

locations, but numbers seem to be lower than past years. Ovenbird: an adult doing a broken wing act with a fledgling at Cary Arboretum 18 July. Kentucky Warbler: one on the north side of Low Tor Mt. 6 June, and another on South Mt. Rd. on the opposite side of Low Tor 1-5 June. One singing at Pawling Nature Center 14 Aug was not heard after that date. Mourning Warbler: one in a small mixed flock of warblers near Forestburgh 16 July. Canada Warbler: three at Butler Sanct. on GSBC. First migrant on Mine Rd, USMA 14 Aug. FM reports them "common" on Big Indian Mt. 12 June, and feeding young on Peekamoose Mt. 26 June. Yellow-breasted Chat: rarely found in Rock. One was on the north slope of Low Tor Mt 6 June. One seen and heard at Stanfordville 8-10 June.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Blue Grosbeak: F, WA discovered an adult male shepherding three imm near Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island 14 Aug. This may be the second breeding record for NY State and the first for the region. Grasshopper Sparrow: back in the usual location and in slightly better numbers. Three June and July records in Sull, three at Westchester Airport on GSBC. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: two at MC on GSBC. Seaside Sparrow: one on Hen I, Rye on GSBC. Lincoln's Sparrow: one imm and a singing adult at Pawling 15 Aug were early migrants. Bobolink: several families ob near Pawling during July. E. Meadowlark: Rock had its first summer record in ten years with five or six birds on 11 June in W. Ramapo. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** the Stewart Airport bird found in late May persisted thru 3 June. Orchard Oriole: after being reported in eight locations in Rock this past spring, only one had a confirmed breeding with a full grown young obs on 1 July in S. Nyack. In Sull a first year male was obs carrying food for young at Bashakill 26 July. Thelma Haight had a nesting pair near Stanfordville, Dutch in June; and an adult male was at Wurtsboro on 11, 14 June. Pine Siskin: two at Youngsville, Sull 7, 16 June. Am. Goldfinch: obs building 21 July near Dover; and a nest with five young at Pleasant Valley 21 Aug.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

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Overall it was a fairly warm summer in the Region this year. June set the pattern with the daily temperature average being at or above normal on 21 days during the month. The average daily temperature for the month was 73.4° F, 2.0° above normal. June was also fairly dry throughout; the total rainfall of 2.82 in. was only .41 in. below normal, but over half that total fell on 28 June. July continued hot and dry with 24 days recording at or above normal temperatures. The hottest day of the season was 15 July with a high of 98°, right in the middle of a heat wave that saw above 90° temperatures from the 12th to the 18th. The average for the month, 79.5°, was 2.8° above normal. The dry weather also continued with a July total of 3.40 in. of rain, .37 below normal. But as in June, most of that fell in one day, the 21st, when 2.26 in. fell. August pretty much followed the same pattern: 26 days at or above normal; an average for the month of 77.7°, 2.3° above normal. Total rainfall of 7.26 in. was 3.23 in. above normal, but most of it fell on only two days, the 11th (2.39 in.) and the 28th (2.79 in.). (All weather data from New York City.)

With the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas in its fourth and penultimate year, Atlasers and other observers continue to increase our knowledge of our local breeding birds and recent changes in their status. New breeding sites were discovered or established for Pied-billed Grebe, Barred Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown Creeper and Prothonotary Warbler; and not all of the season's reports were in yet. Several well established species with southern affinities continue to increase their populations in the Region: American Oystercatcher, Willet, Tufted Titmouse and Northern Cardinal. Others such as Gull-billed Tern and Chuck-will's-widow have maintained their northern breeding outposts on Long Island. A potential addition that should be looked for in the upcoming years is Summer Tanager. One interesting development is the emergence of New York City bridges as nesting habitats for birds of prey: see Peregrine Falcon and Common Barn-Owl.

For the last few years the National Park Service has been lowering the water level of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in the summer months, creating excellent habitat for fall migrant shorebirds at the Refuge. The East Pond has consequently become the premier shorebirding area in the Region. This summer the area really outdid itself with the state's first record of Little Stint, the second state record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and one to two Curlew Sandpipers almost any time you wanted to look for them, as well as one Ruff. Tom Davis, continuing his annual spring and fall shorebird counts at the Refuge, reported that arrival dates were similar to those of two years ago.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Brown Pelican, Little Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Pileated Woodpecker.

