

bler: first 19 Aug. in Dutch. Max eight Red Oaks Mill 27 Aug. Canada Warbler: three at the Meyer Preserve, Mt. Kisco 21 June, and one Turkey Hollow, Dutch 1 July.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: always uncommon—a few more than usual—three at New Castle and two at Banksville 21 June. Two WSF 15 July and a pair at Bullville (no date). **BLUE GROSBEAK:** an adult male frequented a weedy roadside area at Orange Co. Pk. near Goshen 15-19 July (JT). Indigo Bunting: especially abundant in areas where resident. Purple Finch: continues very low. Only breeding report a female feeding a recently fledged young near PR entrance 26 June. House Finch: continues to inc. SS reports this species responsible for the destruction of more than half his Concord Grape crop. Savannah Sparrow: at least 20 singing birds at Galeville and nearby Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill 30 June. Grasshopper Sparrow: at least six singing birds 3 July at Galeville Airport. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** Two colonies at different areas of Galeville Airport from 30 June-28 July. One had six singing birds and the other five. Obs. several birds carrying food (BSe *et al.*). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least two pair frequented MC where a nest was found in June. White-throated Sparrow: one ad on Mine Rd., USMA 10 July. Most unusual there at that time. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Beaver Dam, Dutch 20 Aug.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The weather during the summer was uneventful with the exception of an extremely dry August which followed a wetter than average July. No effect on avian activities was noted, and the breeding season appeared to be quite normal on Long Island. A first breeding record in New York State for Forster's Tern was established when a pair was found at Hewlett Hassock, Nassau County by Jim Browne as this species followed other species of southern affinity in nesting on Long Island (details on page 212). Also confirmed was the breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles when an adult female was seen feeding two juvenals on Black Banks Hassock, Nassau Co. on 23 June. An adult female Boat-tailed Grackle, also feeding two juvenals, was seen 18-19 July at Jamaica Bay (THD *et al.*). These records represent the first confirmed breeding records for New York State although breeding was suspected previously. Least Bitterns, very scarce residents, bred at Jamaica Bay and Spring Creek, and were present at Montauk, and Saw-whet Owls were apparently successful in fledging young in Lattingtown for a third modern breeding record in our Region. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers fledged three young at Nissequogue for the second breeding record for Long Island (S. Duffy).

NEW STATE RECORD

The most exciting bird of the season was the adult-plumaged Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that Tom Davis found at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The bird was present 18-24 July and was observed by many delighted birders. Details on page 199.

TERN PREDATION

The good-sized Least Tern colony (300 banded chicks) and an even larger

Common Tern colony at Eaton's Neck on Long Island Sound suffered severe predation when Black-crowned and/or Yellow-crowned Night Herons first ate all the Common Tern eggs as they were ready to hatch, and then went on to eat week-old Least Tern chicks. Abundant tracks were left behind as evidence of the predators. No dogs or rats were problems in the colony this year. The problem of how to protect the terns from predators, which are in some environmental danger themselves, is yet unsolved.

SAW-WHET OWLS IN LATTINGTOWN

The Saw-whet Owl is a very rare breeding bird on Long Island with only three previous records listed by John Bull in *Birds of New York State*: a nest with five eggs in Miller Place in 1879 (Helme), an injured juvenal with traces of natal down found 21 July 1966 (Puleston), and a female with young were all banded at Jones Beach in 1968 with the young fledged by 16 June. Interestingly, that female was found 12 January 1969, 300 miles to the northeast in South Portland, Maine.

This spring a pair of Screech Owls and a pair of Saw-whet Owls bred in a strip of woods in the North Shore community of Lattingtown. They were first observed behind her house 30 May by Joan Bowdon. On 1 June both the male and the female Saw-whet Owls were very active; one was carrying a caterpillar. They were giving bell-like whistles and seemed to have young in the area. The Screech Owls were also feeding their young in a nearby flicker hole (J. Bowdon, H. McClure). On 12 June a single Saw-whet Owl was located after much searching (BJS) although calls were heard from an adjacent yard. On 30 June the saw-filing sound which gives them their name was heard. A few nights later this call was heard for the last time and one bird was apparently feeding another. This record is a first for the North Shore and only the fourth for Long Island.

