

State Pk, Sterling Forest, and the immediate environs above the 800' level, also heard on Schunemunk Mt. in June and July.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: found in at least eight blocks in S. Oran, always at upper elevations, much more common than expected. Philadelphia Vireo: first migrant 28 Aug. near Tamarack, Dutch. Another south of P'kpsie 31 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: everyone reports their numbers down. "Lawrence's" Warbler: one 23 June at Siskowit Res, feeding young, another at Tamarack Pd, Putn 2 June. "Brewster's" Warbler: obs with food 27 June along the Esopus near Boiceville. Nashville Warbler: FM considers this species as showing the largest increase among warblers in Ulst, excellent numbers at the lower elevations around Ashokan and Kingston. One obs carrying food at Ashokan 18 June, obs nesting at Moonbeams Sanct, Middletown; and singing on Schunemunk Mt. 10 June. Magnolia Warbler: common along the Neversink R near Denning on 22 July, obs regularly in the Catskills by FM. Black-throated Blue Warbler: nesting near Pawling on 4 July. Black-throated Green Warbler: also nesting near Pawling and obs feeding young. Cerulean Warbler: obs near Pawling 11 July. Another was a surprising find at the south base of High Pt. in the Catskills on 16 June. A singing male captured an insect and flew with it to a high cottonwood, but no nest observed. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** obs during second week of June at Pound Ridge Res. That same week three others were at Siskowit Res, two seemed to be paired. Hooded Warbler; breeding confirmed at Brinton Brook Sanct. Several nesting near Ashokan and a singing male near High Pt. Mt. 16 June, the latter at the 2000' level; another was at Pawling 18 June. Canada Warbler: two near Nuclear L, West Pawling were obs feeding young on 30 July. A male singing on Schunemunk during June was obs carrying food there the first week of July.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: obs feeding young on 24 Aug. near Pawling, also feeding young on 28 Aug. near Tamarack, Dutch. Late! **BLUE GROSBEAK:** a pair carrying food in the same location where a male was found with several imm the summer before, just south of Warren Sod Farm near the New Jersey line; breeding confirmed (FWA). Grasshopper Sparrow: six to eight pairs obs near the Wallkill Prison during June and July. Henslow's Sparrow: only two pairs obs regularly at Galeville Airport where in recent years more than a dozen pairs were obs. White-throated Sparrow: obs at the 1,000' contour in Sterling Forest and Surebridge Swamp. The latter responded belligerently to a tape of its song. One in FG's yard at Clinton Corners, Dutch from 10 June thru month's end. Dark-eyed Junco: breeding at Fahnstock Pk 21 June, singing on Schunemunk Mt. at 1,400' level 15 July. One at Pond Gut 25 Aug. was too early for a migrant. E. Meadowlark: continues its decline. Only a few reports. Brown-headed Cowbird: an unusual report of a phoebe feeding a fledgling in Dutch during June. Orchard Oriole: mentioned on four reports. One pair at Pound Ridge 23 June. A pair nested in South Nyack for the second consecutive year; an imm was there begging for food and eating mulberries on 17 July. A first year male was singing at CB 4 June. Another pair built and abandoned a nest near Stanfordville, Dutch in June. Purple Finch: a male and female were at South Trinity Res, Pound Ridge 23 June. A male was singing on Bull Mine Mt. Oran 21 June and 17 July.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

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Looking at the average temperature and total rainfall for the whole season might lead to the conclusion that it was a fairly "average" summer, if it is possible

to call any season's weather "average." However, this would be somewhat misleading. June started out cold and rainy with showers lingering from late May's record rains. These quickly gave way to a heat wave from the 7th to the 13th with highs above 90° F. virtually every day. Temperatures then returned to close to normal for most of the rest of the month with little rain except on the 24th when about 1.5 inches fell. At the end of the month heavy rains on the 30th, over three inches, pushed the month's total to 5.76 inches, 2.53 above normal. The early June heat wave helped put the month's average at 74.5°, 3.1° above normal. July pretty much reversed the June pattern with temperatures below normal most of the month. The thermometer broke 90° only once, on the 14th, and then only by one degree. There was a bit more rain than in June and it was more evenly spread out thru the month. Once again there was a day of over three inches of rain, the 7th, pushing the month's total to 7.03 inches, 3.26 above normal. August changed the pattern yet again, turning dry with generally normal temperatures. A warm spell from the 14th to the 18th helped push the month's average to 76.7°, 1.8 above normal. The total August rainfall of 1.38 inches was 2.63 inches below normal, the first month since January to have below normal rainfall. (All weather data from New York City.)

The birding could safely be termed relatively quiet. There were few rarities and most of those few didn't linger long. In addition, there were no new additions to the list of breeding species in the Region as there have been in recent summers. Double-crested Cormorants added a second regional nesting locality, Laughing Gulls and Boat-tailed Grackles are apparently consolidating their New York State beachheads at Jamaica Bay, and Gull-billed Terns maintain a tiny, albeit unsuccessful, population on Long Island.

