

Sept; two at MC 12 Sept and one Iona I 18 Sept. Single birds were found by BSe at the Bashakill 11, 16, 20, 24 Sept and 7 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: an imm was found at a bird bath in Red Oaks Mill on the late date of 24 Sept and again 29 Sept. "LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: one Bashakill 5 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: max about 30 birds along River Rd., Cornwall Bay. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: one at Croton Point 21 Nov and another at a field in Purchase 4 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: BSe found them in good numbers 4-28 Sept with ten to 15 birds obs on several of those days. Black-throated Green Warbler: an excellent fall movement; better than spring. Blackpoll Warbler: BSe reported only one at Warren Sod Farm 10 Oct; this after almost daily birding thru the period. Palm Warbler: last Galeville Airport 14 Nov. Connecticut Warbler: one at Rye Nature Center 4 Sept, one 5 Sept and another 8 Sept, both in Pleasant Valley. One at Red Oaks Mill 4 Oct, one Bashakill 5 Sept and another there 7 Oct. Mourning Warbler: one Rye Nature Center 4 Sept and another at Red Oaks Mill 15 Sept. Yellow-breasted Chat: missed in Dutch, only report one Iona I 11 Sept. Canada Warbler: eight were at MC 4 Sept and gone by mid-month. Am. Redstart: almost abundant at times, more than 30 at MC 4 Sept.

TANAGERS-HOUSE SPARROW: Scarlet Tanager: lower than most years. DICKCISSEL: only report an imm female at Dobbs Ferry 5 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: more than 30 at WSF 3 Oct, and more than 250 there 15 Oct. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: two at MC 18 Sept. Vesper Sparrow: one at WSF 6 Sept and another on Mine Rd USMA 23 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: first report one Mine Rd, USMA 18 Sept. Am. Tree Sparrow: first report two Mine Rd USMA 23 Oct; very early. Numbers well up by end of period. Chipping Sparrow: one adult at Croton Point 14 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: numbers low; only one to two reported by most observers. White-throated Sparrow: first at Bashakill 11 Sept. Lincoln's Sparrow: more than usual, mentioned in seven out of 16 reports. First at MC 5 Sept, and there again 18 Sept; last at PL 24 Oct. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: only report two at Croton Point 14 Nov. Snow Bunting: good numbers at end of period. First 30 bathing at Ashokan 30 Oct, inc to 50 there by 6 Nov. Two reports from Dutch during Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: numbers low compared to most years, only real numbers at Cruger's I 10 Oct where "thousands" were found roosting. Rusty Blackbird: a pair foraging on the edge of Rockland L 16 Nov, and from seven to 16 were at Stissing 4-20 Nov where they winter every year. Seven were feeding at the WKNY tower in Kingston 31 Oct. Com. Grackle: usual spectacular movement obs; max over 2,000 passing Hook Mt 20 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: five in Middletown 30 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: almost none. A few reports observed one or two for the season. Max was a flock of 22 at Monticello 14 Oct. This was the only report of double digit numbers.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

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The uneventful fall weather contributed strongly to a rather quiet fall migration. September was dry with temperatures staying pretty much near normal. The average temperature for September was within a tenth of a degree of normal but the total rainfall of 1.77 inches was only 53% of the normal rainfall. There were very few fronts accompanied by the northwest winds that usually produce the best fall birding along the coast. Weak fronts on 3-6 September and 17 September produced some movement of birds, including a bit of a hawk flight along the barrier beaches on the latter day. October continued in the same vein as September. October averaged only two tenths of a degree below normal and its

total rainfall of only 2.31 inches, approximately half an inch below normal, lead to early suggestions of a return of last year's drought warnings. A cool front moving into the area 1-2 October brought the last sizeable shorebird movement of the fall as well as a modest hawk flight to the beaches. Another front, 16-17 October, brought in waterfowl, large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers to the shore and one of the better days for barrier beach hawkwatchers. November continued the dry spell with a total rainfall of 3.44 inches; seven tenths of an inch below normal. November was very mild with the temperature averaging 3.2° above normal. The first frost did not occur until late in the month, 27-28 November. The warm, dry weather produced very little in the way of bird movements. (All weather data from New York City.)

