

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: unusually late with first 3 Sept 28. Philadelphia Vireo: 3 Dutch reports, last Sept 10. Warbling Vireo: resident in Nyack started singing Aug 28 after almost 3 month of silence (RFD). Warblers: numbers not spectacular but several early dates were recorded in the Pok area by MJK. They are: Tennessee: Aug 22,30. Magnolia: Aug 22,23. Cape May: Aug 21. Black-throated Blue: Aug 23,29,31. Blackburnian: Aug 20,30. Bay-breasted: Aug 21,27, 29. Blackpoll: Aug 25. Pine: Aug 14–19. Wilson's: Aug 27,30. Canada: Aug 24, 25,27,29. Tennessee: 1 very late date of Nov 22 Millbrook (MVW). Chat: 1 Nov 12 Pine Plains (Thelma Haight). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** 1 Sept 30 Pok (AJ). Mourning Warbler: 3 Sept reports in Dutch; 1 Sept 7–8; 1 Sept 13; 1 Sept 20. Connecticut Warbler: 1 Sept 19 Basherkill (EDT); another Sept 22 Red Oaks Mill (MJK). Pine Warbler: 2 Sept 23–25 in Dutch.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: usual large flocks and dates for Redwings, Grackles and Rusty Blackbirds, the latter was esp numerous in mid-Oct. Indigo Bunting: 2 ad, 1 imm Sept 5 Mine Rd USMA (EDT). **DICKCISSEL:** 1 Oct 27 Amenia (JMK); another possibly the same bird Oct 28–30 (WTS). Evening Grosbeak reported from all parts by end of Oct; first Millbrook Oct 10; very heavy movement from Oct 18 on; max 590 Oct 28 Dutchess Hill near Pok. Purple Finch: better than in recent years; WBC reports some areas where there are twice as many as House Finches. The latter continues to increase. Pine Grosbeak: 8 Oct 30 near Pok (JMK); good numbers most areas by end of period. Pine Siskin: 15 Oct 21 near New Paltz (CFH); Nov brought more scattered reports. Goldfinch: usual numbers. Red Crossbill: 85 Oct 21 New Paltz; 10 Oct 26 over Millbrook School; 10 Oct 28 Dutchess Hill near Pok; 30 Oct 27 Millbrook; 13 Nov 5 Tarrytown Res; more than 70 Nov 20 Pocantico Res, Briarcliff (WH). White-winged Crossbill: 10 Oct 21 New Paltz (CFH). Slate-colored Junco: first 1 Sept 9 killed on Rt 218 Storm King Mt (EDT); normal thru Oct. Tree Sparrow: first Oct 27 Dutch. Chipping Sparrow: remain in good numbers thru Oct in Dutch; last Oct 22 (MVW). White-crowned Sparrow: 6 reports, all mid to late Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: first Sept 16; 1 Oct 2; 2 Oct 4 all Dutch; 1 Oct 21 on Cruger's Is sang 3 times (CFH). Snow Bunting: 1 Oct 30 Dutchess Hill (AJ); 8 Nov 2 Kiamesha L (KDN); a small flock near New Paltz Nov 22 (RP); 30 Nov 18 Freedom Plains, Dutch.

Winter Reports due no later than Apr 5

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS and LEE MORGAN

Cox's Ledge, a marine formation lying 40 miles ESE of Montauk Point, remains the prime focus of local birders intent on finding pelagics. To date, 10 trips have yielded a total of 61 species, many of these being wind-drifted migrants. This fall, groups of birders visited the ledge on August 19 and September 23. The "early" trip on August 19 recorded a meager 12 species: 1 Common Loon, 12 Greater Shearwaters, 4 Cory's Shearwaters, 500+ Wilson's Petrels, 1 Whimbrel, 4 Sanderling, 1 Northern Phalarope, 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 8 Great Black-backed Gulls, 85 Herring Gulls, 4 Common Terns and a Black Tern (PB, TD et al). One of the petrels was an aberrant, showing an all white rump and tail from above, and a clearly demarcated white breast and belly—a strange bird, but almost certainly a Wilson's by its size and manner of flight.

Falling temperatures and northwest winds preceding the "late" trip on September 23 contributed to an astounding total of 35 species recorded at sea: 115 Greater

Shearwaters, 50 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 *MANX SHEARWATER* (following the boat with other shearwaters for half an hour, photographed by PA and JT), 17 Wilson's Petrels (the local late date is September 29), 7 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Green-winged Teal, 10 Black Scoters, 1 Pigeon Hawk (carrying a dead passerine in its talons), 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1 Red Phalarope, 2 Northern Phalaropes, 15 Pomarine Jaegers (in every conceivable plumage, harassing shearwaters and gulls in close proximity to the boat), 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 10 Great Black-backed Gulls, 100+ Herring Gulls, 1 Laughing Gull, an adult Black-legged Kittiwake (an extremely early record), 2 Common Terns, 2 Mourning Doves, 1 Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1 Tree Swallow, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, (it landed on the boat's antenna mast), 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 Philadelphia Vireo, 2 Myrtle Warblers, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 2 American Yellowthroats, 1 American Redstart, 9 Warbler sp., 1 Baltimore Oriole, 1 Purple Finch, 1 Savannah Sparrow, 2 Slate-colored Juncos, 1 Chipping Sparrow and a White-throated Sparrow (Peter Alden, TD, GK, MK, Ben and Joanne Trimble et al).

