

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The persistence of northeasterly winds following cold fronts, instead of the usual northwest winds, produced poor land bird flights and few hawk movements along the coast this fall. Only shorebirds appeared in good numbers. The Region's best shorebirding was at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge through mid-September, where the water level at East Pond was lowered to produce extensive flats attractive to migrants. A total of 37 species of shorebirds noted for the season, with the greatest variety being present on the Labor Day weekend (2-4 September).

The Federation's Block Canyon pelagic trip on October 8 recorded one Northern Fulmar, 95 Greater Shearwaters, two Cory's Shearwaters, four Gannets, two Red Phalaropes, six Pomarine Jaegers, a second-year Glaucous Gull, and an adult Sabine's Gull.

The problems connected with restocking Turkeys throughout their original range might be lessened by introducing individuals from the flock of eighteen birds now established in Wantagh, Nassau Co.; this flock originated from a pair that escaped from a cage at an animal shelter about four years ago. These remarkable birds have raised young and prospered along the Wantagh Parkway and in a small wooded area near a pet cemetery, never out of sight of houses, gas stations, children and pets. It is curious how this degree of adaptation is possible when birds in seemingly more favorable habitat do not succeed. Lack of hunting pressure and availability of food are probably factors.

Recent surveys, at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn by Jim Ash and at JFK Airport in Queens by Sam Chevalier, have shown that these airports remain havens for Grasshopper Sparrows and Upland Sandpipers. Other airports on Long Island probably have breeding grassland species also. Surveys of other airports during the 1979 breeding season might provide valuable information. Anyone with such information or interested in working on a survey can contact the editor of this report.

Rarities include: White-fronted Goose, Gyrfalcon, Wilson's Plover, Sabine's Gull, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, Wheatear, Boat-tailed Grackle, Western Tanager and LeConte's Sparrow.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Three Cory's Shearwaters and one Manx Shearwater were seen from Montauk Point Oct. 15 (PWP, E. Conder). Another Manx was seen there Nov. 19 (JA). A maximum of 500+ Gannets was seen from the Point Nov. 24 by many, while large numbers were noted west to Jones Beach on days with Northeast or East winds. A Cattle Egret was at Jamaica Bay Sept. 2 (DL, GSR); two were seen there Oct. 26 (GSR), and a late bird was at Upton Nov. 13-16 (GSR), while another rested on a jetty at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 25 (JA, H. McGuinness). The origin and status of an AMERICAN FLAMINGO in good plumage,

