

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Winter Wren breeding on Long Island: On 19 June 1976, the author, with Thomas W. Burke, Diane Deagan, Robert O. Paxton, Barbara Spencer and Guy A. Tudor found evidence that a pair of Winter Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) was breeding at Connetquot River State Park, near the town of Islip, Suffolk County. Upon our arrival at the park's fish hatchery we immediately heard a singing Winter Wren in adjacent swampy deciduous forest. Later, about 60 yards distant, we startled a group of three Winter Wrens from a thick tangle of vegetation surrounding the base of a fallen tree. Two of these birds were obviously recently fledged; they showed prominent gape marks, had tails noticeably shorter than that of the accompanying adult, and constantly begged food from the third, unmarked, silent bird. On 26 June, Paxton again noted the male singing in this area.

John Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 413) notes that Winter Wrens occupy two distinct nesting habitats in New York State—montane evergreen forest and lowland bogs and swamps. The species has previously been reported breeding as far southeast as Westchester Co., where it is rare and local. There is no evidence that the species has attempted to breed on Long Island before.

Interestingly, other northern species breed or have bred at Connetquot River State Park within this Winter Wren's territory. Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) are common, and Canada Warblers (*Wilsonia canadensis*) nested here in 1971 (*The Kingbird*, 21: 246, 1971).

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Yellow-nosed Albatross at Croton Point, Westchester County: The center of Hurricane "Belle" struck central Long Island about midnight August 9 and, continuing straight inland, passed about 50 miles east of the Hudson River Valley in the early morning hours.

The authors spent the morning of the 10th birding the bay, fields and marshes of Croton Point, noting only greater than normal numbers of Common Terns and Laughing Gulls. At noon we stationed ourselves on the southern tip of the point, a 30 foot high bluff extending southwest into the Hudson River. The rain had stopped and the wind was 25 mph from the northwest.

At about 1 p.m. we saw a Royal Tern flying south along the river, a second county record. (The first, unpublished, was of two birds at Rye, July 20, 1975, seen by Paul Lehman, Jim Coe and Berna Weissman.)

At 1:40 an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) sud-

denly appeared from Croton Bay on the east side of the point, accompanied by several Great Black-backed Gulls. Its wingspread was about a foot longer than that of the gulls. Its mantle, upper wings and tail were black, its rump, body and face white, with the nape and back of the head suffused with gray. As it rounded the point it flapped twice, shearwater-style, on stiff, narrow wings, revealing their undersides to be white with a well-defined narrow black edge all around. Continuing north along the point the bird passed within 30 feet of us, about 15 feet below eye level. At that time a bright yellow stripe running the length of the culmen of its massive, blunt-tipped, black bill was clearly seen, both with and without binoculars. The bird disappeared from view to the north and, in spite of intensive searching throughout the Hudson River Valley the next day, was not seen again.

Hurricane "Belle" brought other pelagic strays in its wake. Several Bridled and Sooty Terns and many Leach's Storm-petrels were reported on the coast. A White-faced Storm-petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) was found dead August 11 at Milford Point, Connecticut. At least 30 Leach's Storm-petrels were scattered along the Connecticut River Valley into New Hampshire. (Reports *fide* T. H. Davis.).

We understand this is the second New York State record for Yellow-nosed Albatross, and the first inland. Other East Coast reports of this species this summer were immatures noted August 20, 40 miles west of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and August 21 at Cox's Ledge, 40 miles ESE of Montauk Point, New York.

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Common Eider in Elmira: At mid-afternoon, 25 April 1976, I observed a female Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) about 1/4 mile west of the Walnut Street Bridge on the Chemung River in Elmira, Chemung Co. It was in the vicinity of a mixed flock of diving ducks including several Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*), three female Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), one male Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), and one female and two male scaups (*Aythya* sp.). The female eider accompanied the three scaups at all times. It attracted my attention because it did not have the white face of a female scaup, and because it was much larger than any of the scaups. When I viewed the bird from behind, I noted that its girth was much greater than that of a male scaup less than two feet to her right. The eider was entirely brown, except for the bill which was all blackish. The left side of the face had a buffy eye ring and a faint buffy line that arched back and downward from the eye ring. The right side of the face also had a buffy eye ring, but the line was fainter so that it did not appear to be connected to the eye ring. Because of the large size, chunky shape, brown color,