

## REGION 10 – MARINE

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Weather bureau data pronounced this summer the “third hottest” with a mean temperature of 76° F. August was the third hottest month on record with 80.3° F., the mean in the city. Normal for August is 74.9° F. Rainfall was sparse in August, although June and July were wetter than average. The weather conditions did not appear to affect avian activities in the area, and actually enhanced conditions on the east pond at the Jamaica Bay Refuge. Jamaica Bay was probably the best shorebird location on the east coast this summer; the first of four adult Curlew Sandpipers arrived July 20. The fall landbird migration was noticeable August 8-9 with warblers moving along Jones Beach. Bobolinks and flycatchers were passing through on August 16-17.

Reports of “blue-listed” birds are included in this summer report. Breeding season data would seem to be the best means to assess the status of the Region’s threatened species. If readers have information to add to the records presented here, I would appreciate receiving it.

### Falcons in Manhattan

On July 29 four young Peregrines were ensconced by Cornell researchers in a box atop the 17-story Manhattan Life Insurance Company building on 57th Street, overlooking Central Park. The *New York Times* reported that by August 21 they were soaring confidently over Manhattan. One bird was rescued from an air shaft on its maiden flight by using radio monitoring equipment. Another bird flew into an open window in a building under construction and was shooed out by workmen. With some glee, the *Times* reported later in August that Olivia, a 71 day-old female, oldest of the four, had flown back bearing a freshly killed pigeon which she shared with a second Peregrine. Peregrines disappeared as residents from New York City in the mid-1940s.

### Ospreys

Eighty-seven active Osprey nests in Region 10 fledged 101 young this year, compared to last year’s 66 chicks from 78 nests. The islands near the east end contain the majority of the nests: 27 on Gardiner’s Island, four on Robbin’s Island, six on Fisher’s Island, 16 on Shelter Island, and eight on Plum Island. The westernmost active nest was at Connetquot State Park near Islip. Summering birds in the Mill Neck-Cold Spring Harbor area suggest nesting attempts can be looked for.

### Eaton’s Neck Tern Colony

Three hundred pairs of Least Terns nested at Eaton’s Neck on the north shore of Long Island this year. Most of the young fledged successfully prior to July 1 when the colony was invaded by four dogs. Common Terns were heavily damaged. Four hundred chicks were killed, approximately half the population produced from some 400 nests in the colony. This number of nests was double the count made last year. Some rat predation on Common Tern chicks was also noted. Vegetation is encroaching on the nesting area. Sally Ruppert and Bill Kolodnicki have obtained the agreement of the Town of Huntington and will

begin to manage the vegetation. The town is also cooperating by putting up a temporary fence during the breeding season to keep the dogs out. Headquarters for this work is at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. Members of the Huntington Society are active in protecting this colony.

#### June Breeding Bird Censuses

Three June bird counts were conducted again this year, Captree for the ninth year, Northern Nassau for the seventh year, and Central Suffolk for the sixth consecutive year. The longitudinal census data provided by these ongoing counts seems a necessary adjunct to the range information proposed by the Atlas Project. Every effort should be made to continue these surveys during the Atlas period, despite additional demands made upon a small number of consistent participants. Finding enough workers to maintain continuity remains the biggest problem.

The Captree count found approximately 18,295 birds of 118 species with American Wigeon new to the count. Noteworthy birds were American Bittern, Royal Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. High counts were reached for Black Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Bobwhite, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Black Skimmer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Hairy Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Long-billed Marsh Wren, House Wren, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. In low numbers were Least Tern, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird (only one) and Eastern Meadowlark.

Northern Nassau tallied 122 species. New to the count this year were Turkey Vulture, Purple Gallinule, Alder Flycatcher, and Prairie Warbler. Most species were found in numbers that compare well with previous years. Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to increase. Outstanding finds, in conjunction with Atlas Project work, included the successful fledging of two young by a pair of Kentucky Warblers at Coffin Woods in Locust Valley (only one previous Long Island nest record), a pair of Brown Creepers carrying food to young in a nest at Muttontown, a pair of territorial Bobolinks at Stillwell Woods in Syosset, nesting of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a territorial Cerulean Warbler, both in Coffin Woods.

