

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Wawarsing Sept. 4. 18 individuals reported over 14 days there. Last Oct. 21. Snow Bunting: 1 over Hook Mt. Oct. 21. Reported sev times in Nov. at Ashokan. Max 350 SA Nov. 10.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

The weather for the fall season can be described by a single statistic—22.04 inches of rain! Storms came from all directions and one wonders how the birds knew where to go. The average temperatures for the period were Sept. 68.2, Oct. 54.9, Nov. 47.3. Average rainfall: Sept. 4.75 in., Oct. 5.03 in., Nov. 12.26 in.

The results of the fall migration can be best characterized as paradoxical. Without exception, all correspondents reported low numbers of passerines, but we have on record the largest concentrated hawk migration ever noted on the barrier beach and we have an extraordinarily long list of rare and unusual species.

The low number of passerines can of course be attributed to the constantly wet weather, with rain falling on at least seven of the thirteen available weekends, but no ready explanation for the high numbers of rarities springs to mind. Migrants evidently passed over the top and around the sides of the local meteorological disturbances. An extremely heavy northeaster on the night of October 14-15 was undoubtedly the main factor in the virtual absence of the annual October sparrow and kinglet inundation of the shore areas on Long Island. Only small numbers of these birds were reported and this after birders had bemoaned the lack of a September vireo and warbler flight! The season was indeed saved by the quality, if not the quantity, of available birds. Maybe everyone worked harder, or perhaps strays occur no matter what the weather is in a given area.

Heartening trends noted were the continued increase of Ospreys with over 100 birds reported, with 29 seen in one day by one observer; a general increase in Cooper's Hawks with 15 birds counted, and at least 35 Peregrine Falcons seen along the barrier beaches.

A low count of 7 Dickcissels leads to speculation that this may confirm the concern that this bird may be in a general decline (see Fretwell, *American Birds*, 31: 923-932).

An interesting banding operation was conducted on Great Gull Island from April 29 through October 11. 2052 birds of 89 species were banded including: 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks; 4 Acadian Flycatchers, all in June; 1 Orange-crowned Warbler (first record for Great Gull); 9 Blackburnian Warblers; 51 Bay-breasted Warblers; 425 Blackpoll Warblers, with 402 from Sept. 3 to Oct. 8 and 123 on Sept. 23, the highest one-day total of Blackpoll Warblers recorded in the state in this century; 2 Kentucky Warblers on Apr. 30 and Sept. 10; 3 Connecticut Warblers; 5 Mourning Warblers; 1 Hooded Warbler.

This editor recommends to birders a local "hot spot" on the barrier beach of Long Island. It is Parking Field No. 2 at Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island. Located at the western end of Fire Island, this area seems to attract and hold migrant passerines, while migrant hawks can be seen to advantage from the northeast corner of the parking field. Passerines favor the surrounding pines and pelagic species can be seen from the beach front. Pelagics can readily be found during inclement weather and can be observed from the shelter of the pavilion building. The following species were seen from the environs of Park-

ing Field No. 2 this fall: Skua, Noddy Tern, Say's Phoebe, Pine Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, at least 3 Western Kingbirds, numerous hawks and several Parasitic Jaegers, and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Rarities for the season were Northern Fulmar, Brown Booby, White Ibis, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Skua, Noddy Tern, Black Guillemot, Varied Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Wheatear, Bell's Vireo, Brewer's Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle. A salute to the birders of Region 10 for this fine list, in the face of horrible birding weather.

Site initials used: HLSP—Hempstead Lake State Park; JBSP—Jones Beach State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park.