Three hawk watches sent in reports in varying detail. They were virtually unanimous in their descriptions of a slow fall migration. George Bouquio reported that the Moses Mountain, Staten Island watch had its least productive year since its inception in 1979. He did report that coverage was less this year than in the past but hawkwatchers along the barrier beaches reported similar results. Hannah Richard reported that the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station banded only one-third the number of hawks it had averaged over the last three years. Its total of 121 birds was the lowest since the station started in 1978. The station was manned almost daily from 16 September to 27 October. The total of 1028 hawks seen was less than half that of any of the last three years. The biggest decline was in American Kestrels which dropped from an average of over 1500 in each of the last two years to only 437 this year. One species that did increase was Peregrine Falcon which went from five last year to eleven this year, but still less than the 1979 total of 25. Drew Panko reported on a hawk watch he organized on Fire Island at the eastern end of Robert Moses State Park. He lacked comparable data for previous years but his impression of low numbers of hawks matches that of other observers. The good news was that he too reported good numbers of Peregrines, with a total of 31 seen between 27 September and 17 October. He found a difference in the distribution of species passing during the day with most Sharp-shinned Hawks passing before noon and most Merlins after.

Tom Davis continued his shorebird survey at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge till 24 October (see the Summer season report). Not too surprisingly the total numbers of shorebirds dropped off considerably after the end of August. The variety, however, stayed high thru most of September. Twenty-seven species on 18 September matched the greatest variety found on any day in August though the total of approximately 1500 individuals was only a bit over a third of the peak August numbers. Numbers and variety dropped off rapidly after that, with only 245 individuals of 16 species there 26 September. The previously mentioned movement of 1-2 October increased the daily total to 754 individuals of 22 species on 3 October. Variety and numbers of individuals declined after that date, though numbers of birds took a big upsurge with an influx of Dunlins at the end of October. There were about 1300 Dunlins on 23 October, the day before Tom ended the survey.

The short list of rarities is: Greater White-fronted Goose, Yellow Rail, Great Skua, California Gull and Northern Wheatear.

Abbreviations: NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay

Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Paul A. Buckley, Peter Cannell, Art Cooley, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joe DiCostanzo, Fran File, Paul Gillen, Rich Kelly, Emanuel Levine, Millard Lindauer, Steve Nord, Drew Panko, Robert O. Paxton, Lambert Pohner, Gilbert S. Raynor, Hannah Richard, Don Riepe, Walter Sedwitz, Guy Tudor, and John Yizarry.