1981 SUMMER PELAGIC TRIPS

A summary of pelagic trip reports including the Federation trip on 22 August is shown in the accompanying table. The highlight of the trip was close and frequent views of Manx Shearwaters which permitted photography and careful study.

PELAGIC TRIPS

	31 May	6 June	7 June	17 July	31 July	5 Aug.	22 Aug.	28 Aug.
Shearwater, Cory's		5		420	60	50	350	50
Greater	1	10			3	2	60	
Sooty	94	4	110	1	1		3	
Manx			1				5	
Storm-Petrel, Wilson's		60		65	900	28	360	12
Leach's					1			
Gannet	2	2	1				2	
Phalarope, Northern	3				1		4	13
Jaeger, Pomarine		1					4	1
Parasitic								1
Kittiwake, Black-legged		1						

Observers: 31 May (BJS) Finback, 15 miles south of Montauk Pt; 6 June (BJS, DWC, *et al.*) Viking Starship to Cox's Ledge; 7 June (BJS, DWC) Finback to S/Block Island; 17 July (BJS) Finback to 15 miles S/Montauk Pt; 31 July (BJS) Finback to 15 miles S/Montauk Pt.; 5 August (BJS) Finback to 15 miles S/Montauk Pt.; 22 August, Federation Trip; 28 August (BJS) to E. Grounds, almost to Cox's Ledge.

OSPREYS HAVE SUCCESSFUL SEASON

A report by Mike Scheibel, part of the DEC special endangered species program, using both aerial and ground surveys, recorded encouraging figures. 125 young were fledged from 91 active Osprey nests, with 61 successful nests. The number of fledged young by area comparing 1981 with 1980 were as follows:

	1981	1980
Gardiner's Island	37	31
North Fork (excluding Orient)	13	3
Orient	17	14
Plum Island	13	9
Fisher's Island	10	9
Central and Western Suffolk	3	3
Robbin's Island	8	8
Shelter Island	10	13

The season total of 125 fledged young equals a 25% increase over last year, and was double the 1979 total of 66, with a productivity rate of 1.37 young fledged per active nest. The results point to a strong and optimistic surge in reproductive recovery, as the young produced four, five and six years ago start coming back. As these birds return a second time their breeding record becomes more successful. Scheibel thinks the species is pulling out of the lag in the growth phase. All hope it will continue.

Positive points of the season included: Good breeding season for Ospreys. Summer Tanagers may be about to extend their breeding range to Long Island. An atlas trip to Plum Island (GSR *et al.*) found the heronry thriving with Snowy and Great Egrets, Little Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons and Glossy Ibis in numbers, and many young. A single Cattle Egret was present. Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were in numbers. Altogether, 50 probable breeding species were found on the island. Local tern and gull colonies in Suffolk County were about the same as last year. Yellow-throated Vireo and Rose-breasted Grosbeak seem to be spreading to Manorville area from North Shore. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows located on the North Shore.

Negative features found were: Black Skimmer low in numbers at Moriches Inlet for the second year. Chestnut-sided Warbler declining locally in Suffolk County; Indigo Bunting in lower numbers than usual this year; Yellow-throated Vireo continues scarce on the North Shore.

Rarities included: Leach's Storm-Petrel, Purple Gallinule, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, breeding Forster's Terns, Saw-whet Owls and Boat-tailed Grackles.

Contributors and initiated observers: Robert Adamo (RA), George Bouquio (GB), Paul A. Buckley (PAB), Thomas W. Burke (TWB), Ralph Cioffi, Dorothy W. Crumb (DWC),

Harry Darrow, Thomas H. Davis (THD), Stephen B. Dempsey (SD), Georges Dremeaux (GD), Sean Duffy, Frances File, Walter Friton, Paul Gillen (PG), Emanuel Levine, Alan Lindberg (AL), Robert O. Paxton, James Popp, Glenn Quinn (GQ), Gilbert S. Raynor (GSR), Mike Scheibel, Fritz Scheider (FGS), Lore J. Schore (LJS), Walter Sedwitz (WS), Barbara J. Spencer (BJS).

