and upperparts, of a distinctive gray-brown color, were completely streaked, as was the breast and flanks. The streaks were not at all coarse, but rather crisp and well defined. The face, the most critical character in identification of obscure finches and sparrows, had a "dark cheek effect" accentuated by a clearly defined jaw line, which appeared darker and bolder than the breast streaks. Perched, the white wing patch was largely concealed. The pale, heavy finch bill, the odd face, the quality and tone of the streaking, the call-note, the startling white in the wings, and the certainty that I had never seen this bird before, all added up to my first Lark Bunting.

Tom Robben, 21 LaSalle Drive, New Rochelle

Ed. Note: John Bull's recent book **Birds of the New York Area** gives 5 previous records, 4 of which are fall reports.

Bohemian Waxwings at Belmont: While having breakfast the gray, frosty morning of November 7, 1964, and watching the birds at our feeders, our attention was called to a stranger that had flown into the pear tree and was perched between a Blue Jay and a House Sparrow.

Observation with 7x35 binoculars disclosed a gray, crested bird, larger than the sparrow, smaller than the jay. It faced me, showing a black mask which continued low to the throat, edged around by white. The breast was a diffused, dull gray, and as it turned it revealed a relatively broad, white wing patch, the feathers of the wing being faintly tipped with red. The primaries were a darker gray than the breast and back, and the slightly darker tail feathers were tipped with yellow in a broad band. A rusty appearance showed under the tail. It was shortly joined by a group of Cedar Waxwings, and the contrast in color and size was immediately evident. The Cedar Waxwings were glistening bronze, smaller, lacked the wing patch, and were buffy rather than rusty under the tail. The larger bird was grayer and seemed more plump. References consulted confirmed our identification of the stranger as a Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*).

Later in the morning, I saw a group of waxwings feeding on Multiflora Rose hips. As they flushed, I noted three of the gray strangers.

Lou L. Burton, John Street, Belmont

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

AUGUST 16 - NOVEMBER 30

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The weather of the period was dominated by drought, with rain only in brief spells, and the total deficit for the year was considerable. The dry conditions adversely affected marsh birds in some areas; shorebird migration was affected by the drying out of some good areas but in others fresh feeding areas were exposed.

In three areas where observations were made regularly the land-bird migration, especially of warblers, was considered to be good. Post and