LOONS—DUCKS: The most notable thing about loons and grebes in this fall's reports is that only one observer mentioned them. Single Red-throated Loons were noted flying over the Hudson R at Riverdale 7 and 22 Oct (WS). A lone Horned Grebe was seen flying south over the Hudson R at Inwood Pk 7 Nov, in the company of a single White-winged Scoter (WS). These were the only reports received concerning loons and grebes. They may have been in low numbers this fall, but surely someone else also saw some. Without more reports it is impossible to say anything for sure. Moving offshore now, 10-15 Cory's Shearwaters, 40-50 Greater Shearwaters and 40-50 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were counted on a pelagic trip off Montauk Pt 1 Sept (GSR). There has been such a decrease in interest in pelagic trips by birders that the Federation was forced to cancel a scheduled Nov trip and has announced that it is no longer scheduling pelagic trips. An adult No. Gannet was picked up at Great Kills Beach, SI 13 Oct (M. Sofia); the bird died at the SI zoo shortly thereafter. A subadult photographed on the beach at JBWR 18 Nov was a first record for the refuge (DR). On 17 Nov, 96 No. Gannets were counted flying by RMSP in a half hour (SN). An Am. Bittern dropped into a backyard in N. Babylon 8 Oct (*fide* FF). The only Least Bittern report received was one found at JBWR 11 Sept (RA, GSR). Returning to backyard lists, a late lingering Cattle Egret stopped in at a backyard in Brookhaven 17 Nov and again 27 Nov, a near record late date (K. Madsen). Two Glossy Ibises lingered at JBWR at least to 7 Nov (JD). A Tundra Swan was at Hempstead Lake SP 12 Nov (R. Kurtz); the high count for the species was six adults and one imm at Hook Pd 27 Nov (RA, GSR). A free-flying, adult GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was at the lake in Prospect Pk from mid-Nov to at least 28 Nov (JY). Small flocks of 35-60 Snow Geese were noted from various LI localities from late-Oct to mid-Nov. Wood Ducks are rare along the outer barrier beaches but one was found at RMSP by hawkwatchers 16 Oct (DP). A concentration of 41 Wood Ducks was at VanCortlandt Pk 27 Oct, fewer than last year (WS). Four to five Eurasian Wigeons were reported this fall: one or two at JBWR from 2 Oct thru the period (mob); singles at Willow Pd, Hewlett Harbor 30 Oct, where one was found last fall (SBD); Kaler's Pd 14 Nov (J. Ruscica) and Hook Pd 27 Nov (RK). Four Canvasbacks arrived at JBWR 17 Oct in the wake of one of the few fronts of the fall with NW winds (THD). On 29 Nov a male Tufted Duck was found at the Central Pk reservoir, where they have been almost regular for the last few winters (LP). An imm male Com. Eider and two male and a female King Eider were at Montauk Pt 27 Nov (GSR, RA). Two male Harlequin Ducks were at Montauk 16-27 Nov (PG, *et al.*). Along with the Canvasbacks mentioned above, ten Buffleheads arrived at JBWR 16 Oct (THD). The first Hooded Mergansers reported were two pairs at Hempstead Lk SP 11 Oct (SBD).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The front of 16-17 Oct brought six Turkey Vultures to the otherwise bored hawkwatchers at Moses Mtn, SI on 17 Oct (R. Clermont, GB). Three Bald Eagles were reported this fall: an imm at JBWR 6 Sept (C & D Lynch), a bird of unreported age at RMSP 5 Oct (C. Safina, SN), and in the "I wish I'd been there" category, an imm at Eastport, LI 22 Nov which at times was perched in the same tree with an imm Golden Eagle (RA, GSR). The northwest winds of 17 Sept produced 167 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 120 Am. Kestrels moving along the beach at RMSP (SN, FF). The only Cooper's Hawk reports received, away from the shore hawk watches, were singles at Riverdale 12 Sept (WS) and Hempstead Lk SP 11 Oct (SBD). A No. Goshawk was seen sporadically in Nov at the High Rock Conservation Center, SI (H. Fischer) and an imm was at Van Cortlandt Pk 25 Nov (WS). No reports of Rough-legged Hawks were received. The Fire I hawkwatchers reported a high count of 949 Am. Kestrels and 47 Merlins 2 Oct (DP). The high count of Peregrine Falcons reported was seven in three hours at RMSP 7 Oct (FF, SN); two were reported the same day by the Breezy Point raptor banders/watchers (HR). A YELLOW RAIL was an excellent find at E. Patchogue 23 Oct (AC). As further proof, if any were needed, that rails can show up any-