LOONS—DUCKS: Several Com. Loons summered in the Montauk area. A Red-throated Loon in less than breeding plumage was in Fire Island Inlet 6 June (H. Darrow). A summering Horned Grebe was also at Montauk 15 Aug. (R. Kelly). A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen south of Block Island was an unusual sighting. Unconfirmed reports of Leach's Storm-Petrel in the same area raise the question of a possible range extension westward for the species. Summering Gannets were noticed on several pelagic trips. Three Great Cormorants summering at their wintering grounds at Sand's Point was an unusual report 18 July (PG). Adult Little Blue Herons were present at Goethal's Pond, S.I. through the summer, with immatures appearing during July. Possibly these birds are now breeding in the heronry on Prall's Island (W. & N. Siebenheller). Five on 18 Aug. at Poxabogue Pond was a high number for the area (GSR). A pair of Least Bitterns with a recently fledged young bird 23 July at Jamaica Bay was the first proven breeding record in over ten years (P. Didion *et al.*). An adult Least Bittern was found in Baiting Hollow in June (RA), two at Montauk 17 July (BJS) suggested other breeding sites. The first Pintail arrived 2 Aug. at Jamaica Bay (THD). Pairs of Green-winged Teal in three or more places suggested an increasing population (GSR). First arrival of Am. Wigeon was 12 July at Jamaica Bay (THD). Wood Ducks produced broods in suitable locations ranging from Alley Pond Park, Queens Co. (LJS, through Nissequogue (SD). The drake Harlequin Duck seen 7 June at Montauk Point (BJS, DWC) was probably the same bird seen there 3 and 15 Aug. (PG, R. Kelly). All three species of scoters were in the Montauk area on 7 June.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Single Turkey Vultures were seen 26 June at Westhampton and 14 July on Plum Island. Several were reported on Plum Island earlier, and several other eastern Long Island observations are known (GSR). An adult Red-shouldered Hawk was seen 2 Aug. and an imm. 7 Aug. in Upton, both probably post-breeding season wanderers (GSR). Red-tailed Hawk numbers are holding up well in Central Suffolk. Fledged young were seen in Manorville and Calverton, adults were in many locations (GSR). Broad-winged Hawks continue in scattered locations including Alley Pond Park, Queens Co. (LJS), Muttontown (AL) and Nissequogue (SD). A Broad-winged Hawk nest was found in Manorville and an adult was seen in Calverton. The species was thought somewhat scarce by the observer (GSR). Ospreys had a successful breeding season; see the note in the introduction. Peregrine Falcons were sparingly reported: one was at Battery Park 17 June (THD), another was chased by an Am. Kestrel in Cold Spring Hills 1 July (S. D'Amato), another was at Jamaica Bay 2 Aug. (TWB), and an adult terrorized shorebirds and gulls on the Great Kill mudflat, S.I. 30 Aug. (GB & B. Bouquio). At least five territorial pairs of Am. Kestrels were found within a three-mile radius of Woodhaven, Queens Co. (THD). Four Am. Kestrels were on Rikers Island 23 July and probably bred there (WS). Ruffed Grouse were still in low numbers in Central Suffolk, but broods were found in East Manorville 24 June and Manorville 28 June. Ring-necked Pheasant were numerous on Rikers Island 23 July (WS) and evidently back to normal in the area according to the observer. Clapper Rails persist in Douglaston, Queens Co. (LJS) although they are generally hard to find on the North Shore. An adult Sora was picked up dead at Jamaica Bay 20 Aug. (BJS). An adult **PURPLE GALLINULE** was found 17 July at Montauk Point (BJS). A maximum of 125 Am. Oystercatchers were seen on the Line Islands, Nassau Co. (GD *et al.*). Piping Plovers, although extremely pressured, managed to continue to nest at known locations: chicks were seen at the west end of Jones Beach 21 May equalling the earliest date published in Bull (W. Friton); on the beach near Shinnecock Inlet, at Short Beach, and Smithtown on the eastern shore of Nissequogue River (SD). A single Am. Golden Plover was seen at a sod farm in Riverhead 11 Aug. (RA). A scattering of Whimbrels was reported from 9 July at Napeague (GSR) on through the period. Ten Upland Sandpipers at a