Central Suffolk counted about 16,678 birds of 137 species. This was the second highest total, compared to 133,135,130,142 and 133 in previous years. The compiler commented that 111 of these species are almost certainly nesting in the area, ten breed or have bred elsewhere on Long Island, and the rest are summer visitors or vagrants. Over the six year period 182 species have been listed of which 145 have bred on Long Island, and 124 have bred in the count circle. New to the count were Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Acadian and Least Flycatchers, and Kentucky Warbler. Missed species included Marsh Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail and Common Nighthawk. Species in higher numbers than in previous years included Mute Swan, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Veery, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Savannah Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. Species showing declines were American Woodcock, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Chimney Swift, and Long-billed Marsh Wren. The compiler noted that trends becoming apparent in the six year period

include: the previous increase in Canada Goose numbers appears to have reversed; Gadwall is increasing each year; Bobwhites are still low; Willets continue to increase. Common Tern numbers have improved each year, but Least Terns and Black Skimmers seem to be declining. Purple Martins have been low for the past two years. House Sparrows appear to be decreasing.

Careful Atlas work in Forest Park, Queens, found a territorial, singing Brown Creeper, six or eight pairs of Chimney Swifts at the golf club house, and noted the prosperity of bark-gleaners in the park.

With the advent of the Atlas Project it is hoped that the status of certain species will be clarified. Participation in the project has already produced new breeding records for Northern Nassau, and has made it more clear to participants where work needs to be done next year. An earlier start next year can permit better evaluation of early nesting species. It seems necessary to impress upon workers that Atlas trips made in July are very productive; trips should not stop with the end of June.

#### Federation Pelagic Trips

The Federation sponsored pelagic trip to Block Canyon June 7 found fewer than the expected number of birds in terms of species and numbers: six Cory's Shearwaters, 19 Greater Shearwaters, 33 Sooty Shearwaters, 300+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels, four Leach's Storm-Petrels, and two Gannets. The Leach's Storm-Petrels were the first ever seen on one of our trips. The August 10 trip to Hudson Canyon did not find the hoped-for rarities. Good studies were possible for most species. The list included 130 Cory's Shearwaters, three Greater Shearwaters, two Manx Shearwaters, 440 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one Pomarine Jaeger, two Parasitic Jaegers, two Finback Whales, and a sea turtle, probably a Loggerhead.

Rarities for the summer included: Audubon's Shearwater, Leach's Storm-Petrel, White-faced Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Thick-billed Murre, Arctic Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Boat-tailed Grackle.

Positive aspects of the season included: Ospreys had a good breeding season, American Oystercatchers and Willets are prospering, Common Tern nesting season appeared about normal in C. Suffolk, Hairy Woodpeckers in better numbers, new breeding record for Kentucky Warbler. Some southern species seem to be extending their range with Orchard Orioles increasing in N. Nassau.

Negative notes: Least Bittern and American Bittern very scarce, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers declining in C. Suffolk, Least Flycatcher absent as a breeding bird, E. Bluebirds very low, E. Meadowlark scarce, Yellow-throated Vireos unreported, Vesper Sparrows very low.