Abbreviations; BBC—Breeding Bird Census; NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; BLSP—Belmont Lake State Park; HHSP—Hither Hills State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; pr—pair.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons lingered well into June in Gardiner's Bay (MM, JW) and a breeding plumaged oiled bird was at Ward's Pt, SI 13 Aug (*fide* GB). A pair of Pied-billed Grebes raised young in the lake in Prospect Pk, Bklyn this summer (G. Thompson); only the third confirmed breeding location in NYC. The species did not breed at JBWR this year (DR). A lingering Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was at Great Kills, SI on 11 June (*fide* THD). One of the few rarities of the season was an **EARED GREBE** in breeding plumage on 4 Aug at Jones Beach (ROP); this is the first summer occurrence for the Region. A pelagic trip off Montauk Pt on 20 Aug reported 130 Cory's, 20 Greater and one Sooty Shearwater and 70 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (BJS). A Sooty Shearwater was found dead on Quogue Beach on 9 June (GSR). Four **BROWN PELICANS** were seen flying west along the beach at RMSP 2 July (J. Wallace), coinciding with a large incursion this summer on the New Jersey shore. Over 200 Double-crested Cormorants were counted coming into an evening roost at JBWR 13 June (THD). Least Bitterns were reported breeding in several locations around the Region: Montauk (BJS), Calverton (GSR) and JBWR (DR). Individual subadult Snow and "Blue" Geese summered at JBWR (mob). About 3,000 Brant flew over Forest Pk, heading north on 5 June (THD), fairly late for so many. Several species of

waterfowl that are normally present only in the winter lingered: a male Lesser Scaup summered at JBWR (mob); Oldsquaw remained in the vicinity of Bostwick Pt, Gardiner's I until at least 21 July (MM, JW); and individual Surf Scoters were reported from several locations including a male at JBWR (mob) where the species is rare even in the winter.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Ospreys continue their comeback with both the Captree and Central Suffolk BBCs reporting their highest counts ever, with eight and 17, respectively. A survey of Ospreys on LI recorded at least 127 fledged from 111 active nests (M. Scheibel). Several reports of imm Bald Eagles were received: individuals were seen at JBWR (PWP) and Oak Beach (RM) on 10 July and at Sayville on 13 July (RM); it is possible that all three sightings were of the same bird. Another imm was seen at Silver L, SI on 17 Aug (TS). N. Harrier may have bred at JBWR (DR). Red-shouldered Hawk did breed at Noyack (GSR). As reported in the spring, Peregrine Falcons successfully nested on the Throgs Neck and Verrazano Bridges in NYC; a banded juvenile male Peregrine was present at JBWR from 14 Aug thru the end of the period. A Sora at Seatuck in Islip was new to the Captree BBC. Lesser Golden-Plovers started appearing in the Region by mid-Aug with a max of 23 reported at a sod farm near Riverhead 23 Aug (GSR). An estimated 15-20 pairs of Am. Oystercatchers nested at JBWR (DR). Another shorebird that has been increasing in the area in recent years is Willet, with ten pairs at JBWR (DR) and 150 pairs along the Jones Beach strip from the Wantagh causeway to the Robert Moses bridge (B. Lauro). Twenty pairs of Upland Sandpipers nested at JFK Airport (S. Chevalier); 27 Uplands were reported at Westhampton Airport 25 July (RM). Other late July shorebirds were 12 Hudsonian and three Marbled Godwits at the Line I in Great South Bay on 31 July (TWB). A Marbled Godwit, rare in spring, was at Jones Beach 8 June (PAB). On 9 Aug 736 Red Knots were counted at JBWR, the highest count in years (THD). The peak number of Western Sandpipers reported was 24 at JBWR on 26 Aug (THD). Undoubtedly, the most exciting and sought after bird of the season was the **STINT** found at JBWR on 17 July and present till 22 July; the bird was first called a Rufous-necked Stint but was subsequently identified as a **LITTLE STINT**, the first ever for NY State. Details and photos to NYSARC (P., J. & M. O'Brien, THD, JY, *et al.*). Also contributing to the excitement at JBWR was NY's second state record of **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** on 16 July (THD, *et al.*); this may be the same individual that was found in the same location two years ago, almost to the day. Curlew Sandpipers have gotten to be quite regular at JBWR during the fall migration in recent years; this summer one to two were found there from mid-July to mid-Aug (mob). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in small numbers on farm fields in eastern LI as usual in late Aug, with eight to 15 in the vicinity of Riverhead and Mecox (*fide* THD). A molting adult Ruff was at JBWR 30 Aug (H. McGuinness, TS). A pelagic trip off Montauk 20 Aug sighted a Long-tailed Jaeger (THD). The Laughing Gull colony at JBWR increased this summer to over 300 pairs (DR). Little and Com. Black-headed Gulls are now sighted year-round in the Region: this summer a subadult Little at Breezy Pt 11 June (PWP) and a breeding plumaged Black-headed at Mattituck on 27 July (P. Bernarth). 14 Bonaparte's Gulls, one in breeding plumage, were at Ward's Pt, SI 13 Aug (GB). There seems to be a regular, but often overlooked, movement of Bonaparte's Gulls in the Region in late July to early to mid-Aug. On 4 July, from a fishing boat north of Great Gull I, an odd gull was spotted resembling a Lesser Black-backed Gull, but with pink legs. An examination of museum skins at the Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. resulted in the conclusion that it was a hybrid Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (JD, KCP, S. Drennan, *et al.*). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: 6 June at Oldfield Pt, Suffolk Co (PAB), 30 July at JBWR (THD, PWP), and 20 Aug at Shinnecock Inlet (TWB, TS). Two pair Gull-billed Terns nested in the Cedar Beach tern colony (C. Safina). An adult Caspian Tern was at JBWR 23 July (THD, B. Basham). The Com. Tern colony in the marsh at JBWR numbered approx 1,000 pairs (PAB). The Com. and Roseate Tern colony on Great Gull I did very well with a record number of Com. young, over 6,000 and about 800 Roesate young, the most in several years (H. Hays). Most other tern colonies on eastern LI did not do so well, with the colony