sod farm in Riverhead 11 Aug. was a good count (RA). Eight were at Mitchell Field 6 July (J. Popp) where they persist despite enormous pressure. A single Upland Sandpiper was at South Beach Fields in Staten Island 2 Aug. (R. ZainEldeen), and another at Long Beach 14 June (WS, PAB) both unusual locations. A maximum of 130 Willets were present on the Line Islands 1 Aug. (GD *et al.*). Thorough and persistent coverage of Jamaica Bay paid off with the discovery of the spectacular adult-plumaged **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** present 18-24 July (THD, *et al.*) photographed by R. Lewis. A maximum of 15-20 White-rumped Sandpipers were at Mecox Bay in mid-Aug. (PAB). A meticulously described breeding-plumaged Baird's Sandpiper was studied at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB) on 5 June. There is only one other verified spring report in this Region. A breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was present at Shinnecock Inlet 3-5 June (PAB). Another adult arrived "on time" at a now regular location on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay 20 July and stayed until 16 Aug. A second individual was there 7-23 Aug. A report by visiting birders of two Curlew Sandpipers in breeding plumage in Mill Neck 25 July seemed reliable, but local birders were not informed in time to confirm the record (J. Caffrey). Twelve Stilt Sandpipers were present among hundreds of other shorebirds on Goethals Pond 9 Aug. (GB). A similar number was at Jamaica Bay from late July into Aug. (THD). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were sparsely reported: two were seen at a sod farm in Riverhead 2 Aug. (RA). A maximum of 22 Hudsonian Godwits were at the Line Islands 1 Aug. (GD *et al.*). They occurred in threes and fours in other regular locations. An adult female Ruff (Reeve) was present at Jamaica Bay 19-20 July. Another was there 8-12 Aug. The two previously reported **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** remained until 13 June at Goethals's Pond, Staten Island. Wilson's Phalaropes occurred in ones and twos in suitable habitat. However the buildup in numbers anticipated at Jamaica Bay did not take place. A No. Phalarope was at the Line Islands 1 Aug. (GD *et al.*). A maximum of four Pomarine Jaegers was seen on the Federation pelagic trip 22 Aug. A single Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from Wainscott 21 Aug. (PAB), and on 30 Aug. an adult was seen on the Great Kills mudflat, Staten Island (GB & B Bouquoie). The first juvenal Ring-billed Gull arrived 18 July at Jamaica Bay—on schedule (THD). The Laughing Gull colony at Jamaica Bay had built up to 325 tagged nests by the second week of June (PAB & F. Buckley). The presence of adults near the mouth of the Nissequogue River has birders alerted, yet no nesting has been detected there or elsewhere on Long Island. The escaped Andean Gull, now in adult breeding plumage, spent the summer with Ring-billed Gulls in the VanCortlandt Park area (WS). Two Little Gulls were reported at Shinnecock Bay 1-4 June, one remained 5 June (PAB). Gull-billed Terns were located in Com. Tern colonies at Jamaica Bay, the Loop Causeway at Jones Beach and at Moriches Inlet (PAB & F. Buckley). **FORSTER'S TERNS** moved into the area and bred successfully this year. The previously reported pair remained until 5 June at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB), a pair was found breeding at Hewlett Hassock, Nassau Co. (Jim Browne) for a first New York State breeding record, details on page 212. A well-described second year **ARCTIC TERN** was present 4 and 5 June at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB) for an unusual early summer record. The presence of a Royal Tern 4 June at Shinnecock (PAB) where they previously have been seen in early summer, suggests that breeding may be likely. Twenty-eight Royals at Mecox 29 Aug. was the maximum reported (RA). Two at Sands Point 4 Aug. were rare in Long Island Sound (GQ). Single Royals were reported from various other locations. A **SANDWICH TERN** in *portlandica* plumage was found 1 June at Shinnecock Bay (PAB). One Caspian Tern dropped in at Jamaica Bay 2 Aug. where it was seen by many observers. Another was viewed 22 Aug. (GSD). The only Black Tern reported was seen 22 Aug. at Sagaponack (GSR, RA).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A nest and one young Monk Parakeet were found in Brooklyn during atlas work (*vide* GSR). A pair of Short-eared Owls bred at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn (R & J Bourque). A displaying bird was seen 13 June at Tobay Sanctuary (J. Glassberg). Saw-whet Owls were successful in breeding in Lattingtown (see introduction). Chuck-will's-widows were reported from Manorville 25 June (RA), from Amagansett in mid-June (BJS, DWC), and the Calverton region for the fourth successive year (GSR). "Chucks"