June Count compilers: Captree, Frances File, Anthony J. Lauro; Northern Nassau, Ralph Cioffi; Central Suffolk, Gilbert S. Raynor.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, Arthur P. Cooley, Matt Crandall, Dorothy W. Crumb, Harry Darrow, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Frances File, Paul Gillen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Alan Lindberg, Glenn Quinn, Katherine A. Ray, Herbert Roth, Carl Safina, Michael Scheibel, Walter Sedwitz (all records from the Bronx can be attributed to WS if not otherwise credited), Barbara J. Spencer, Al Wollin, John Zardusky.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Several Com. Loons summered in L.I. waters. A Red-necked Grebe was present June 22-Aug. 2 at Marine Park, Brooklyn, as was a Horned Grebe. One or two Horned Grebes were at Jamaica Bay Refuge June 10 through July 4. In addition to shearwaters noted on pelagic trips, Cory's Shearwaters were seen a number of times from shore from Jones Beach to Montauk. Sooty Shearwaters moved by Shinnecock June 8 (L. Feldman). A Manx Shearwater also was reported from Shinnecock June 8 (GSR). A small black and white shearwater at Montauk Aug. 29 (AW) was almost certainly that species as two or three Manx were seen with some regularity from the whale boat near the Point. A total of 27 **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS** were seen Aug. 7, 80 miles south of Long Island at a water depth of 200-300 fathoms (R. Rowlette). Four **LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS** were found offshore June 7 (THD, BJS *et al.*). A sub-adult Gannet was moving along the beach at Quogue June 5 (C. Brooks). Single birds were seen at sea June 28 and Aug. 23. A sub-adult Great Cormorant was pointed out by G. Tudor Aug. 30 at Jamaica Bay. The bird was sitting next to Double-crested Cormorants and was critically observed by a group of experienced birders. Double-crested Cormorants were moving west from Block Island toward Montauk in groups of 20-30 birds Aug. 23; summering birds included two at Captree, seven in N. Nassau, and 43 in C. Suffolk. Three Great Blue Herons were found summering in the N. Nassau count area, three in Captree, two were at Jerome Res. in the Bronx July 26 (WS). The three June counts listed Green Herons as follows: Captree 12, N. Nassau 28, C. Suffolk 61. Captree found 12 Little Blue Herons, C. Suffolk one; two were at No. Line Island July 14 (PG). An adult and an imm. Cattle Egret were in Freeport July 13 (AW) while five pairs nested at Pearsall's Hassock (JZ). Six Louisiana Herons appeared on the Captree Count about average. Black-crowned Night Herons were found in good numbers on the three counts: Captree 16, N. Nassau 51, and 23 C. Suffolk. Yellow-crowned Night Herons: Captree two, N. Nassau five (one young), C. Suffolk two. Least Bitterns, missed on the C. Suffolk count, are very rare breeders on L.I., and unreported this summer. One Am. Bittern was seen on the Captree count, and one in C. Suffolk; another rarely reported summer resident. Glossy Ibis continues to prosper in the area with a few (scouts?) showing up on the north shore; 53 were on the Captree count. The previously reported pair of **WHITE-FACED IBIS** remained through the summer at Jamaica Bay. Forty-one Mute Swans were in the Captree circle, 32 in N. Nassau, and 225 in C. Suffolk where they seem to be increasing (100 more birds than the last two years); the previously reported pair remained at Jamaica Bay until June 15. *Seventy-two* Black Ducks were found in the Captree area, more than average, 13 in N. Nassau (down from 35-55 several years ago), and 78 in C. Suffolk where 228 were found in 1979. Numbers definitely seem to be declining on eastern L.I. A drake European Wigeon at Jamaica Bay June 6-13 was unusual in the summer. Three Am. Wigeons were new to the Captree count. The previously reported Ring-necked Duck remained until June 15 at Jamaica Bay; a drake Canvasback stayed there until mid-July. A drake King Eider lingered from May 24 to May 31 at Gardiner's Is. (R. Goelet). A summering White-winged Scoter was at Orient July 7-14 (RA). The previously reported Com. Merganser remained until early July at Jamaica Bay.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** A Turkey Vulture was new to the N. Nassau count. No Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported. One or more Cooper's Hawks continued to be seen again this summer at the Muttontown Preserve, but a nest has not yet been found (AL). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks raised two young at the Bronx Zoo (J. Roderick); they were otherwise unreported. Five Marsh Hawks were on the Captree list; two or three pairs seem to be present along the Jones Beach strip during breeding season. Ospreys had an encouraging breeding season this year; individuals were widely reported away from breeding areas. A Peregrine was seen at Spuyten Duyvel Aug. 9 (WS); another flew over Montauk Point Aug. 29 (AW). Kestrels seem to be maintaining stable numbers in the area. As might be expected, Merlins were unreported. Bobwhite numbers seem to be stable although the C. Suffolk compiler considers them low compared to past numbers; 111 were found on the Captree count, high for the area. 74 in N. Nassau and 100 in C. Suffolk. An observer in Islip thinks numbers of

