

Cruger's I area on 29 Aug. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: the bird referred to in the spring report at Stewart Airport in May was obs singing for 15 minutes on 11 May in the company of several E. Meadowlarks (BSe). Orchard Oriole: occurrence usually restricted to a few spring reports, but this year it remained to breed. A pair with three or four young were found at the Stony Point Ski Center 16 June. A male in Rye 20 June was feeding a young cowbird. A pair with a brood was obs 25 June at Stissing, and another pair in Dutch was nesting 18 June, and gone by the 25th. Scarlet Tanager: numbers low in Dutch. Three reports there of adults feeding cowbirds. **BLUE GROSBEAK**: a young male was at MC 1, 2 June. **DICK-CISSEL**: one report from Dutch 20, 21 July. Purple Finch: three at Pound Ridge 13 June and another at Purchase 8 July. 45 were banded at Hartwood during the period, and the first young appeared at feeders there 27 June. Pine Siskin: two adults with three young were at a Hartwood feeder 12 and 18 June. Others were at feeders 7 and 27 July near Winterton. One was at a feeder at Salt Point 3 June and another at Stissing 8 June. Another at a feeder in Clinton Corners 4-16 Aug. Am. Goldfinch: numbers good. One flock of more than 100 was in Dutch 19 Aug. Savannah Sparrow: one was at the south end of the main runway at Westchester Co. Airport from 26 June thru mid-July. At least 15 were at Galeville Airport 7 July. Grasshopper Sparrow: last at Galeville Airport 27 July. Three or four singing males were at LaGrange in June. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: last obs at Galeville Airport 14 Aug, max seven there 7 July. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least two were present at MC thru period. Vesper Sparrow: at least three were at Watchtower Farms, Wallkill 12 July. Dark-eyed Junco: three in the Deep Hollow area of Dutch 2 June. One was carrying food.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

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Weatherwise, the season got off to a depressing start with seven days of rain. Not surprisingly, cold temperatures went with this rain, the first seven days of June averaging nearly four and a half degrees F below normal. A few days of sunny weather allowed temperatures to climb to normal on 9-10 June before the next storm system came thru 11-14 June. This second rainy spell dropped as much rain as the first but with even colder temperatures, an average of 11° below normal. In terms of weather, the single worst day of the season almost has to be 13 June with temperatures 17° below normal and 1.65 inches of rain. The rest of June saw fairly normal weather with average temperatures and rainfall. Overall, June was three degrees below normal with a total of 5.12 inches of rain, over two inches above normal. July also started cool, the first week averaging five degrees below normal, but without June's rain. After this, July turned warm with the hottest day of the season 18 July when temperatures reached 98° in New York City. In total, July was about a degree warmer than average and its 3.14 inches of rain was about half an inch below normal. Two-thirds of July's rain fell on the 28th, including over an inch in one hour during a thunderstorm. August was close to normal until record and near record cold temperatures at the end of the month, particularly on the 29th. This cold spell helped drop the August average to about a degree below normal. August's rainfall of 4.66 inches, about an inch above normal, combined with June's surplus and July's small deficit, left the season on the plus side for rain. (All weather data for New York City.)

The June rains washed out nests of both passerine and colonial species on Long Island, reported Gil Raynor. He reported, however, that most tern colonies on eastern Long Island, including the hard-pressed Least Tern, did well after much renesting. Walter Sedwitz reported that many passerines seemed down in numbers in the north Bronx, perhaps because of the rains. Despite these somewhat negative reports, there are many interesting breeding bird records in this report. Included are: new nesting sites for Gadwall, American Wigeon and Ruddy Duck; the first confirmed Acadian Flycatcher nesting on Long Island in years; the third Long Island nesting record for Kentucky Warbler; continued nesting of Boat-tailed Grackles after last year's first proven state nesting. In addition, there is the first reported nesting of Cerulean Warbler on Long Island and New York State's first ever nesting Blue Grosbeaks on Staten Island.

This past winter the Central Suffolk Christmas Bird Count reported all time count highs for 23 species. In the winter season report I wondered how many of these species had fared during last January's severe cold weather. This summer's Central Suffolk Breeding Bird Census seems to give at least a partial answer to that question. In its eighth year the Central Suffolk Census reported all time count highs for 23 species (again!). Ten species are common to both lists of records: Red-tailed Hawk, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove (alas), Great Horned Owl, Common Crow, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin and Cedar Waxwing. Most of the rest of the species on the CBC and Census record lists are birds that primarily only winter on Long Island or go south for the winter, respectively.