Observers initials: (JA) Jim Ash, (SBD) Stephen B. Dempsey, (TWB) Thomas W. Burke, (THD) Thomas H. Davis, (WB) Wilma Bauman, (DL) Dave Larsen, (AJL) Anthony J. Lauro, (ML) Manny Levine, (ROP) Robert O. Paxton, (GSR) Gilbert S. Raynor, (JR) John Rusica, (LS) Lore Schore, (RWS) Robert W. Smart, (BS) Barbara Spencer, (SS) Sy Schiff, (AW) Al Wollin.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: 1 Nov. 5 Montauk Point (JA), 1 Nov. 3 JBSP (ML). **NORTHERN FULMAR:** the greatest fulmar flight ever reported in the region occurred on Sept. 24 when 59 birds were seen on a pelagic trip out of Montauk to Cox's Ledge and 24 birds were seen that morning from land at Democrat Point, Fire Island (see pelagic reports). On Nov. 10 a decomposed fulmar was found at JBSP on the bay side of the beach by W. Wilkins. The skull was placed in the collection of the American Museum. H. Richards and S. Chevalier saw 2 **BROWN BOOBIES** fly in off the ocean, swing around and fly back out at Riis Park on Sept. 29. The observers presented good field marks for the two adults. AJL counted 2,500 Double-crested Cormorants migrating along the Jones Beach strip on Oct. 16, the same day that JR noted 600 in the Shinnecock area. There were 18 Cattle Egrets lingering to Oct. 5 at JFK Airport (JA) and a Louisiana Heron also lingered to Nov. 26 at Tobay Pond (J. Hastings, SS, AW, ML). Residual birds of the summer's influx of **WHITE IBIS** into the area were noted Sept. 4 at JBWR (M. & H. Hopkins) and Sept. 11 at Montauk (JA). The Montauk bird flew in from the ocean, circled Montauk Point and departed in a westerly direction. Both birds were immature as were all birds of the summer flight. 17 Whistling Swans were at their usual haunt at Hook Pond, Easthampton through the end of the period (mob). There was a massive (for our area) flight of Snow Geese on Nov. 6, when over 2,000 were noted flying over Metropolitan New York and at least 1,000 flew west over the barrier beach area of Long Island (mob). The most exciting waterfowl find of the season occurred on Nov. 20 when 18 **FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCKS** were found at Hempstead Lake State Park by SBD. R. Dieterich, *et al.* 16 promptly left but the other 2 remained until Nov. 28. SBD also found 35 Surf Scoters at Hempstead Lake on Oct. 16, a most unusual locale for this marine duck. A drake Harlequin Duck was present from Sept. 2 to Oct. 29 at the Jones Inlet. A hunter shot a male Harlequin in early Nov. in the Freeport area and since the Jones Inlet is directly south of Freeport, the dead bird was probably the Jones Inlet bird. There were good numbers of eiders at Montauk throughout the period, about 300 Common and 5 King.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: (see end of report for details of hawk flights). A **GOLDEN EAGLE** was seen flying over JBSP on Oct. 23 by SS, AW and a sub-adult Bald Eagle was reported from Connetquot SP Sept. 23 by G. Bergin. P. Bernarth had 50 Marsh Hawks on Sept. 29 at Riis Park, possibly a new high count for this bird. ML had a dark phase and also a light phase Rough-legged Hawk at JBSP on Nov. 13, and a dark phase **GYRFALCON** at HLSP on Nov. 9. The pair of Peregrine Falcons that summered in midtown Manhattan, were still present in mid-October. DL, GSR had a late Sora at Hook Pond, Easthampton on Nov. 5. There were good counts of Am. Golden Plovers in the area as follows: 60 Sept. 6 Sagaponack (THD); 150 Sept. 9 Sagaponack (JA); 40 Sept. 17 Sagaponack (JA); 25 Sept. 12-29 JFK Airport (S. Chevalier *et al.*); 50 Wading River Oct. 1 (JR); 17 Oct. 5, 15 Nov. 3 (late for