Bobwhites are up this year in his region, with the low vegetation under high tension lines providing pathways for their dispersion (R. Lascowski). Five Turkeys continue in Connetquot St. Park. A prosperous population of Turkeys increases on Gardiner's Island where some hunting takes place. King Rail was unreported and unexpected. Five Virginia Rails were on the Captree Count; this species was missed on C. Suffolk. None have been located in N. Nassau since 1976-77. A Sora was seen at Jamaica Bay July 22 (RA). A **PURPLE GALLINULE**, which turned up and was photographed at a small pond in Sea Cliff, stayed there June 13-16 (BJS *et al.*). Am. Oystercatchers were found in high numbers: 23 Captree, 35 C. Suffolk, 52 No. Line Is. July 11-14 (SBD, PG) including at least eight imm.; several were present at Jamaica Bay during the summer where they are a relatively recent resident. Piping Plovers were reported in small number comparable to recent years: Captree five, N. Nassau one, and C. Suffolk five. Five were on No. Line Is. July 14 (PG). In addition to small numbers nesting along the south shore beaches, five adult Piping Plovers and three chicks were reported at S. Jamesport on Peconic Bay June 5 (C. Brooks). Two pairs nested at Eaton's Neck in the tern colony; one nest was destroyed by a storm, the other hatched three chicks. Six pairs were listed on the tabled Dept. of Conservation data. Eight Am. Golden Plovers were seen on Daniel's Lane in Sagaponack Aug. 29 (BJS). Two juvenals were at Jamaica Bay the same weekend. Two Whimbrels were reported from Sands Point Aug. 15 (GQ), and from Shinnecock July 18 (BJS). No report was received on the population of Upland Sandpipers at JFK Airport. Three were at Mitchell Field July 6 where at least one pair continues to breed despite exceptional construction pressure (SBD). Willets are increasing in Region 10, a record 101 were found on the Captree count, and 32 in C. Suffolk, also a high count; 74 were on No. Line Is. in one flock July 17 (HD). Lesser Yellowlegs were moving early and in good numbers with a max. of 300 July 13 in Oak Beach Marsh (P. Lehman). A Baird's Sandpiper was found at Jamaica Bay Aug. 18 and 19 (K. Ray). A total of four Curlew Sandpipers, all adults, were at Jamaica Bay from July 20 through Aug. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Jamaica Bay Aug. 28 (K. Ray); one Aug. 30 at Mitchell Field had increased to seven the next weekend (H. Roth). A max. of 13 were seen in potato fields along Daniel's Lane, Sagaponack Aug. 29-30 (BJS, AW), and nine were at a sod farm in Eastport Aug. 30 (AW). 250 Short-billed Dowitchers were at No. Line Is. in mid-Aug. (HD). 65 were at Cow Meadow, Freeport Aug. 9, where 16 Stilt Sandpipers were also seen (EL). A Marbled Godwit was at No. Line Is. July 17 (HD); three were present at Jamaica Bay toward the end of Aug. A max. of nine Hudsonian Godwits were at Middle Line Is. July 18 (HD). Four were at Jamaica Bay the end of Aug. An Avocet showed up in Aug. as usual at Jamaica Bay. Two were seen at Tobay Pond where they are also regular (AJL). A pair of **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** were seen at Jamaica Bay June 14 (TWB, S. Stappers). One Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Moriches Inlet Aug. 2 (GSR), while two or three were at Jamaica Bay Aug. 23 (GSR, RA) through the end of the month. Six No. Phalaropes were seen offshore Aug. 13 (DWC, BJS) 20 unidentified phalaropes seen Sept. 12 were thought to be this species. A No. Phalarope was at Mecox Aug. 21 (GSR); another was at Jamaica Bay toward the end of the month. One Pomarine Jaeger was sighted at sea Aug. 10, and another Aug. 23 (DWC, BJS). Two Parasitic Jaegers were also seen Aug. 10 just south of Jones Inlet. A dark phase South-Polar Skua was seen on a whale trip south of Montauk July 18 (APC, BJS). A second year Glaucous Gull was seen July 20 at Northport (A. Smith). A late report of a second year Iceland Gull present May 22 at Jamaica Bay was received (K. Ray). Twenty or 30 pairs of Laughing Gulls nested in Jamaica Bay near Kennedy Airport where about six pairs nested for the first time last year. A summering Bonaparte's Gull was seen Aug. 2 at Moriches Inlet (GSR). The previously reported Little Gull remained until June 15 at Jamaica Bay. Two early imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen south of Montauk Aug. 30 (DWC, BJS). A Gull-billed Tern was seen at Jamaica Bay Aug. 16 (M. Cooper); two pairs nested on East Channel Island (JZ). Com. Terns at Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets had some rat trouble but did well otherwise. Nesting appeared about normal (GSR). Four hundred Com. Terns nests on Eaton's Neck was almost double last year's number, but dogs destroyed almost