found in Bellport Nov. 11 and seen frequently in the Bellport-Brookhaven area for two weeks, is unknown. Three late fall occurrences in Canada (1969, 1973, 1977) have been thought to have been storm-related vagrants by some. Two Whistling Swans seen Oct. 31 flying over Alley Pond Park (A. Wagner, S. Yeaton) and eight Nov. 17 at Jamaica Bay (WW) are rare for western Long Island. Ten Whistlers at Hook Pond included one with a black collar indicating that it was banded at an eastern wintering area in Maryland or North Carolina. An adult WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was reported at Jamaica Bay by H. Recher, W. Kurau *et al.* Verbal description indicated that it was probably the Greenland race. Flights of Snow Geese included 35 Oct. 8 over Manorville (GSR), 75 Nov. 9 over Ridge (J. Ruscica), 40-50 Nov. 11 headed west over the ocean near Moriches Inlet, and eight at Garvies Point (AB, RC). Seven Snow Geese were in Central Park Reservoir Nov. 6 (E. Mills). Two immature "Blue Geese" were seen at Jamaica Bay Oct. 7 (GSR). A European Wigeon arrived Nov. 5 at Sagaponack (JA). A drake Harlequin Duck was seen Nov. 11 at Shinnecock Inlet (GSR), probably one of the pair seen there Nov. 4 (AJL). A King Eider at Montauk Oct. 14-15 was the earliest reported this year (PWP, E. Conder). A drake Hooded Merganser arrived at Hempstead Lake Oct. 18; a maximum of 66 was seen there Nov. 19 (SBD).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A Turkey Vulture, a rare bird on Long Island, flew over Freeport Oct. 15 (NW). One at Jones Beach Oct. 27 (L. Shore) and one seen over the Meadowbrook Causeway Oct. 29 (PWP, E. Conder) may have been the same bird. Sharp-shinned Hawks were moving Oct. 7 with 30-35 reported from Jamaica Bay (GSR), five or six at Riis Park (GSR), 24 on Fire Island (RC). Oct. 8 saw 24 sharp-shins moving along Fire Island (AL); 46 were counted there by DP. Small numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen during watches maintained on the north shore at Garvies Point from Sept. 26 through Oct. 16 (AB). Cooper's Hawks were reported Sept. 24 at Garvies Point (AB), and Sept. 26 at Muttontown (AL). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen at Muttontown Sept. 17 (AL). Immature Bald Eagle reports by various observers from Oct. 21 at Smith's Point and Brookhaven through Nov. 26 were probably all of the same bird (GSR). Another immature was seen eating a gull on the beach at Shinnecock on Nov. 25 (*vide* GSR). Reports of subadult Bald Eagles on Nov. 24 at Tobay Sanctuary (*vide* BJS), Nov. 25 Hither Hills to Montauk, seen by many, Nov. 29 at Jones Beach, and Nov. 30 at Jamaica Bay (W. Reilly, G. Dadone), appear to represent two birds, making a probable total of three present during the period. The report of an intermediate gray-phase adult GRYFALCON observed soaring at moderate height over the Muttontown Preserve on the early date of Sept. 27 is convincing on the whole if the initial unqualified statement is accepted, that this very large, uniformly colored bird was a falcon. The observers (AL, WP, and LL) have considerable experience with wintering hawks, including Goshawks, at the Preserve, and their judgment is believed correct. Interestingly, the four old Gyr Falcon specimen records, all shot over owl decoys on Fisher's Island, occurred in October (12 to 30). Adding support for an early date this year was a report of a Gyr Falcon at Lake Erie on Sept. 7. Peregrine Falcons were seen in the best numbers in recent times. Ward observed a total of 26 Peregrines for the season, with nine on Fire Island Oct. 7 (with E. Treacy, H. Hirschbein). Four Peregrine Falcons were also seen on Fire Island Oct. 7 (RC), one at Muttontown Sept. 19 (AL), and one at Bethpage State Park on the early date of Aug. 30 (EL). Merlins moved in good numbers along the beaches. A maximum of 24 was observed passing barely above eye level on Fire Island Oct. 7 (RC *et al.*) and 31 were seen Oct. 8 (DP). Oct. 8 also saw the highest number of Am. Kestrels with 218 reported by DP; on Oct. 15, 41 were seen in 70 minutes during the early afternoon at Shinnecock (GSR). A downy young Clapper Rail Sept. 24 at Jamaica Bay must represent a record late breeding date (M. Kleinbaum). Soras were found at Baiting Hollow Oct. 1 (RA) and at Hook Pond Nov. 25 (GSR), a late date. A Common Gallinule at Georgica Pond Oct. 28, and Nov. 1, may be trying to winter in the area. A high count of 109 Am. Oystercatchers was tallied at the Line Islands Sept. 3 (P. Gillen). These birds continue to increase in numbers in our area. Five Am. Oystercatchers were still present at Shinnecock Nov. 11 (GSR). An Am. Avocet present at Jamaica Bay was last seen Sept. 5. A WILSON'S PLOVER seen Sept. 2 at Jamaica