at Southold again being hard hit by Black-crowned Night-Herons (H. Hays). Forster's Terns were reported at JBWR on several dates during the season: 26 June (THD), 30 July (TWB) and 2 Aug (RA, GSR). Least Terns were reported to have done well at their Breezy Pt colony (DR). Also at Breezy Pt were 40 pairs of Black Skimmers (DR).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Monk Parakeets are apparently still on SI with several sightings reported during the summer (*vide* GB). Four pairs of Com. Barn-Owls bred at JBWR in manmade nest boxes (PWP); another pair may have bred on the Bayonne Bridge on SI (Mr. & Mrs. C. Helgesen). It would seem that even if NYC bridges become unsafe for auto traffic they have a potentially useful future as the biggest and most expensive bird nest sites ever built by man. A pair of Barred Owls nested on Fisher's I for the first confirmed nesting on LI in recent years (*vide* GSR). Com. Nighthawks were found nesting in several places within NYC: the Bronx (O. Rusabo) and LI City (THD). The Chuck-will's-widows nesting at Oak Beach raised at least two young (RM, GSR); another was present at E. Manorville as in recent years (GSR). Late spring migrant Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported at Alley Pd Pk 5 June (THD) and RMSP 6 June (LS). A **PILEATED WOODPECKER** was present during the summer at Mill Neck (GSR), presumably the same one reported in the spring.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Following last year's nesting near Riverhead, the first in many years, a pair of Acadian Flycatchers was found nesting in HHSP this summer (GSR). As usual the spring flycatcher migration continued into mid-June with reports of an Olive-sided at Upton 10 June, three Willows at Tobay 16 June and two Least at Manorville 17 June (GSR). The Tufted Titmouse continues its increase on LI with record numbers reported on both the Captree and Central Suffolk BBCs, 55 and 54, respectively. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered until mid to late June with one on the grounds of Sea View Hospital, SI till mid-June (GB) and one at Far Rockaway 26 June (THD). A new LI breeding site for Brown Creeper was found at BLSP (FF). E. Bluebirds nested at Upton, as usual, and others were found nesting at HHSP and near Easthampton (GSR). Two Water Pipits were a bit early at Manorville 17 Aug (EL).

VIREOS-WARBLED: A pair of White-eyed Vireos nested at JBWR (DR). A male Golden-winged Warbler, a very rare fall migrant species on LI was at Forest Pk 22 Aug (R. Wolfert). A number of spring migrant warblers occurred well into June; a female Blue-winged 26 June at Far Rockaway (THD); male Nashville 5 June at Pt Lookout (RM); male Magnolia 26 June at Far Rockaway (THD); male Blackpoll 25 June in S. Jamaica (THD); second year male Am. Redstart 19 June at Far Rockaway (THD); and a singing Ovenbird 19 June at Far Rockaway (THD). Early fall Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Alley Pd Pk 24 Aug (LS *et al.*) and Great Gull I 27 Aug (KCP). A new breeding site for Prothonotary Warbler was established for the Region when a pair was found nesting at BLSP with perhaps another pair nesting nearby (FF, *et al.*). A Connecticut Warbler, an extremely rare spring migrant, was reported at Forest Pk 8 June (P. Bernarth). A pair of Yellow-breasted Chats nested at Manorville.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Following a record spring flight, Summer Tanagers were seen during the breeding season on SI this summer (*vide* GSR); perhaps, in another year or two, this species will be added to the growing number of southern species nesting in the Region, as Blue Grosbeak did last year. N. Cardinals seem to be doing well with the Captree BBC recording 88 and Central Suffolk 147, both all time highs. Indigo Buntings were reported to have crashed in south Queens with only one pair found in five Atlas blocks this year compared to 12-20 in the last two years (THD). An early fall Dickcissel was found at Freeport 15 Aug (C. Ward). A Dark-eyed Junco lingered till the relatively late date of 2 June on Great Gull I (JD, *et al.*).

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