half the chicks. The C. Suffolk count reported 2286 Com. Terns, Captree 5002, and N. Nassau 30. An adult **ARCTIC TERN** in flight was seen well about 13 miles SW of Montauk Point Aug. 13 (DWC, BJS). Perhaps the same bird, standing on a floating box, was carefully studied by the same observers Aug. 23 about 8 miles south of the point. Roseate Terns were present in good numbers at Moriches Inlet during the breeding season. No specific information was received about their success. Captree reported 180 Roseate Terns, C. Suffolk 34. Least Terns were low in the Captree area with 17 found; C. Suffolk had 21, N. Nassau 14. The Eaton's Neck colony with 300 pairs was far short of the 1000 pairs there last year. A report of a huge increase in numbers this year at a colony south of our area makes one wonder where such large numbers of birds appear from. There was a feeling that a large number of early arrivals at Eaton's Neck had been displaced by the later arriving Com. Terns. A banding return of a year old bird in breeding plumage introduced some doubt into the previously held theory that year old birds stayed south and did not return to the breeding grounds until their second year. A new colony of 25 pairs was noted at Atlantic Beach (M. Goldsmith). Forty pairs nested at Nassau Beach, 30 on the Wantagh Causeway, and 20 pairs at the Jones Beach Jetty. The presence of Royal Terns from May on through the summer suggests that breeding attempts may soon follow. Five were seen on the Captree count June 14. An adult **SANDWICH TERN** was seen July 3 at Mecox (AJL). Two adults were seen at Shinnecock Inlet Aug. 11 (DWC, P. DeBenedictis, F. G. Scheider). A few Black Terns were noted along the south shore during Aug. They seemed fewer in number than last year and were not seen at sea on pelagic trips. Black Skimmers had a poor breeding season in C. Suffolk where 48 were found on the count. A record 341 skimmers were found on the Captree count; two were seen in N. Nassau. Twenty-one pairs nested on No. Line Island, 200 pairs at the west end of Jones Beach. An adult **THICK-BILLED MURRE** was found just beyond the surf at Jones Beach July 13 (P. Martin). The observer, lacking binoculars, swam out to the bird to get a better look and got within five or six feet before the bird dove. Another observer relocated the bird a mile-and-a-half farther east after trying to look nonchalant while scanning the water with binoculars and telescope over the heads of nude male joggers at one beach along the way (BJS).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Yellow-billed Cuckoos were present in good numbers: 17 were found on the Captree count, 59 in N. Nassau, and 65 in C. Suffolk. Black-billed Cuckoos also were well reported with 22 in N. Nassau, 17 C. Suffolk, and two at Captree. A Barn Owl nest was found during a visit to North and South Brother Islands in the East River where Typhoid Mary was once quarantined (P. W. Post, CS). No other information about Barn or Long-eared Owls was received. The presence of a Short-eared Owl near Captree one evening in July suggests that scattered pairs may persist along the south shore (N. Ward). Twenty-four Whip-poor-wills were found in C. Suffolk. Captree observers could not gain early access to Connetquot so Whip-poor-wills and owls went uncounted there. Whip-poor-wills can be heard throughout much of the pine-oak habitat on eastern L.I. Two Chuck-will's-widows were reported on the Captree count and one on C. Suffolk. This bird may be more widespread in the area than is presently realized. The first report of Com. Nighthawk was Aug. 11 at Sands Point (GQ). No evidence of breeding on L.I. was received. However, a few pairs present all summer in Riverdale suggest breeding (WS). The N. Nassau count found 104 Chimney Swifts (range previous years 49-188). Captree found 35, C. Suffolk 16. At least ten pairs nested in nw Bronx; six or eight pairs were found adjacent to Forest Park, Queens. The only report of Ruby-throated Hummingbird was of a young bird rescued in Mattituck, which was fed honey and water from July 3 to July 27, when it was successfully released (M. Kuck). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was found dead July 21 in Lindenhurst (AJL), no other reports. Hairy Woodpecker numbers seem stronger than in recent years; Captree 11, N. Nassau 17, C. Suffolk ten. Eighty-seven Downy Woodpeckers were in N. Nassau, higher than average. A high count of 58 Eastern Kingbirds was also found on the N. Nassau count; Captree 16, C. Suffolk, 18.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was located in Manorville June 14 (GSR), an adult was present June 30-July 4 at Fort Tilden, Queens (J. Parker, THD photo). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Forest Park June 9 was an unusual migrant (DWC *et al.*). A territorial Acadian Flycatcher was present in Glen Cove well into July, however, firm evidence of breeding eluded persistent searchers (RC). Two Acadians were in Forest Park, Queens, July 5 (G. Tudor). Two were found on the Captree count, two N. Nassau and three in C. Suffolk. One was at Upton June 13 (GSR). An Alder Flycatcher was a rare migrant in Mill Neck May 31 (BJS). Another was seen at Montauk the next weekend. Willow Flycatchers breed in areas at the edge of salt marshes on L.I.; Captree had five, N. Nassau five, C. Suffolk three, about average. One Least Flycatcher was seen on the C. Suffolk count. This bird is a rare to nonexistent breeder on L.I. If anyone knows of breeding, please send in the information. An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Glen Cove Aug. 12 (DWC, BJS) and another was at Jamaica Bay Aug. 23 (GSR, RA). Ninety-five Bank Swallows were found in N. Nassau where a colony persists in the Port Washington sand pits. Eighteen Rough-winged Swallows were in the area, about average. Barn Swallows nested at the 23rd St. Marina at the East River (S. Madden); C. Suffolk saw 277, N. Nassau 243, and Captree 131. Numbers seem stable. A Cliff Swallow was seen at Jones Beach June 8 (AW). C. Suffolk had 78 Purple Martins, considered low by the compiler. 24 were on the Captree count with 22 at one colony (V. & R. Landwehr). A record 161 Fish Crows were seen on the Captree count. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in N. Nassau where they successfully bred. One was at Upton, one at Manorville (GSR), and four at Connetquot Park. Two Winter Wrens, one singing, in Glen Head Aug. 12 suggests a breeding attempt might have occurred (J. & P. Bookalam). Carolina Wrens seem to be making a slow comeback: N. Nassau four, C. Suffolk 11, Captree two. The stronghold is on Gardiner's Island, but no count available. Captree found 82 Long-billed Marsh Wrens (20 C. Suffolk, low, and six N. Nassau). Hermit Thrush is a sparse breeder in oak-pine habitat in Suffolk Co. Two singing males were on territory in Connetquot Park. An early Swainson's Thrush was netted Aug. 30 in Manorville (GSR). Eastern Bluebirds are barely hanging on on L.I. Only one was at Connetquot, two in C. Suffolk, two June 19 and 25 at Upton (GSR). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher breeds in small numbers on L.I. A pair was in Locust Valley (H. McClure), two individuals in C. Suffolk, two June 13 and 17 at Upton (GSR), and two adults and several fledged young were seen July 12 in Manorville (GSR).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Warbling Vireos can be found on the north shore, particularly in locations where a big sycamore stands next to a pond; 15 were found on the count. As is usual, they are not recorded on the south shore; several pairs nested in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Yellow-throated Vireos went unrecorded during the breeding season. A female Prothonotary Warbler June 17 in Sands Point may have been a prospector (BJS). Worm-eating Warblers breed in very small numbers in the Cold Spring Harbor area. A singing No. Parula in Sea Cliff July 3 may have attempted to breed somewhere in the area; two imm. No. Parulas were seen in this location several years ago on July 11. Yellow Warblers were found in good numbers: Captree 151, No. Nassau 163, however the C. Suffolk tally of 107 was one-third lower than in recent years. Historically Black-throated Green Warblers bred over a wide area on L.I. One in Connetquot may have bred there. A Cerulean Warbler on territory in Locust Valley disappeared after a severe storm (H. McClure). This bird has been found on June counts previously and may nest in the area. Ovenbirds seem well represented in C. Suffolk, 134, and Captree with 36, but in N. Nassau they are declining (14). Ovenbirds have disappeared in the Mill Neck area. Louisiana Waterthrushes can be found in a few locations in the Glen Cove to Mill Neck and Cold Spring Harbor area. Much suitable habitat is privately held, and inaccessible to birders. Kentucky Warbler seems to be colonizing L.I.: a pair bred successfully in Locust Valley (H. McClure), singing birds were on territory during June in Sands Point and Huntington and one was found on the C. Suffolk count. A Mourning Warbler was netted Aug. 30 in Manorville (GSR). Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats bred at Muttontown where they were present last year (AL). One was netted Aug. 31 in