so many) JFK (S. Chevalier). JA had 2 Baird's Sandpipers on Sept. 16 at Mecox Bay and 2 more from Oct. 2 to Oct. 23 at Sagaponack, where he also had 43 Buff-breasted Sandpipers on Sept. 3 and 70 on Sept. 9 and 15 Sept. 17. Other Buff-breasted reports were: 1 Sept. 5 JBWR (R. Arbib); 11 Sept. 12-29 JFK Airport, 2 Oct. 5 JFK (S. Chevalier); 2 Sept. 24 Heckscher SP (M. Cooper). 1 Hudsonian Godwit lingered to Sept. 3 at JBWR (mob) where an American Avocet also tarried to the same date. 3 Wilson's Phalaropes were present at JBWR until Sept. 17 (JA) and 4 more were counted at the Oak Beach Marsh on Sept. 18 (ROP). BS noted a SKUA harassing gulls in the surf off RMSP Fire Island Oct. 1. DL had a second year Iceland Gull on Hook Pond, Easthampton Nov. 25. 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: subadult Nov. 15-20 Riis Park (JA *et al.*); adult Nov. 19 JBSP (J. Yrizarry, J. Wall); 2 subadults Nov. 20 Mecox Bay (JA, C. McKeever). JA noted an adult Black-headed Gull at HLSP on Nov. 21 and on Oct. 29 DL, GSR had a Black-headed Gull at the Jones Inlet and the Fire Island Inlet. A remarkable flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes was commented upon by many correspondents, with the main concentration at Montauk Point with lesser numbers extending west to the Moriches Inlet. (see Pelagic Trips and Offshore Flights below). One of the prime reasons for this concentration was an extremely heavy run of Sand Lance, a small bait fish, which attracted feeding flocks of predatory Laridae to the beach areas. The maximum count of Royal Terns for the period at Shinnecock was 41 Oct. 10 (J. Bloss, S. Birnbach), while the maximum for Caspian Tern was 20 on Oct. 8 from Mecox Bay to Georgica Pond (P. A. Buckley). Of course the Larid of the year was the **NODDY TERN** that JA picked out of a northeaster at RMSP on Nov. 8. This species has never been reported before in the state (see "Notes and Observations.") DL, GSR had two outstanding alcids at the Shinnecock Inlet on Nov. 25: Razorbill and the very rare **BLACK GUILLEMOT**.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: GSR, JR had a late Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Upton on Oct. 28. An unexpected rarity on the barrier beach was a Great Horned Owl found on Oct. 24 at RMSP (A. Dignan, H. Darrow). GSR had a Saw-whet Owl under unusual circumstances on Nov. 13; the bird was flying (how many of you have ever *found* a Saw-whet in flight?) over a salt marsh at Shinnecock; he also had another Saw-whet at JBWR on Nov. 19. Although ROP had a very late Com. Nighthawk on Nov. 10 at Gilgo Beach, most correspondents noted a scarcity of the bird this fall. R. Kelly discovered a Red-bellied Woodpecker at RMSP on Oct. 23. Very few reports of Red-headed Woodpecker were received, about 7, all from the south shore.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Anybody who wanted to see a Western Kingbird should have seen one this year. There were at least 18 reported and 3 were together at RMSP to the end of the period. R. Hines, A. Dignan, C. Ward found a **SAY'S PHOEBE** at RMSP on Oct. 23, Dignan got photos of the bird. DL noted 2 late Purple Martins at Montauk Oct. 15, and Montauk also was the locale for an extremely late Barn Swallow on Nov. 26 (mob). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Riis Park on Oct. 7 by J. Yrizarry. Lawrence Nature Sanctuary provided a **VARIED THRUSH** on Nov. 3-4 (L. & L. Goldman, JA). Eastern Bluebirds were found by: 1 (AW, SS) JBSP Oct. 23; 1 Sept. 5 Manorville (GSR); 1 Nov. 14 Brookhaven (Karen Rowley). The first record of a **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** for Long Island was cinched by Mike Beyer when his photos confirmed the record Nov. 15 at JBSP. The bird was sitting atop goldenrod at West End. Photos also were taken of a **WHEATEAR** in the backyard of Bertel Bruun at Westhampton Oct. 16-23. An immature Northern Shrike was present from Nov. 26 to the end of the period at Montauk (JA). 6 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported: 1 each at: Sept. 10 Sagaponack (JA *et al.*); Sept. 1 Pilgrim State Hosp (SBD); Oct. 22 Riis Park (B. & W. Baumann); Oct. 22 Bridgehampton (JA); Oct. 29-Nov. 5 Sagaponack (JA); Nov. 26 Montauk (mob).

