

gressive territorial bird singing at Butler Sanct. West on Jun. 20. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 in full song moving south along the Basher Kill Aug. 21 (BS). Mourning Warbler: 1st Aug. 14-15 Pleasant Valley; another Jun. 6-7 at Skidmore Sanct. was a spring migrant. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report, 1 Mine Rd. Jun. 6. Wilson's Warbler: 1st Aug. 28, Red Oaks Mill. Canada Warbler: 1 ad Thompson Pd. Jul. 2; 2 on HPC-1 and 4 on HPC-2; more summer records than usual; 3 females and 1 male at Butler Sanct. Jun. 20 (WH); first migrants Dutch Aug. 14.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Indigo Bunting: numbers up thru region. Purple Finch: 2 on HPC-1 and 5 on HPC-2. House Finch: continues to increase esp east of Hudson R. Pine Siskin: 1 Pleasantville Jun. 5; several at feeders in Monticello area thru period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a singing male at Croton Pt. Jun. 10 was not seen thereafter. Vesper Sparrow: Waterman Club is keeping records on every bird due to scarcity; 4 reports in Jul. Dutchess Co. Dark-eyed Junco: singles on HPC-1 and HPC-2.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

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The mean temperature for the three months of June, July and August was 73.2° F, 74.8° F, and 74.4° F respectively and the rainfall was 2.78, 1.42 and 6.52 inches. The seemingly high rainfall in August was caused mainly by Hurricane Belle but this total added to the other months total equals 10.72 inches of rain, or less than half last summer's record 22.4 inches for the same period.

The summer season, with the exception of Hurricane Belle, was rather uneventful; which is akin to saying, "with the exception of getting run over by a tank it was a quiet day." The hurricane is discussed at length elsewhere in this issue (see page 184).

The various breeding bird censuses taken in the area reflected no alarming declines although mention was made in each report of the loss of nesting habitat due to developments and road construction. Two interesting increases were noted on the south shore: on August 28 Paul Gillen reported 57 Am. Oystercatchers in one group on Middle Line Island in South Oyster Bay and in late August the writer (AJL) saw 10 Louisiana Herons on Tobay Pond. Such numbers are unprecedented. The most interesting find of the breeding bird censuses was that of a pair of Winter Wrens with two recently fledged young at Connetquot River State Park; a first for Long Island. Another interesting breeding record occurred on Staten Island when a pair of Pine Siskins also with two recently fledged young were found, which appears to be the first coastal record for the region.

Despite extensive searching, no nest was found for the Chuck-will's-widow at Oak Beach although a singing bird was present from June 1 to June 15.

JUNE COUNTS: The Northern Nassau count reported 118 species and 11,366 individuals with an overall stability of numbers when assessed from a three year period of data collection. Species indicating a decline were Green Herons, Least Terns, and Bank Swallows. The reason for this decline is reduction of nesting habitat. A steady decline in number of Rufous-sided Towhees for the three year period was also noted. Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Mockingbirds, Common Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers were the biggest gainers. Also of note was the finding of two nests of Red-breasted Nuthatches.

The Central Suffolk County count reported 135 species totaling 16,909 birds which was about 2,000 more than reported last year. 113 of these species are known breeders or probable breeders in the area, 7 might breed and 15 definitely do not. The most uncommon of the known breeders or probable breeders were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Turkey, Upland Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Green Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. 156 species have been recorded in two years. The most numerous species in the area were Red-winged Blackbird, Common Tern, Herring Gull, Common Grackle, House Sparrow, Mourning Dove and Am. Robin. Birds showing an increase in numbers were Clapper Rail, Am. Oystercatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, most resident warblers, particularly the Prairie Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Purple Finch, Chipping Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. Species in lower numbers than last year were Black Duck, Piping Plover, Roseate Tern, Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, American Redstart, Indigo Bunting and Grasshopper Sparrow. Egrets and herons were distributed throughout the area but no nesting colony was found.

The Captree Count was reduced in coverage because of lack of birders and the area covered was basically Connetquot River State Park, Heckscher State Park and the estate area of Islip Township. The count reached a total of 3,742 individuals of 94 species. The highlight of the count was a pair of Winter Wrens with young (see above). 14 Red Crossbills were found in Connetquot but no evidence of breeding was noted. Only 2 pair of E. Bluebirds were present which is low for Connetquot. Six Willow Flycatchers were found in the count area along with 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and 12 species of warblers.

The second Sea Cliff count which censused birds in a one mile square area found the species count down (65 in 1975, 41 in 1976) and the total numbers down (1542 in 1975 and 1006 in 1976). As in 1975, the most noteworthy individual was an Acadian Flycatcher. Some loss of habitat was noted. Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Crow, American Robin, Starling, Cardinal and House Finch were the losers and Song Sparrow and Common Grackle the gainers. Perhaps after a few years, a trend will appear which will make year to year comparisons meaningful.

The shorebirds at North Line Island were reduced both in species and numbers although this area continued to be the local hot spot for waders. A pair of Gull-billed Terns was found breeding on Great Island, adjacent to North Line Island, but the one chick that hatched disappeared one week after initial discovery.

PELAGIC TRIPS TO COX'S LEDGE:

June 12 (THD, PAB, FGS, *et al.*) 1 Manx, 16 Sooty, 9 Greater, 1 Cory's Shearwaters, 10 Wilson's Storm-petrels, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 2 Royal Terns.