where, a Virginia Rail was found wandering around *inside* a health food store at 69th St. and Columbus Ave. in Manhattan 19 Oct (PC). The only Sora reported was an imm at VanCortlandt Pk 3 Oct (WS). Fifty Com. Moorhens, mostly imms, were at the Goethals Bridge Pd, SI 6 Sept (GB). The high count of Lesser Golden-Plovers was approximately 200 at Grumman airfield, Manorville 11 Sept (RA, GSR); a lone bird lingered at Heckscher SP thru much of Nov to 26 Nov (R. Nichols, FF). An Am. Avocet frequented JBWR from late Aug to 2 Oct (THD). Six Whimbrels were at RMSP 23 Sept (FF) and one remained there at least until 22 Oct (DP). A Hudsonian Godwit lingered at JBWR till 7 Nov (DR). A Marbled Godwit was at JBWR 3 Oct (THD), apparently part of an influx of shorebirds following a front with northwest winds on 2 Oct. A late Least Sandpiper was found at JBWR 20 Nov (THD). The high count of White-rumped Sandpipers at JBWR this fall was nine on 3 Oct, no comparison with last year's unprecedented 58 (THD). Single Baird's Sandpipers were reported sporadically at JBWR until 19 Sept. The first Purple Sandpipers of the fall were four at Jones Inlet 9 Nov (SBD). The movement of shorebirds on 2-3 Oct brought 13 Buff-breasted Sandpipers to a sod farm in Riverhead 2 Oct (RA). Two fairly tame Red-necked Phalaropes obliged birders with close views at JBWR 4-6 Sept (mob) and a Wilson's Phalarope turned up there 9 Oct (THD). A Pomarine Jaeger was found on a sand dune near the inlet at Mecox 4 Sept; the bird was evidently not oiled or injured in any way because it flew off with no apparent difficulty (GSR). A Parasitic Jaeger was seen flying over the ocean off Montauk village on the somewhat late date of 27 Nov (RA, GSR). An even later, but unidentified jaeger was seen at Montauk Pt 4 Dec (SN). A GREAT SKUA was reported by an observer familiar with the species, flying over the beach at Ocean Bay Pk, Fire I on the morning of 25 Sept; there were a number of gulls and jaegers in view at the time for comparison (PC). Over 700 Laughing Gulls were noted at JBWR 16 Oct (THD). The only report of a Com. Black-headed Gull received was that of an adult seen from a boat just off Montauk harbor 5 Sept (AC). A sub-adult CALIFORNIA GULL, found in the company of Ring-billed Gulls at Mecox Bay 1 Sept, was described in detail by the observers and a report submitted to NYSARC (V. Emanuel, P. Matthiessen, S. Lord). This is a first record for the region and only the second for the state, if you count the bird that has been returning to Rockland Lk in Region 9 for the last few years as a single record. An Iceland Gull of the "Kumlien's" (*kumlieni*) race returned for the sixth consecutive year to the vicinity of the restaurant at Jones Beach SP 21 Nov (EL). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: adult at Mecox Bay 7 Nov (ROP), sub-adult at Prospect Pk, Brooklyn 28 Nov (JY) and an adult at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI 30 Nov (S. Saffire). Over a thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Montauk Pt 27 Nov (RK, RA, GSR). Single Caspian Terns were reported at JBWR 5 Sept (I. Cantor), Oak Beach Marsh 12 Sept (ROP) and RMSP 9 Oct (N. Halmi). The high count of Royal Terns was an incredible 114 birds from Shinnecock Inlet to Georgica Pd on 29 Sept (PAB). Royals lingered into Nov in a number of locations: two at RMSP 3 Nov (SN), two at Mecox Bay 11 Nov (PG) and two at Shinnecock 14 Nov (L. Merryman *vide* FF). Three Com. Terns were still at the Montauk harbor 16 Nov (PG). No Black Terns were reported; surely someone saw some! The only alcid reported was a Dovekie, one mile off Riis Pk 30 Oct (*vide* THD).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Owls seem to have been in short supply this fall with only three species reported. A Snowy Owl was at Cutchogue 19 Nov (P. Stoutenberg). Single Long-eared and No. Saw-whet Owls were found in the Cedar Beach pine groves 7 Nov (FF). The same day JBWR's first Saw-whet of the season was found (DR). One observer felt that Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce this fall (WS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported sporadically from the outer beaches in Sept and Oct as well as at a few inland areas. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were down according to one observer (WS).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Connetquot R SP 14 Sept (FF). Ten Western Kingbirds were reported from 1 Sept to 28 Nov, almost all of them along the Jones Beach strip. The first was at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI with many E. Kingbirds and other flycatchers (W & N Siebenheller) and the last was near parking field 4 on Jones Beach (SN). As usual, Tree Swallows gathered in flocks of thousands in mid-Sept. One report from a sod farm at Riverhead said that on 14 Sept there were so many Tree Swallows gathered along the dirt road thru the farm, trucks had a hard time getting thru (*vide* RA). Two Cliff