During the early morning virtually all the migrants were noted flying non-stop in a NW direction, perhaps towards Block Island. It was midday before a trickle of birds began landing on our vessel. Four of these birds were caught by hand for later release at Montauk—a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Myrtle Warbler, a Chipping Sparrow, and a White-throated Sparrow. Upon their capture, each bird was visually checked for fat deposits and all appeared to have depleted their reserves. Had they not been able to land on our boat all would probably have perished—one can only guess at the numbers of drifted migrants lost at sea in this process of natural selection.

The more notable rarities included in this report are Manx Shearwater, Fulvous Tree-Duck, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Boat-tailed Grackle. New highs were recorded for Common Eider and Red-breasted Nuthatch, while Cliff Swallow, Blackburnian Warbler and Summer Tanager set new departure dates.

Contributors frequently cited: HRA—Harold and Rachel Axtell; PB—Paul Buckley; BC—Barbara Conolly; TD—Thomas Davis; GK—Georges Kleinbaum; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; PL—Paul Lehman; EL—Emanuel Levine; RP—Robert Paxton; DP—Dennis Puleston; BS—Barbara Spencer; HT—Helene Tetrault; CW—Cornelius Ward; JY—John Yrizarry.

LOONS—DUCKS: Cattle Egret: Oct 10 Tobay (BC). Louisiana Heron: individuals lingered at both JBWR (mob) and Oak Beach marsh (PB) through the period—further details in next season's report. *FULVOUS TREE-DUCK*: 11 Nov 13–19 North Hills (Alex Summers, TD, PB, BS, et al)—seen with semi-wild Mallards on a pond at the Links Golf Course, photographed by Davis Finch this constitutes the 8th Regional record—not noted locally since the fall of 1966. European Widgeon: 5 individuals reported—Oct 7 JBWR (fide BS); 2 Oct 17 through period at Southaven County pk (DP et al); Oct 29 through period at Babylon (TD et al); Nov 24 Hook Pond (PL et al). Tufted Duck: drake Nov 25 through period at Belmont Lake State Pk (M. Gochfeld et al)—probably same bird as present here last winter. Harlequin Duck: female arr Nov 17 at Montauk Pt (PB, RP)—extremely early. Common Eider: big explosion in numbers at Montauk Pt this fall—arr there on Oct 16 (6), 200 to 400 on Nov 7 (PB, RP), increasing to 500+ by Nov 24 (PL et al)—previous arrival dates were Nov 2, 4 and 8 to ..., previous high was 200 on Nov 16, 1969.

HAWKS—OWLS: Golden Eagle: Oct 15 Jones (CW). Goshawk: the largest numbers ever were recorded inland this fall, a fact mirrored only in part along the coast; individuals were reported from JBWR to Montauk Pt; about a dozen birds were noted in the intensively birded Jones Beach area, according to C. Ward and others; Ward reported 3 birds at Jones one day in November, "which equals the total number of Goshawks I've seen there in the last 20 years." Buff-breasted