A glance at the names of contributors listed below will show the absence of two of Region 10's most active observers: Tom Davis and Gil Raynor. Tom, a former Region 10 editor and the editor of the New York City Rare Bird Alert, has been hospitalized since April as the result of an aneurysm. Gil, compiler of the Central Suffolk Christmas and Breeding Bird Counts and Region 10 Breeding Bird Atlas coordinator, has been in a coma since mid-summer as a result of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. This season's report, and the whole Region, is poorer because of their, hopefully temporary, absence. I know that birders throughout the Region and the State join me in wishing them well.

Rarities: Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Plover, Little Stint, Arctic Tern, Sooty Tern, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; SP-State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob-many observers.

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LOONS-DUCKS: A summering Com. Loon was at Short Bch 17 July (SBD). A No. Fulmar was off Fire I. Inlet 3 July (C. Safina, R. Halbeisen). On a 20 Aug. pelagic trip to the edge of the continental shelf, 85 miles south of Montauk, birds were relatively scarce but it was interesting to note that from approx. 15 miles out Greater Shearwater was the only shearwater seen, but closer inshore, Cory's Shearwaters predominated (JD). Manx

Shearwaters are being found in increasing numbers on pelagic trips off LI (ROP); four were seen approx. 10-12 miles south of Montauk 20 Aug. (JD). A trip 25 miles south of Montauk on 1 July found an albinistic Wilson's Storm-Petrel with many other Wilson's around fishing trawlers (JD, J. Farrand, *et al.*). As reported in the Summer, 1984 issue of *The Kingbird*, the Region's second Double-crested Cormorant colony was discovered on South Brother I. in the East R. this June (PAB, FGB); Double-crested summured at Hempstead Lk SP, perhaps portending a possible third nesting location (SBD). A Great Egret was at VanCortlandt Pk. 8 July, where they are fairly uncommon (WS). A Tricolored Heron at Goethal's Bridge Pd., SI was thought to have perhaps bred on nearby Prall's I. (AM). Cattle Egrets are still relatively uncommon away from breeding colonies, so six flying over Oyster Bay beach 6 Aug. was a good local find (W. Paterson). Numbers of nesting Wood Ducks at VanCortlandt Pk were reported to be down from recent years (WS). A male Black Scoter summured off Great Kill's, SI (R. Clermont, *et al.*). An above normal number of summer reports of Red-breasted Mergansers perhaps indicated a good year for LI's small breeding population.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The Osprey comeback on LI leveled off this year with a survey reporting 111 nests, the same as last year (M. Scheibel). Several Bald Eagles were reported: an imm. at JBWR 1-3 June (mob); three birds of unreported age at Aquebogue 2 June (A. Bisk) and one, possibly two, at Manorville 25 July (B. Conolly). A pair of Peregrine Falcons returned to the Throgs Neck Bridge to nest this summer and apparently fledged two young (*vide* TWB). One of the season's few rarities was a **SANDHILL CRANE** at Orient 14-27 July (P. Bernath, *vide* ROP). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely reported in late Aug. with the max being 25 at a sod farm in Miller Place, LI 29 Aug. (RA). A **WILSON'S PLOVER** at Great Kills, SI 7 June was a second county record (A. Morris), the first being at the same location in May, 1978. Am. Oystercatchers continue to increase on LI: in 1974 surveys discovered 36 pairs on LI, this summer 60 pairs were found in Great South Bay just in the stretch between the Wantagh Causeway and the Robert Moses Bridge (BL). Other evidence of the oystercatchers' increase are the following counts: 50-60 birds throughout Aug. at JBWR where a few years ago it was a treat to find one or two; and 150 at the Line I. 29 July. An Am. Avocet at Oyster Pd., Montauk 16 June is a rare regional spring record (BS); another individual, also early, but attributable to the fall migration, was at Middle Line I. 14 July (*vide* TWB). Upland Sandpipers turned up at two unexpected locations: the VanCortlandt Pk. parade grounds 18 Aug. (WS) and JBWR 29 July and 11 Aug. The peak count of Whimbrel reported was 15 at JBWR 21 July. Six Hudsonian Godwits at the Line I. 14 July increased to 13 there 8 Aug.; one to three birds were at JBWR from 21 July thru late-Aug. A rare spring Marbled Godwit was found at North Line I. 10 June (BL). New York State's second **LITTLE STINT** was found at JBWR 5 June, in a similar plumage to the bird found there last July (PAB). White-rumped Sandpipers were at JBWR and Jones Bch 27-28 June (mob). The first fall Baird's Sandpiper reported was one at JBWR 16 Aug. (RA). A Curlew Sandpiper was at JBWR 3-5 June (R. ZainEldeen, TWB), and one or more were there from 19 July to mid-Aug. (mob). The max of Stilt Sandpiper reported was 32 at Jones Bch (PAB). Long-billed Dowitcher arrived at JBWR 21 July. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes apparently summured at Jones Bch (AW); three were at JBWR 23-24 June and others were reported from various locations in the Region in July and Aug. with a max of seven at the East Pd., JBWR 29 Aug. (SBD). A female No. Phalarope was at JBWR 3 June and one to two birds were there mid to late Aug. (mob). The breeding Laughing Gulls in the eastern end of Jamaica Bay continue to increase, reaching 2,800 pairs this summer (PAB, FGB). A Bonaparte's Gull was at Great Kills, SI 28 Aug. (GB). A Glaucous Gull at Gardiner's I. 13 June was a rare summer find (PAB). Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns attempted to nest, unsuccessfully, along the south shore of LI (J. Zarudsky, *et al.*). Two Caspian Terns and six Royal Terns were at Mecox Bay 24 Aug. (JJR); four Royals were at Mecox 13 June (PAB). Roseate and Common Terns continue to do well on Great Gull I. with 700-800 and 4,700-4,800 pairs, respectively (JD); the Cedar Bch colony also did well with nearly 6,000 pairs of Commons and 80-100 pairs of Roseates (M. Gochfeld, *vide* ROP).