A survey of the shorebirds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge was continued this year by Tom Davis. He reported that numbers of many fall migrants averaged one to two weeks later than last year. Also, he found poor numbers of western Canadian species, including: Western, White-rumped, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers. Am. Oystercatchers and Willets have increased compared to recent years, probably reflecting an increase in local breeding populations, according to Davis.

Rarities, plus several out of season birds were: Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Harlequin Duck, Black-headed Gull and Little Gull.

Finally, I would like to ask observers to include more notes on the status of more of our resident and breeding species and also on bird movements, particularly during migration. A reading of the seasonal reports will show that some observers regularly do include these types of notes, but more would be welcome. Observers should not restrict themselves to "good" birds in their reports or feel that they have nothing to contribute to the seasonal report if they did not see a "good" bird that season. What about those flocks of Blue Jays you noticed flying over when you went out to lunch last week? Or the geese heard going over in the dark the other night? We've all had experiences like these. We do not lose our interest in birds when we take off our binoculars. It is only when observations like those above are compared with other observers' reports do we see if they fit together into a bigger pattern. So send in those reports. (The moans you hear in the background are the editors who feel, rightly, that I am already too late with the seasonal reports as it is.) Thank you to all the observers and contributors

whose efforts make these seasonal reports possible.

Abbreviations: LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; BBC—Breeding Bird Census; mob—many observers.

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LOONS—DUCKS: At least a couple of Com. Loons lingered in Gardiner's Bay thru June and July (M. Male, J. Walsh). A pelagic trip to 30 miles s and se of Montauk Pt. on 21 Aug found one Sooty, 83 Greater and 56 Cory's Shearwaters and 95 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (B. Spencer, THD). Double-crested Cormorants were seen passing over the Riverdale area 24-25 June (WS). No report was received on whether or not Double-crests will breed at the Fisher's I. colony started in 1978, but they remain relatively common at the east end of LI Sound (JD). A Least Bittern was found at East Moriches on the Central Suffolk BBC and two were seen and heard throughout the period in the Calverton Marsh (RA, GSR). These were the only reports of this rare LI breeder. A late lingering Snow Goose was at Plum I. 17 June (GSR). One Breeding Bird Atlasser reported a very poor breeding season for the Mallards nesting at Hempstead Lake St. Pk.: "Between the Black-crowned Night Herons and Snapping Turtles it is difficult to find an immature Mallard to confirm breeding." (S. B. Dempsey). See the notes on Com. Terns for another report of Black-crown's predation. A pair of Gadwalls nested at the Goethals Bridge Pd. for what is apparently the first nesting record for SI, though breeding had been suspected there for the last couple of years (W. & N. Siebenheller, H. Jenkins, *vide* GB). A pair of Gadwalls also nested on Great Gull I, following last year's first ever nesting there (H. Hays). A new breeding locality was established for the Am. Wigeon when a female with young was found at North Sea (J. Ruscica, *vide* GSR). This is the first regional nesting away from western LI. A number of winter ducks lingered, or summered, in the region. A male Bufflehead was at Spring Creek 27 June-3 July (THD). A female Harlequin Duck, a good bird at any time, was found at Ft. Tilden 26 June (W. Baumann, *vide* THD). Three White-winged Scoters were at Orient 23 July (RA) and a female Black Scoter frequented Oakwood Beach, SI, 12-19 Aug (R. Clermont, *et al.*, *vide* GB). A brood of young Ruddy Ducks at Patchogue was evidence of the first LI nesting away from JBWR (*vide* GSR). A female and eight large young indicated successful nesting of Red-breasted Mergansers at Shinnecock Bay (GSR).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A Turkey Vulture, an uncommon bird on LI even during migration, was at Southampton 13 July (AW). Four Marsh Hawks were a record for the Central Suffolk BBC, following a near record count on the area's CBC. A pair of Marsh Hawks with newly fledged young in the Westhampton pine barrens confirmed breeding there after several years of suspicion (GSR). An imm Bald Eagle was at JBWR on 28 July (P. Bernarth, *vide* THD). The only report of Virginia Rail received was one at Manorville 1 Aug (GSR). The earliest Am. Golden Plover reported was one at JBWR 14 Aug (THD); 13 were at Southampton 28 Aug (S. Dempsey). The first Whimbrel of the fall was at Moriches Bay 7 Aug (RA, GSR). Upland Sandpiper: ten were at Republic Airport 17 July (RM) and 11 were found there 29 Aug (J. Greenlaw, *vide* RM). From mid-July thru Aug, one to two individuals were regularly found at Miller or South Beach Fields, SI (R. Clermont, *vide* GB). Willets apparently continue to increase in the region with 49 on the Central Suffolk BBC a count record. White-rumped Sandpiper numbers peak later in the spring than most other shorebirds. The max reported this past spring was 34 at JBWR on 6 June (THD). The first fall bird appeared at JBWR on 31 July (THD). Single Baird's Sandpipers were found at JBWR 22 and 28 Aug (*vide* THD) and at Mecox Bay 29 and 30 Aug (J. Ash, *vide* THD). The Mecox Bay birds were recognizably different individuals. The only Curlew Sandpiper reported was an adult that remained at JBWR from 28 July to 12 Aug (mob). Three Long-billed Dowitchers were at Shinnecock Inlet on the very unusual date of 23 June (PAB, *vide* THD). The first Long-bill of the fall was found at JBWR 23 July (THD); 22 were there on 15 Aug (THD). A lone

