

eyepiece. The bird remained in a small shallow pool, feeding continuously at a distance of 75 meters. Everyone had several excellent looks and it was still feeding when we left the area. Its plumage appeared as pictured by R. S. Palmer (1962, *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. I, p. 454). According to the Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee (*Kingbird*: Fall 1981), the White Ibis is on the list for which reports are sought. This is the first report for Clinton County and according to the range map in Palmer (1962, p. 525) the only other straggler reports in the Northeast have come from Vermont and the Province of Quebec.

Accepted reports listed in the NYSARC's report (*Kingbird*, 1981: p. 206) state that there have been 11 state sightings recorded as of September 1980.

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Yellow Rail at East Patchogue: On 23 October 1982 a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) jumped up in front of me as I walked through a patch of Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) on an area of dredge spoil material on the north shore of Great South Bay, east of Mud Creek in East Patchogue, Suffolk County. The area was covered mainly by Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*), interspersed with pure stands of Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), and Switch Grass. My first impressions were of an injured bird, since it flew so weakly, dangling its legs beneath its body. I could see its short bill and buffy overall coloration, and, as it turned fully away from me, the two white patches on the trailing edges of the wings. I ran to where it had landed, about thirty feet away, but it did not reappear then or later in the day when I returned with Barbara Spencer, Karen Rowley and Keith Rowley to look for it.

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Ring-billed Gulls Hawking Ants: On 28 September 1982, I observed a flock of approximately 30 Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) that appeared to be hawking insects over a sandy dredge spoil area on the north shore of Great South Bay in East Patchogue, Suffolk County. Around me were thousands of flying ants emerging from the ground and flying in the direction of the gulls. While I tried following an individual ant and then an individual gull with my binoculars, I was unable to observe an actual capture, because the gulls were about 75 yards away. Each gull, just before grabbing something, raised his head, stalled a bit in the air and snapped its bill. After opening and closing its bill as if crushing something, the gull would fly on and circle for another pass. Not surprisingly, a number of Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) flying among the gulls and ants were ignored.

Bent (1921) states that in the western plains Ring-billed Gulls follow the plow "... picking up worms, grubs, grasshoppers and other insects." He also