Sandpiper: Sep 2 Jones (EL, CW)—the *only* one reported this fall. American Avocet: Aug 17–30 Tobay Pond (mob). Snowy Owl: Nov 23 JFK Airport (R. Cohen)—the only report. Saw-whet Owl: Fire Island Light banding station totals (D. Ford, PB et al)—11 on Oct 26, 6 on Nov 4, max of 12 on Nov 11, 4 on Nov 17, 5 on Nov 18, 7 on Nov 19.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: max 300–400 between 1930–2045 hours on Aug 29 at Bronx Pk (E. Maguire). Red-headed Woodpecker: max recorded on Oct 14—an adult at Tobay, and immatures at Jones Beach, Fire Island, and Montauk Pt (mob). Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 on Oct 26 at Fire Island Light (RP)—an extraordinary number for the coast. Western Kingbird: about 11 individuals were noted this season, all from Long Island. Least Flycatcher: collected Oct 14 at Fire Island Light (TD)—specimen to AMNH, previous late records are "...to Oct 4, Oct 9, 1965, and Nov 8, 1970." Cliff Swallow: Oct 15 Riis Pk (R. Pasquier)—latest Regional record. Blue Jay: max 1000+ in 45 minutes on Sep 24 at Garvies Pt (Al Bell). Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 300 Sep 23 at Owl's Head Pk and Riis Pk (R. Claremont et al)—highest Regional count. *SAGE THRASHER*: Oct 22 Jones Beach State Pk (PL et al). Northern Shrike: imm Oct 27 Fire Island (PB)—extremely early; Nov 23 Jones Beach State Pk (CW); imm Nov 26 through period at JBWR (R. Harrison et al).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Cape May Warbler: 3 Aug 20 JBWR (EL)—early, but this species has been increasing dramatically the last few years, especially along the coast in the fall. Blackburnian Warbler: Nov 3 Lake Ronkonkoma (R. Welch)—well described, the latest Regional record by several days. Kentucky Warbler: banded Oct 1 Manorville (G. Raynor)—extremely late. Hooded Warbler: male Oct 9 Montauk Pt (JY, HT)—extremely late. American Redstart: Nov 7 JBWR (TD); Nov 16 North Hills (F. File et al); imm female banded Nov 19 Brookhaven (DP)—generally rare after October.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Yellow-headed Blackbird: "adult male" Oct 15 Larchmont (PL et al)—"seen in flight." "Icterus sp.": an oriole seen as close as 35 feet at Montauk Pt on Nov 29 was termed a Bullock's (HRA)—at the close of a 2 pp. close-spaced typewritten report the observers state that "there was no tendency toward intermediate or hybrid coloration. Within the report, however, they mention that the "upper tail coverts had a still smaller area of still duller yellowish" (than the under tail coverts); in your editors' experience with museum specimens, Baltimores tend to have rumps that are paler than their backs, tinged with yellow or yellow-orange, while Bullock's Orioles tend to have rumps concolor with their backs or a slightly paler shade of gray-brown; this is not to say that this bird was not a "pure" Bullock's, but the chance of its being a hybrid cannot be ruled out. *BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE*: female Oct 14 Montauk Pt (HRA)—other than the bird which repeated for several years at Far Rockaway, this is the only the 3rd State record, both observers are familiar with the species.

Summer Tanager: first year male Nov 24-Dec 2 Montauk Pt (mob)—frequented the pine grove near the Point; photographs by M. Aronson were examined at the Dec 12 Linnaean Society meeting by the editors and others, and confirmed as being of this species; this is the latest Regional record by over a month. Blue Grosbeak: 2 reports—Sep 7 Riis Pk (H. Fischer) and Oct 9 Montauk Pt (JY, HT). Dickcissel: arr Aug 19 at Jones (S. Dempsey, EL). Pine Grosbeak: a total of 9 individuals were noted on the coast—Nov 1 Fire Island Light (PB); 2 Nov 4 Fire Island Light (D. Ford); 2 Nov 16 Fire Island Light (PB, RP); Nov 23 Jones (CW); 3 Nov 27 Riis Pk (R. Velt). Pine Siskin: arr Oct 9 at Jones Beach State Pk (TD); max 50+ Nov 16 Fire Island Light (PB, RP). American Goldfinch: max 1000 Nov 16 Fire Island Light (PB, RP). Red Crossbill: max 300 Nov 7 Fire Island Light (fide PB); 60 Nov 4 Riis Pk (H. McGuiness)—the only other reports were of small flocks of

10-20 individuals during Nov along the coast. White-winged Crossbill: 8 Nov 16 Fire Island Light (PB, RP)—this season's only report. Clay-colored Sparrow: netted and banded at Brookhaven on Oct 31 (DP). Snow Bunting: max 1000+ Nov 18 at West End, Jones Beach State Pk (BC)—an extremely high count for so early a date.

Note: Please send spring reports by June 8.

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1973 FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

Small cabins of native wood and lodges with rooms lined with the rarest of veneers sit side by side. The Forstmann Estate, acquired by the YMCA from the Forstmann woolen industry family, is in the heart of the Catskill Forest Preserve. Biscuit Brook's crystal clear waters begin at over 3,000 feet beneath a moss-carpeted and leaf-littered hardwood forest falling rapidly to 2,000 feet as it cuts through our camp.

The N.Y.S. Federation of Bird Clubs will convene at this "Frost Valley YMCA," May 18-20, for its annual meeting. The YMCA facility, at the base of Doubletop Mountain, often serves as a site for environmental education programs. The Sullivan County Audubon Society, in cooperation with the YMCA, expect to make this one of your most memorable weekends.

Tentatively, only two long (time or distance) field trips are planned; one to Slide Mountain—the highest of the Catskills and the chance to glimpse an elusive thrush; and a second to the Basherkill previously described in the May 1972 *Kingbird*. All other trips will take place on the many trails in the vicinity of camp. We expect that the weekend's bird data collected by Federation members and collated by the Sullivan County Audubon Society will add to later programs of this fine environmental education center.

The costs of the weekend should be about \$30/person. This includes both room and board. Our greatest difficulty is one of room assignment. We are committed to cabins and lodges with varying degrees of privacy. Many rooms serve from 4 to 8 persons although *a few* are available which serve 2 or 3. Upon reading this, please contact other club members and consider a group room reservation. It will make our job easier and we would be most appreciative.

May 18 will be here soon and the Sullivan County Audubon Society looks forward to meeting and sharing with you the natural wonders of this Catskill paradise.

Martin Borko, President, Sullivan County Audubon Society