VIREOS-WARBLED: H. Darrow, A. Dignan, AJL had a White-eyed Vireo at RMSP Nov. 20—a new late date. GSR reported a Yellow-throated Vireo at Manorville Sept. 1 to Sept. 12, "singing almost daily"—possible breeder? Al Lindberg gave excellent field notes for

a BELL'S VIREO he found singing on Sept. 12 at the Wellwyn Estate, Glen Cove. BS had an unusual fall warbler, when she turned up a male Prothonotary Warbler at Garvies Point Preserve, Glen Cove. Another unexpected fall migrant was a Worm-eating Warbler banded by GSR on the late date of Oct. 22 at Manorville. SS & AW spotted a late Tennessee Warbler on Nov. 15 in Rockville Center. DL had an early Orange-crowned Warbler on Sept. 27 at Montauk. Our roll call of late date warblers continues with a Blackburnian Warbler photographed by SS, AW on Nov. 13 at JBSP. The bird was feeding on the ground. When you migrate with the sparrows you eat with the sparrows. Our last late date parulid was a Magnolia Warbler found on Nov. 25 at RMSP. A total of 7 Connecticut Warblers was reported, mostly from the south shore of the island, no Mourning Warblers, however, with the exception of the 5 at Great Gull (see intro).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: RMSP was, as stated above, the hot spot this fall. GSR, DL, R. Adamo spotted one of the best birds of the season when they had a female BREWER'S BLACKBIRD east of the water tower on Oct. 8. Two female BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES were discovered in Queens: 1 Oct. 10 Riis Park (WB, LS *et al.*); 1 Oct. 22 Queens Botanical Garden (A. & H. Richards). Nina Combes of Elwood was surprised to find a subadult male Summer Tanager at her feeder on Nov. 16. The bird favored bread crumbs and concern mounted over the bird's ability to make a successful flight to the tropics. The bird was captured and arrangements were made to ferry the bird south. Last fall, note was made that Blue Grosbeaks were becoming common at the Montauk dump. This trend is continuing and JA reports at least 7 Blue Grosbeak sightings from the Montauk area Sept. 18 to Oct. 22, and another 2 individuals, 1 from Fire Island on Sept. 29 and another on Sept. 23 from Lawrence. Evening Grosbeaks arrived at Riis Park Sept. 28 (JA) and a maximum of 100 was counted at Riis Oct. 22 (THD *et al.*). 1 Pine Grosbeak was noted at JBWR on Nov. 16 (A. & M. Penzer), and a female lingered from Nov. 11-18 at RMSP (mob). Pine Siskins were first seen at Montauk Point on Oct. 10 by JA who also counted 300 on Oct. 21 at Riis Park, where their numbers swelled to a maximum of 2,000 on Oct. 22 (THD, TWB *et al.*) and then a gradual subsidence to several dozen per day to the end of the period. Red Crossbills were first seen on Nov. 15 at JBSP (LS), with scattered small flocks reported along the south shore thereafter. 5 Lark Sparrows were reported: 1 each from Lawrence Sept. 5 (H. Hirschbein); Montauk Sept. 5 (JA); Riis Park Oct. 8 (M. Sohmer); Westhampton Beach Oct. 23 (A. & H. Richards, B. Bruun); Mecox Oct. 28 (JA). 2 Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from the barrier beach area: 1 Oct. 23 JBSP (SS, AW); 1 Nov. 20 RMSP (mob). The only numbers of White-crowned Sparrows reported were 50 at Montauk Oct. 23 (JA). The earliest date ever reported for a Lapland Longspur was that of Sept. 29 at Gilgo Beach (ROP). A maximum of 700 Snow Buntings was reported by S. Chevalier at JFK on Nov. 3.