Swallows were seen migrating west over the beach at Shinnecock 4 Sept (GSR). Six Barn Swallows were still at Montauk 6 Nov (ROP) and two were at JBWR 7 Nov (JD). Large numbers of Blue Jays were noted passing over Riverdale on 26 Sept and 2 Oct when 1,402 and 1,582, respectively, were counted in 20 minute periods (WS). In a fall that saw no movements of northern irruptive species, a lone Boreal Chickadee at Fort Tryon Pk, Manhattan 12 Oct was a good find (LP). A big flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets was noted at RMSP 19 Oct, but they were all gone by 21 Oct (FF). Two lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Montauk 6 Nov (ROP, *et al.*). Another excellent find of a relatively quiet fall season was a NORTHERN WHEATEAR, present at Acabonack, LI 13-16 Sept (J. Terry, L. Penny). E. Bluebirds were at Upton and Manorville, where they nest in the summer, into mid-Nov (GSR). No other reports were received for the species. The hawkwatchers at Moses Mtn, SI reported hundreds of Am. Robins in that vicinity in mid-Oct but that the Robins were almost all gone by early Nov (GB). No shrikes were reported this fall.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireos were reported at the W. T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, SI on 4 Sept (W & N Siebenheller) and on Jones Beach 12 Sept (EL). A Nashville Warbler was found at Whitestone on the relatively late date of 23 Nov (L. Schore). Black-throated Blue Warblers also lingered into Nov with two males at RMSP 7 Nov (R. Laskowski) and one still there 9 Nov (FF). There was a big flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers along the Jones Beach strip the weekend of 16-17 Oct with over 2,500 estimated there on 17 Oct (WS, PAB). A Pine Warbler was at RMSP 9 Nov (FF) and a Palm Warbler was found at the Goethals Bridge Pd, SI on 21 Nov (GB). A Connecticut Warbler and a female Hooded Warbler were at Buck's Hollow, SI 18 Sept (GB). Mourning Warblers were reported at Central Islip 16 Sept (A. Clerke) and Jones Beach 25 Sept (GSR). A female Hooded Warbler was at JBWR on the amazingly late date of 7 Nov (DR). Only one report of a Yellow-breasted Chat was received, 4 Sept in Riverdale, perhaps bearing out the observer's feeling that the species was scarce this fall (WS). Was this secretive species really as scarce as this lone report would appear to indicate or are observers just reporting them less?

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS: A Scarlet Tanager was found at Willow Lake on the near record late date of 14 Nov (GT). Also late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Woodmere 14-15 Nov (R. Sloss). Five Blue Grosbeaks were reported: two at Montauk 24 Sept (J. Ash) and a single bird at RMSP the same day (RK) as well as singles at RMSP (WS, PAB) and Willow Lake (GT) on 17 Oct. Two Dickcissels were at Jones Beach 11 Sept (EL) and a single at Fire I on 4 Oct (DP). A Rufous-sided Towhee of the western "Spotted" (*arcticus*) race was found at Maspeth 28 Nov (Mr. & Mrs. Polgar, *vide* THD); there are only a handful of records for this race in our region. Three Clay-colored Sparrows were reported: 19 Sept at Jones Beach (L. Feldman, EL, *et al.*), 2 Oct at JBWR (THD) and 17 Oct at RMSP (WS, PAB). Very few Vesper Sparrows were reported, with singles mentioned at RMSP 24 Sept, Heckscher SP 26 Oct (both FF) and Tobay 31 Oct (A. Clerke). The only Lark Sparrow of the fall was found at the West End, Jones Beach 19 Sept by birders who had gone there in search of the Clay-colored found there earlier that day (W. Lamoureaux, *et al.*). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Tobay on the somewhat late date of 31 Oct (L & L Feldman). It was not a big year for White-crowned Sparrows and only small numbers were reported. An early Dark-eyed Junco was at Jones Beach 12 Sept (EL). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were three at the West End of Jones Beach 28 Nov (SBD). The high count of Snow Buntings was 87 at RMSP 8 Nov (SN). Orchard Orioles were among our earliest fall migrants so one at Jones Beach 19 Sept is relatively late (EL, SBD, *et al.*). A No. Oriole of the western "Bullock's" (*bullockii*) race was found at Jones Beach 24 Oct (A. Wollin). Winter finches were very nearly absent this fall. The only reports were: Purple Finch—five at RMSP 22 Oct (SN) and three at Babylon 10 Nov (FF); Red Crossbill—one at Jones Beach on the surprisingly early date of 18 Sept (EL, R. Soffer); Pine Siskin—one at Jones Beach 19 Sept (EL, SBD, *et al.*); and that's it for winter finches. Under the new taxonomic sequence House Sparrow ends the list of species that can be expected in our region. No observers mentioned House Sparrows in their reports but I can assure you, by the simple expedient of looking out my window, that they are in no immediate danger!

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