Bay (M. Hemmerick) was convincingly described. The numbers of Am. Golden Plovers peaked Sept. 16 with 100+ at Sagaponack and 150 nearby at Southampton (JA); 115 were at Sagaponack Oct. 9 (P. Gillen). A late bird was seen on Fire Island Nov. 11 (AJL). A Marbled Godwit was at Zach's Bay on Jones Beach Oct. 3 (AW, BJS) and one lingered at Jamaica Bay until Dec. 2. Three Hudsonian Godwits were last seen at Jamaica Bay Nov. 7. Whimbrels were present in good numbers this fall, as they were last spring; fifteen were present at Sagaponack Sept. 23 (*fide* THD). A Willet in Lattingtown Nov. 29 (A. Townsend, D. Thompson) was late, and unusual on the north shore. Two Willets were at Shinnecock Nov. 11 (GSR). Two Wilson's Phalaropes and a Northern Phalarope were still present at Jamaica Bay Sept. 2, having been seen by many observers. A Red Phalarope was seen there intermittently Sept. 9-Oct. 1. A late White-rumped Sandpiper was at Sagaponack Pond Nov. 23 (H. McGuinness). At least six Baird's Sandpipers were seen on Long Island between Aug. 3 and Oct. 1 with two to four individuals present near the West End Two parking lot at Jones Beach for most of Sept. (HD, EL). An early Purple Sandpiper seemed out of place on a mudflat in Sagaponack Sept. 15 (JA). A winter-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was present Oct. 1-3 at Jamaica Bay where it was photographed by THD and seen by many others. Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at West End with the Baird's during Sept. A maximum of eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers was present Sept. 15-16 at Sagaponack (JA). One or more Reeves were present at Jamaica Bay Aug. 13-Sept. 10, and a Ruff was seen there Sept. 3 (EL *et al.*). A Ruff was in Freeport Sept. 14 (AW), at Sagaponack Pond Sept. 15 (JA), and in Lawrence Oct. 7 (H. Hirschbein, A. Oliveri). A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Montauk Point Oct. 14 and 15 (PWP). Two were seen there Nov. 24, a late date (THD). A Parasitic Jaeger flying east over Long Island Sound at East Marion Nov. 13 was in an unusual location (GSR). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported Oct. 3 at Smith Point (A. Cooley, D. Puleston), Nov. 11-Dec. 2 in a parking lot on Fire Island (AJL). Nov. 25 at Montauk Point (P. Bernath), and Nov. 30 at Jones Beach (W. Wilkens). All of the birds were adults. The only Black-headed Gull reported was seen Oct. 28 at Montauk (GSR, RA). An albino Laughing Gull at Jamaica Bay Sept. 18-22 at first glance aroused hopes for an Ivory Gull record (WW, TS). A subadult Little Gull was at Great Kills Park on Staten Island Sept. 4 (H. Fisher). Another arrived at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 12 (D. Puleston), and three immatures there Nov. 24 (*fide* THD). 40-50 Black-legged Kittiwakes were present at Montauk Nov. 25. An adult SABINE'S GULL highlighted the Federation pelagic trip Oct. 8. A Gull-billed Tern was at Zach's Bay on Jones Beach Sept. 14 (AW). Royal Terns were regular from Moriches Inlet to Sagaponack, but in somewhat fewer numbers than in recent years. There were still 20 at Shinnecock Inlet and five at Mecox Nov. 11. Two lingered at Shinnecock to Nov. 24 (GSR). Five were seen at Great Kills Park Sept. 4 (H. Fisher). Two Caspian Terns were seen at Jamaica Bay Sept. 19 (JA), eight were at Mecox Sept. 23 (GSR), ten Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Sagaponack Pond, and two at Georgica Pond the same time (JA). Two Caspian Terns at Cedar Beach Nov. 13 were late (HD). Black Terns seemed fewer in numbers this year. 72 Black Skimmers were at Jones Beach Nov. 4, late for such numbers (GSR), and nine remained at Short Beach Nov. 18 (SBD). A Razorbill Nov. 25 at Montauk was the only identified alcid reported (JA).