PELAGIC TRIPS AND OFFSHORE FLIGHTS

Cox's Ledge Sept. 5 (JA, THS, BS): 108 Greater Shearwaters, 25 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 1 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 8 Northern Phalaropes, 5 Pomarine Jaegers, 2 Parasitic Jaegers, 2 unidentified jaegers.

Cox's Ledge Sept. 24 (THD, BS, SBD, D. Puleston, A. Cooley *et al.*): 59 NORTHERN FULMARS, 69 Greater Shearwaters, 12 Cory's Shearwaters, 3 Manx Shearwaters, 2 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 9 Gannets, 1 SKUA, 13 Pomarine Jaegers, 2 Parasitic Jaegers and 2 unidentified jaegers, 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Democrat Point, Fire Island, Sept. 24, 0730-1130 (AJL): 24 NORTHERN FULMARS (1 dark phase bird), 15 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 20 unidentified shearwaters, 20 Gannets, 1000 Laughing Gulls.

Cox's Ledge Oct. 8 (THD, BS): 2 Northern Fulmars, 11 Greater Shearwaters, 41 Cory's Shearwaters, 11 Pomarine Jaegers, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Eastern Long Island Offshore Flight, Oct. 9 (THD, P. Buckley): Montauk Point, 0700-1030: 50 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 10 Gannets, 3 Pomarine Jaegers,

3 Parasitic Jaegers, 1 Black Tern (very late).

Mecox, 1400-1500: 200 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 25 Gannets, 2 unidentified jaegers, 1 Black-legged Kittiwake.

Shinnecock Inlet, 1530-1600: 25 Cory's Shearwaters, 5 Gannets, 3 Parasitic Jaegers.

Montauk Point, Nov. 26, 0630-1630 (THD, JA, RWS, D. Crumb, B. Phinney, A. Clark *et al.*): 1 Manx Shearwater (record late date), 1 unidentified shearwater, over 300 Gannets, 1 Parasitic Jaeger (very late). 7,500 Black-legged Kittiwakes "(moving west to east *all* day, 'rivers' of birds observed in pm)," 1 Razorbill, 2 Dovekies.

COASTAL HAWK FLIGHTS

Robert Moses State Park, Sept. 28, 1130-1700 (D. Powers, *et al.*): 73 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Marsh Hawks, 4 Ospreys, 3 Peregrine Falcons, 117 Merlins (record high count), 478 Am. Kestrels.

Riis Park, Sept. 28, 0730-1330 (JA): 550 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 13 Marsh Hawks, 29 Ospreys, 45 Merlins, 375 Am. Kestrels.

Jones Beach-Fire Island, Sept. 29, 0700-1800 (H. Darrow, C. Ward, M. Levine, AW, JA, THD): 4 Goshawks, 2,000 plus Sharp-shinned Hawks, (record high), 1 Cooper's Hawk, 35 Marsh Hawks, 6 Ospreys, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 80 Merlins, 2500 Am. Kestrels (record high).

Robert Moses State Park: Oct. 3, 0830-1500 (C. Ward): 500 Sharp-shinned Hawks: 6 Marsh Hawks; 6 Ospreys, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 50 Merlins, 2,000 Am. Kestrels.

Robert Moses State Park, Oct. 4, 0800-1500 (C. Ward): 3 Goshawks, 100 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 8 Marsh Hawks, 6 Ospreys, 4 Peregrine Falcons, 80 Merlins, 1,500 Am. Kestrels.

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