An **ARCTIC TERN** was at the Sore Thumb, Jones Bch 7-9 June (PAB, A. J. Lauro) and an amazing five were at Shinnecock 13 June (PAB). A census of the LI population of Least Terns found 4,490 adults this summer (D. Peterson, *vide* ROP). And adult **SOOTY TERN** standing on a float 14 miles s.e. of Montauk 26 June was perhaps a result of the stormy weather on the 24th with its south winds (M. Male). Three pairs of Black Skimmers attempting to nest on Great Gull I. was a first there; unfortunately, only one pair laid a full clutch and they soon abandoned it (JD); probably just as well since there are no good feeding areas for skimmers closer than Gardiner's I, five miles to the south.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Many observers reported that numbers of both cuckoo species seemed to be low. A Com. Nighthawk seen during the summer in lower Manhattan in the vicinity of 17th St. and Irving Place may have been nesting on the roof of a nearby building. Chuck-will's-widows continue to nest along the eastern sections of the Jones Bch strip and at their other recent LI locations. Nesting Chimney Swifts were thought to be down in numbers in Riverdale (WS). Belted Kingfisher may have bred in VanCortlandt Pk this summer after an absence of several years (WS).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: As usual the spring flight of flycatchers extended into early June. The period 3-5 June produced reports of numbers of virtually every eastern flycatcher throughout the Region, just a sample: Olive-sided - two, Forest Pk 3 June; E. Wood-Pewee - seven, East Bath House, Jones Bch 5 June (SBD); Yellow-bellied - singing male, Riverdale 4 June (WS); Acadian - Belmont Pk and Forest Pk 3 June; Alder - singing male, JBWR 3 June; Willow - singing male, Jones Bch 5 June (SBD); Great Crested Flycatcher and two E. Kingbirds - East Bath House, Jones Bch 5 June (SBD). A Great Crested Flycatcher nesting in Inwood Pk, northern Manhattan was new to the area while in nearby VanCortlandt Pk E. Kingbirds were found to have very reduced numbers (WS). Two Cliff Swallows with 15 Barns at Heyerdahl's Hill, SI was considered a good find for the location (GB). A pair of Hermit Thrushes bred at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge this summer (E. Salzman).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo is unknown as a breeder on SI; in fact it is a very rare breeder anywhere in the Region, so a bird found at Buck's Hollow during the height of the breeding season on 9 July (AM) makes one wonder, particularly considering the various breeding records that have come from SI in recent years. Only one pair of Warbling Vireos was reported nesting in VanCortlandt Pk this summer (WS); a singing male was at Cow Neck, LI 23 June (JJR). Yellow Warblers were also reported down in VanCortlandt Pk (WS). A late spring migrant Prothonotary Warbler was at JBWR 3 June. A migrant Mourning Warbler was at Shu Swamp, Mill Neck 2 June (BS) and four were found at Forest Pk the next day (GT). A Yellow-breasted Chat was at Connetquot R. SP 9 June for the Captree Breeding Bird Count.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Two Summer Tanagers, undoubtedly late migrants, were reported; Forest Pk 3 June (GT) and JBWR 18 June (D. Riepe). A single observer was able to find only six Sharp-tailed Sparrows and no Seaside Sparrows in an hour and a half of searching in the Tobay marshes 30 June (SBD); has anyone else found these two species to be low? A very lost, and probably lonely, White-throated Sparrow was singing in a backyard in Hempstead 13-14 July (EL). A **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was seen and photographed with Com. Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds on Jones Bch 27 June-5 July (AW). Boat-tailed Grackles apparently continue to breed at JBWR with a number of sightings of birds, including a female with a juv. 29 July (TWB). A first year male Orchard Oriole was seen at Southard's Pd, Babylon 3 June in an area where the species has been known to nest in the past (J. Viglietta); a pair were seen building a nest in Mill Neck 14 June (BS).

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