returned to the Oak Beach area where they have bred previously. A pair of Com. Night-hawks raised at least one young at Stuyvesant Town, Manhattan (S. Madden *et al.*). One was seen in Riverdale 18 July (WS)—the only reports until migrants started passing toward the end of Aug.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A singing male Acadian Flycatcher was present May through July in Upton. Another was in a different location in Upton 9 June (GSR), and four were on the Captree count. These birds have been regularly reported on June counts, yet breeding has not been demonstrated. A territorial Alder Flycatcher was present for at least a week prior to 7 June in Montauk, where a bird was singing on territory last year (BJS, DWC). The territory adjoins that of a Willow Flycatcher. Willow Flycatchers breed in suitable habitat adjacent to salt marsh on both the North and South Shores and in VanCortlandt swamp. A number of pairs are at Jamaica Bay. About 18 pairs of Rough-winged Swallows bred in the Jerome Reservoir-Riverdale area this season (WS). A migrant Cliff Swallow was sighted at Moses Mountain, S.I., 30 Aug., a rare swallow in the Region (A. Flamm). Thirty-two Purple Martins in two colonies were located on the Captree count. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches bred again in a pine grove at Upton—family group seen 16 July (GSR). Brown Creepers were fewer this year in central Suffolk; no nests found but a pair was in Upton 22 June. A Brown Creeper nest was located in the Nissequogue River State Park 6 July (SD). Two Brown Creepers were on the Nassau count, while 16 were seen on the Captree count. At least six to eight pairs of Carolina Wrens nested in Nissequogue River State Park (SD). Smaller numbers were seen elsewhere in known locations as this species recovers from several hard winters. Hermit Thrushes continue in central Suffolk in suitable habitat, with at least two singing males in an Upton breeding bird census plot. E. Bluebirds were in somewhat higher numbers than in recent years. A pair at Upton raised at least one brood and probably attempted a second. A pair at Manorville raised at least one brood and re-nested. Another female was seen several times in Manorville; a family group was seen in East Manor, and a nest was found in Brookhaven by D. Puleston at the same location as last year (GSR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo is apparently declining in some central Suffolk breeding locations but breed in two new Manorville locations (GSR). This species seemed abundant in a Montauk breeding block with much suitable habitat. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers produced three young in the Nissequogue River State Park (SD, B. Giffen), a second breeding record for this area. Worm-eating Warbler is known to breed in two or three North Shore locations including Alley Pond Park and Cold Spring Harbor. Yellow Warblers were in good numbers on the Captree count (248) and on the Nassau Count (154). Chestnut-sided Warblers are declining locally in central Suffolk because of habitat changes as growth occurs. Scattered reports of migrant warblers began at the end of July and continued through Aug. with no marked waves reported.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eight Bobolinks were found on the North Nassau count, a female was seen 20 June at Flushing Meadow Park and a singing male was at Ridgewood Reservoir 21 June (THD). The first migrant was at Jamaica Bay 26 July (FGS). An adult female Boat-tailed Grackle was feeding two juvenals 23 June at Black Bank Hassock (J. Zarudsky, M. Gochfeld, J. Burger) and an adult female feeding two juvenals at Jamaica Bay 18-19 July (THD *et al.*) constitutes the first confirmed breeding records for New York State. Two male Summer Tanagers were found 20 June, one adult, one subadult near Oyster Bay (BJS). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was present in June at the bottom of Lighthouse Hill, Staten Island, but no evidence of breeding was obtained (H. Fischer). Seaside Sparrows were confirmed as territorial birds on the North Shore in Bayside, Queens Co. in June (LJS *et al.*). The numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds reported in the spring *Kingbird* were even higher than recorded. Three flocks in The Bronx totaled 1670 individuals (WS). The number reported, 340, should have been attributed to Spuyten Duyvel.

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