July 16 (J. Witzeman, S & K Mejlinger) 30 Sooty, 75 Greater, 1 Manx Shearwaters, 40 Wilson's Storm-petrels.

August 14 (THD, RWS, TWB, J. Gee, B & JT) 2 Sooty, 3 Greater, 56 Cory's Shearwaters, 23 Wilson's Storm-petrels.

Observers: JA—Jim Ash; JC—Joe Costa; FB—Fran Buckley; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; TWB—Thomas W. Burke; THD—Thomas H. Davis; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; BL—Brook Lauro; ROP—Robert O. Paxton; PL—Paul Lehman; GSR—Gilbert S. Raynor.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: several summered in the area, 1 at Fire Island Inlet (AJL), 1 June 6 Orient, 2 Aug. 10 Shinnecock. Pied-billed Grebe: brood of 4 half-grown young with adults, July 31, Poxabogue Pond (GSR). Cory's Shearwater: 15 Aug. 10 Shinnecock Bay (mob). Leach's Storm-petrels, Wilson's Storm-petrels, several of each and the Cory's Shearwaters were seen in Shinnecock Bay on Aug. 10 as result of Hurricane Belle. (see details this issue).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: GOSHAWK: Aug. 6 Great Gull Island (mob) rare in summer. Peregrine Falcon: a pair was seen on August 3 in midtown Manhattan. A harbinger of a return to the good old days when these birds nested across the Hudson River on the Palisades and hunted in the city? (TWB). Am. Oystercatcher: 57 on Middle Line Island August 28 (P. Gillen). Am. Golden Plover: early migrant July 20 at Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). Whimbrel: 10 Aug. 7 Moriches Inlet (GSR) 22 North Line Island Aug. 17 (mob). Lesser Yellowlegs: large numbers this year, 300 July 20 at Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). **CURLEW SANDPIPER:** 1 JBWR Aug. 28 to Sept. 3 (N. Wagerrik, JA, THD *et al.*). Stilt Sandpiper: arr. Jun. 27 2 at Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). Western Sandpiper: 3 July 31 Mecox Bay (GSR). Marbled Godwit: 2 July 26 to Aug. 15 North Line Island (mob), 2 Aug. 18 to Aug. 21 JBWR (mob). 1 Aug. 14 Sagaponack (GSR). Hudsonian Godwit: 3 Aug. 7 and 2 Aug. 14 Moriches Inlet (GSR). **BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Jun. 29 JBWR (J. Bode *et al.*), photographed. Ruff: female Aug. 30, Pilgrim State Hospital (AJL, F. File). Avocet: 1 imm Aug. 15-16 Tobay (JC *et al.*), 2 imm Aug. 29 Pilgrim State Hospital (R. Laskowsky, AJL, BL). Wilson's Phalarope: female Jun. 17-20 JBWR (JA, *et al.*), Jul. 20 Oak Beach Marsh (ROP), July 25 to Aug. 22 JBWR (mob), 2 imm Aug. 30 Pilgrim State Hospital (AJL, F. File). Northern Phalarope: Jun. 19 Moriches Inlet (T. Van't Hof). Black-headed Gull: 1 adult Jul. 10-26 Great Kills Park, Staten Island, 1 adult South Line Island Aug. 14 (mob). This gull is becoming somewhat regular in the region at any season. Royal Tern: 1 Jun. 15 Breezy Point (JA), 1 Jun. 19 Westhampton Beach (L. Perry), 2 Aug. 13 and 3 Aug. 14 Shinnecock (GSR). Caspian Tern: 1 Jul. 20 JBWR (J. Wagerik), 1 Aug. 24 JBWR (JA). **BRIDLED TERN:** an immature bird was seen in Shinnecock Canal after Hurricane Belle (PAB, FB, RWS, PL, AJL). **SANDWICH TERN:** an adult was seen by (ROP) at Moriches Inlet on Aug. 11 after Hurricane Belle.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: a pair of Barn Owls hatched 5 young at Hoyt Farm Park (R. Giffen). (GSR) reported only 4 Common Nighthawks in his area to Aug. 22. Numbers seem to be off this year. Red-headed Woodpecker: late migrants were seen on Jun. 10 at Jones Beach and Jun. 11 at Alley Pond Park by (L. Schore).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: WINTER WREN: 2 adults and fledged young Jun. 19 Connetquot State Park (THD, ROP, GT, TWB, D. Deagan). First L.I. breeding record.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 Jun. 5, July 8 and July 17 Manorville, (GSR) reports this bird present sporadically every summer but no evidence of breeding. Prothonotary Warbler: singing male Jun. 5 Shu Swamp, Mil Neck (B. Spencer), late migrant not seen again. 1 Jun. 5 Flanders (GSR). Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 July 29, Upton (GSR).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: PINE SISKIN: pair with 2 recently fledged young Jun. 19 New Dorp Staten Island (W. & N. Siebenheller). First coastal record. European Goldfinch: 1 at feeder in Brookhaven July 18 to Aug. 31 (GSR), escape? White-throated Sparrow: lingering birds to July 8 Woodhaven (THD), to mid-Jun. at JBWR (JA).

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