



Long-billed Curlew – North Line Island, Nassau Co.
 Photograph by Thomas H. Davis July 5, 1975

Long-billed Curlew on Long Island: On July 4, 1975, while birding in a boat on South Oyster Bay, Nassau County, the authors noted concentrations of shorebirds on North Line Island. Allowing the boat to drift toward the island, we saw large expanses of sand bars and shallow pools of water. By dragging the boat through these pools, we were able to get quite close to the birds, which had apparently come to roost on the island with the onset of high tide. (See report Region No. 10, *Kingbird*, Vol. XXV, no. 4 for details of this area and summary of species observed.)

At approximately 2:30 P.M., a large russet-colored shorebird was noticed roosting on one leg, with its head tucked into its wing. The boat's drift took us to within 15 to 20 feet of the bird. It noticed us and began moving away. We observed it closely for 10 minutes and then it took flight and gave call as it settled down on an adjacent hassock of sand and grass. We determined that it was a Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). This is the first confirmed state record of this bird since Aug. 11, 1938, when a bird was seen at Georgica Pond, Suffolk Co., by William T. Helmuth. The bird remained in the vicinity of North Line Island until July 30, 1975.

Bent (1929) and Bull (1974) state that this bird was in the 19th century a regular and plentiful fall and spring migrant on the coast of Long Island. Market hunting and the eradication of breeding areas east of the Mississippi River reduced its numbers to the point where Bent considered it a rare straggler on the Atlantic Coast. A review of recent issues of *American Birds* indicates that the Long-billed Curlew is seen somewhat regularly on the Eastern seaboard as far north as Virginia and the Carolinas.

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