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Hempstead Oct. 27 was late (EL). A late brood of three Barn Owls was found in Brookhaven: the smallest died; the other two were banded Nov. 11. One left Nov. 12, the other about Nov. 15 (GSR). Barn Owls nest in the tower at Jones Beach according to PAB; this confirms an old rumor that had seemed apocryphal. The only Snowy Owl reported was seen at Moriches Inlet Nov. 10 (J. Clinton). Fifteen Short-eared Owls were estimated present in late Nov. at the Spring Creek dump (W. Wilkens). Seven more were at the dump at Fresh Kills, Staten Island (H. Fisher). Thirteen Saw-whet Owls were noted Nov. 25-29 along the south shore of western Long Island; nine of these were road kills, mostly at Cedar Beach. Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Riis Park Sept. 9, Staten Island Sept. 20 (TS), and at a suet feeder in Old Brookville Oct. 18-20 (J. Heimer). One was present in Central Park for a month or more through the period (PWP), as were two Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Fourteen Western Kingbirds were reported on Long Island from Sept. 10 and Oct. 8 through the period. Three individuals were at the Deep Hollow Ranch in Montauk Oct. 15 (PWP). One Western Kingbird was at Fresh Kills, Staten Island Nov. 26 (H. Fisher). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was discovered Oct. 22 (R. Kelly, J. Costa) at Spring Creek just north of the bridge to Jamaica Bay. It remained until Oct. 27, enjoyed by a number of people. What must have been a second Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen Oct. 26 at Moriches Inlet (GSR). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen Sept. 1 in a Brooklyn street and Sept. 9 at Jamaica Bay (TS). One at Montauk Oct. 9 was very late (THD). A **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** was flying west over Fresh Kills, Staten Island, Nov. 26 (H. Fisher). Tufted Titmice appeared in an unprecedented widespread movement in the New York City area with a maximum of 75+ in Central Park (PWP). Two appeared at Jamaica Bay for a first refuge record Oct. 21 (W. Reilly, G. Dadone). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen on Fire Island Oct. 25 (PAB). The **WHEATEAR** on Fire Island Oct. 19-20 was seen and photographed by F. File. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Montauk Oct. 28 (GSR) and a late bird was at Jones Beach Nov. 9 (AW). An immature Northern Shrike was seen Nov. 11 through Nov. 23 at Shinnecock Inlet (GSR *et al.*). An immature was also at Jamaica Bay Nov. 22-Dec. 2 (*fide* THD). Seven Loggerhead Shrikes were reported on Long Island Aug. 19 through Nov. 25.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Yellow-throated Vireo was noted Sept. 10 at Garvies Point (RC). One was netted Sept. 10 in Manorville (GSR), and another was banded Sept. 24 on Great Gull Island (JD). An Orange-crowned Warbler was present Oct. 22 at Sands Point (G. Quinn). An unusual banding record was the immature female Cerulean Warbler caught at Lake Success Sept. 10 (J. Pion). Two Connecticut Warblers were found at Garvies Point Sept. 16 (RC, BJS). A Mourning Warbler was banded on Great Gull Island Sept. 15 as was a Yellow-breasted Chat on Sept. 6 (JD). Another chat appeared in Nov. and is wintering happily in Blue Point at a feeder next to a delicatessen, enjoying cream cheese as well as suet (*fide* A. Cooley).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: A female **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** was in Riis Park Oct. 20 (O. Dunning, S. Yeaton). A special "yardbird" was a female **WESTERN TANAGER** seen twice in a bird bath in Freeport Nov. 11 (NW). At least three Blue Grosbeaks were at the Montauk dump Sept. 23-Oct. 9 where they are regular. Another was on Fire Island Oct. 22 (H. Roth). A convincing description of a **LeCONTE'S SPARROW** seen Oct. 21 at Montauk Point was supplied by JA. Very few Vesper Sparrows were seen this fall; among them were two at the Short Beach Coast Guard station (NW), and two Oct. 26 at Spring Creek (GSR). Four Lark Sparrows were reported on Long Island Sept. 4-Oct. 17. An "Oregon" Junco was seen at Gilgo Beach Nov. 5 (AW, S. Schiff). There were 52 Snow Buntings on Center Island Nov. 23 (J. Doran), a good number for the north shore.

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