Manorville (GSR). Redstarts are uncommon breeders on L.I.: 22 in C. Suffolk and seven in N. Nassau seemed like average counts.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Six Bobolinks were found on the N. Nassau count where territorial birds were present in Syosset (AL). Migrating Bobolinks passed overhead in good numbers Aug. 16 and 17 at Jones Beach (EL), nine were at Mitchell Field Aug. 3 (H. Roth). Eastern Meadowlarks deserve blue-listing on L.I.: Captree found three, N. Nassau five, and C. Suffolk 11. Orchard Orioles are appearing in larger numbers than in recent years in N. Nassau with 11 individuals (including five young). One was on territory in Babylon (D. Kaufman, F. File), four in C. Suffolk. A female **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** was found at Jamaica Bay June 6 (F. Scheider, P. DeBenedictis). A singing male Summer Tanager was at Upton June 1 (GSR). House Finch numbers seem stable. Grasshopper Sparrows have disappeared in N. Nassau; a few persist at Mitchell Field (SBD), none were recorded on the Captree census, 27 were found in C. Suffolk. No information was received about populations on JFK airport and Floyd Bennett Field. Henslow's Sparrow was unreported, Captree tallied 167 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, C. Suffolk 108, and N. Nassau 7; 153 Seaside Sparrows were in the Captree circle, 24 in C. Suffolk. Vesper Sparrow, seven in C. Suffolk is certainly a blue-list species. One was at Mitchell Field July 6 (SBD). Chipping and Field Sparrows were present in numbers within recent fluctuations in the count circles.

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