Stilt Sandpiper arrived at JBWR 18 July (THD); 9 to 19 birds were there throughout Aug (THD). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were at Goethals Bridge Pd. 14 Aug (GB). A Western Sandpiper at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June (PAB, *fide* THD) was a very late spring migrant or a summering bird. One month later on 24 July the first fall Western arrived at JBWR (THD); one to four birds were present there thru the end of July and Aug (THD). Marbled Godwits arrived in early Aug with two at the Line I 7 Aug (G. & M. Dreameaux, *fide* THD) and two at Great Kills, SI 9 Aug (A. Peterson, *et al.*, *fide* GB). Arriving with the Marbleds were Hudsonian Godwits: 16 were at the Line I 7 Aug (G. & M. Dreameaux, *fide* THD). The only reports of Ruff were at JBWR on the surprising dates of 30 June (J. Blass, *fide* THD) and 10 July (M. Sohmer, B. Baker, *fide* THD). Considering the unusualness of the dates it seems possible the two sightings may have been the same bird. As usual, Am. Avocets appeared at JBWR in Aug: different individuals 10-21 Aug and 27 Aug thru the end of the period (mob). At JBWR it was a summer to look for what we normally think of as uncommon winter gulls. An adult Black-headed Gull lingered from 5 July to 28 Aug (mob). Also frequenting the refuge during part of this time was a subadult Little Gull, 23 July to 18 Aug (mob). A lone Bonaparte's Gull was at Great Kills I Aug (GB). A pair of Gull-billed Terns were at Bay County Park in East Rockaway 7 June (PWP, *fide* THD). Fall migrant Forster's Terns arrived at JBWR 31 July (mob). There was no report from Hewlett Haddock, the site of last year's first state nesting. Com. Terns had a banner year on Great Gull I. with over 3000 pairs producing a record number of young (H. Hays). In contrast, the colony at Southold had a disastrous season producing virtually no young due to predation, mostly by Black-crowned Night Herons. On one evening in June, 14 Black-crowns and a Barn Owl were observed feeding in the tern colony (J. Syme). Four ARCTIC TERNS were reported at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June by an observer familiar with the species (PAB, *fide* THD). Roseate Terns did very well on Great Gull I. this year with approximately 700 pairs producing the most young in several years (H. Hays). Four Royal Terns were at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June (PAB, *fide* THD). 20 Royals were at Shinnecock 22 Aug (S. Terrill, *fide* THD). SANDWICH TERNS have been reported from e. LI annually for the last few years. One at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June rounds out an amazing collection of terns and shorebirds for that location on a single day (PAB, *fide* THD). Another Sandwich was reported at Mecox Bay 29 Aug (J. Ash, *fide* THD). A total of four Caspian Terns were reported this season: one at Mecox Bay 26 July (D. Larsen, RA), one at JBWR 2 Aug (M. Russak, *fide* THD) and two at Shinnecock Inlet 22 Aug (S. Terrill, *fide* THD). Shinnecock is clearly the place for rare terns in the summer months.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The Central Suffolk BBC reported a count record of 712 Mourning Doves. Central Suffolk found only two Screech Owls, in sharp contrast to the record count of 42 on the CBC, running counter to the pattern mentioned in the introduction. An injured, juvenal-plumaged Saw-whet Owl was picked up in Hollis, Queens Co. on 20 June (*fide* H. Richard, THD). The bird subsequently died and the specimen went to the American Museum of Natural History. Another juvenal Saw-whet was discovered, netted and banded on Great Gull I on 1 July (M. Rubega, JD, *et al.*). The Great Gull I bird shows why extreme caution must be exercised in considering a species a proven breeder for an area on the basis of a lone, flying juvenal. This bird definitely did not originate on Great Gull I and had to have flown a minimum of three to five miles over water to reach the island. The Saw-whet stayed for several days and was successfully hunting on its own. A Chuck-will's-widow nest was found at Oak Beach where they have nested previously (K. Feustel, *fide* GSR). Others were heard in the vicinity of Calverton, Manorville, Wading River and Napeague (GSR). The Central Suffolk BBC found only one Ruby-throated Hummingbird. An adult Red-headed Woodpecker frequented an old Com. Flicker nest hole in Manorville from 16 June to 26 July, but no mate or evidence of breeding was found (GSR).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: An imm SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER was found at JFK Airport 2 July (S. Chevalier, *fide* THD). Coinciding with the cold temperatures of 29 Aug were the fall's first Western Kingbirds with one at Jones Beach St. Pk (PWP, E. Levine,

et al.) and one at Robt. Moses St. Pk. (PWP, S. Safire, *vide* THD). As in the past two years a calling male Acadian Flycatcher was at Upton, but no evidence of nesting was found (GSR). However, an Acadian nest was found southwest of Riverhead 12 June (J. Clinton, Sr., *vide* GSR). Except for an aborted nesting attempt near Noyack in 1972, this is apparently the first confirmed nesting on LI since 1926. Tree and Barn Swallows were both found in count record numbers on the Central Suffolk BBC: 146 and 414, respectively. Tufted Titmice continue to increase on eastern LI with 42 on the Central Suffolk BBC another count high. Several Brown Creepers were present in the vicinity of Upton and Manorville, as in recent years (GSR). Single nests of E. Bluebirds were found at Upton and E. Manorville as in previous years, with another pair also seen at E. Manorville (GSR). 14 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the Central Suffolk BBC were a count record. One observer felt that Cedar Waxwings were more numerous than in recent years with nests found in Manorville and Upton (GSR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Singing male Yellow-throated Vireos were present sporadically at Manorville and Upton during the season, but no evidence of nesting was found (GSR). The heavy June rains were reported to have rained out nesting Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos in Van Cortlandt Pk. (WS). Prothonotary Warblers are rare fall migrants in the region but two showed up in New York City parks this Aug. A male was in Central Park 12 Aug (J. Farrand, *vide* THD), and another male in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens 19 Aug (J. Rosenthal, *vide* THD). Cerulean Warblers are rare spring migrants on LI but a female feeding newly-fledged young at Sag Harbor gave evidence that one pair stayed to nest, a first for LI (E. Salzman, *vide* GSR). Singing male Blackpoll Warblers were late spring stragglers at Ridgewood Reservoir 22 June and Springfield Pk. 26 June (THD). A pair of Kentucky Warblers were seen carrying food at Miller Place in early July (P. Laino, *vide* GSR). Fledged young seen there on 14 July indicated the third nesting record for LI (GSR). A female Canada Warbler at Far Rockaway 19 June was a bit late for the spring (THD).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlarks were reported to be barely hanging on in the Central Suffolk BBC area with only three birds found (GSR). A pair of Orchard Orioles bred at Springfield Pk. for the first nesting in Queens Co. in years (THD). In the early morning of 27 July 175 Com. Grackles were migrating southwest over Riverdale, one day ahead of the heavy rains of 28 July (WS). Boat-tailed Grackles consolidated last year's first state nesting record with two nests found at Piersall's Hassock (R. Miller, *vide* THD) and a nest with young at Middlebay near Hewlett Harbor (J. Zarudsky, *vide* GSR). New York State picked up another first-ever nester from the South this year when a pair of Blue Grosbeaks were found nesting at Latourette Park, SI (W. & N. Siebenheller). An invader from the north was a male Red Crossbill and four newly-fledged young seen bathing in a puddle in Upton on 15 June (GSR). See the spring report for other reports of nesting Red Crossbills. The Central Suffolk BBC found only two Vesper Sparrows, their lowest count ever. Last, but very far from least, is a male **CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR** at Bay County Park in East Rockaway 6-8 June (M. Lindauer; photo G. Dremeaux). This represents the fifth state record. That it occurred in June rather than in the winter or early spring is even more remarkable.

Corrections: Several errors crept into the spring season's report. The date of the Iceland Gull at JBWR should be 4 Apr, not 1 Apr. The Kentucky Warbler in Alley Pond Pk. observation should be credited to S. B. Dempsey. The flock of Bobolinks in a buckwheat field were in Cutchogue, not Patchogue. Finally, the Pine Siskins on SI represent the second regional nesting record. The first was at New Dorp, SI in 1976. My thanks to Gil Raynor for bringing these to my attention.

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