

Sep, and one the second week. **W. KINGBIRD**: one near Pawling 9 Oct (JMcl, SG). Horned Lark: several hundred at WSF thru Nov. Am. Crow: more than 10,000 at Middletown roost in Nov, more than usual so early in the season. Com. Raven: a convincing but unconfirmed report of one compared with nearby crows at Sloatsburg 14 Sep. Red-breasted Nuthatch: family group S. Nyack thru period; an imm begging food from nearby ads for 10 min on 25 Oct went unrewarded. Carolina Wren: family groups S. Nyack thru period; numbers good along the Hudson R. Wood Thrush: last 25, 28 Sep Dutc. Gray Catbird: last Dutc 16 Nov. Water Pipit: max 120 WSF 3 Nov, last 20 there 15 Nov. **N. SHRIKE**: one Pound Ridge Res 15-17 Nov (Ed Kanze, mob).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: one Hook Mt 22 Oct, rather late. Orange-crowned Warbler: one on goldenrod in Chester 8 Oct. Pine Warbler: one at a seed feeder in Campbell Hall 21 Nov (JFF), late. Palm Warbler: one Monroe 20 Oct, late. Connecticut Warbler: one 20 Sep Highland Mills, only report. Wilson's Warbler: last Highland Mills 11 Oct, late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ♀ at feeder Rhinebeck in early Nov (Beatrice Cross, ph), late. Am. Tree Sparrow: first two Stony Kill 19 Oct, good numbers by end of period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a dark-plumaged bird at Piermont Marsh 14 Oct (Peter Derven), first Rock record in 10 years. Fox Sparrow: arr Dutc 3 Oct, regular after that date. White-throated Sparrow: arr Highland Mills 21 Sep, earlier than usual. White-crowned Sparrow: up to 25 singing, Stony Kill, 19 Oct. Snow Bunting: record early HMMW 20 Oct, where seen feeding 23, 24 Oct often as close as ten feet as Sharp-shins floated by only a few feet overhead; max 75 WSF 11 Nov and 40 Claryville 29 Oct. Bobolink: max 200 WSF at start of period. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: two ♂ reported without details WSF 11 Nov (JT). N. Oriole: ♀ feeding on suet Monticello 16 Nov-8 Dec (D,K,N Niven), late. Pine Grosbeak: 12 Vassar Coll 27 Nov, two feeding on Crab Apples near Pawling 28 Nov. Com. Redpoll: about ten Ashokan 23 Nov; one near East Park, Dutc, 31 Oct. Pine Siskin: numerous at all hawk watches in Oct, one flock of about 90 Hook Mt Beach 5 Nov; three or four at Rock L 7 Nov; nine at Highland Mills, 21 Oct; reported at about nine feeders in Dutc in Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Wurtsboro 30 Aug, numerous at all hawk watches in Oct, reported at many feeders in Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

It was a mild, dry fall until November when the weather cooled off and became wetter. In September the temperature was at or above normal on 22 days. Three days of 90+° F from the 4th to the 6th were some of the hottest days of the year. The month's average of 70.5° was 2.2° above normal. Most of September was dry until Hurricane Gloria brought 3.13 inches of rain on the 27th on its pass through the Region. This put the total for the month at 4.75 in., 1.09 in. above

normal. October continued the pattern with temperatures at or above normal on 20 days. This produced an average of 59.5° for the month, 1.8° above normal. October's meager rainfall of 1.30 in. was 2.11 in. below normal. In November temperatures mostly hovered around normal with an average of 47.2°, 0.2° below normal. The rains finally returned to the Region with a total of 7.95 in. in November, 3.81 in. above normal. (All weather data from New York City.)

The birding event of the season was without a doubt Hurricane Gloria. Called one of the major storms of the century by meteorologists, Gloria roared up the Atlantic coast on 27 Sep. Winds up to 130 mph were measured when Gloria dealt Cape Hatteras a glancing blow on the 26th. By the time it hit Long Island at noon at the west end of Fire Island, its winds had diminished to about 90 mph with gusts to 100 mph. Because Gloria arrived at low tide, damage along the beaches was small but the high winds knocked down thousands of trees throughout the Region. Eastern Long Island was hardest hit. Damage might have been even greater except for the fact that Gloria crossed Long Island very rapidly at a speed of 40 mph. Birding in the afternoon of the 27th after Gloria passed and on the days that followed was often frustrating because of the crazy quilt pattern of road and bridge openings and closings due to downed trees, power lines and the sometimes unfathomable whims of the authorities.

The birds brought by Gloria to the Region were a varied lot. There were scattered reports of Wilson's Storm-Petrels and one Leach's. A frigatebird was photographed over South Beach, Staten Island, by Dorene Morese and Phil Kearney as the eye of the storm hit Fire Island. While almost certainly a Magnificent Frigatebird, at the time of this writing the photos have apparently not yet been examined critically. Immediately after the storm on the 27th, birders found an Am. Avocet, small groups of Whimbrels and two Marbled Godwits at the West End of Jones Beach. The following day Arthur Morris counted sixty Western Sandpipers at Mecox Bay. One Red-necked Phalarope was at Point Lookout on the 28th and Bob Laskowski found a dead Red Phalarope at Timber Point the same day.

Gloria brought quite a variety of terns to Long Island. At least three Gull-billed Terns were at Mecox Bay on the 28th. Caspian and Royal Terns were widespread after the storm, with some lingering in the Region for weeks. Arthur Morris and I counted 12 Caspians at Mecox on the 28th and Ken and Sue Feustel found ten at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The last lingerers reported were two at Shinnecock 27 Oct. There were an estimated 20 Royals at Mecox on the 28th and 40 at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The latest report was of one at the West End, Jones Beach, on 5 Nov. Small numbers of Sandwich Terns also were widespread. Paul Buckley estimated at least 20 between Democrat Point and Montauk on the 28th. Paul found a "*portlandica*" **ARCTIC TERN** at Democrat Point on 28 Sep. The storm also brought good numbers of Forster's Terns to Long Island. There were 120+ at Mecox on the 28th and 70 at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The only tropical terns reported were an immature **BRIDLED TERN** at Mecox and two **SOOTY TERNS** at Montauk found by Tony Lauro on the afternoon of the 27th. Rounding out the Larids were 200+ Black Skimmers at Mecox on the 28th.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the bird fallout from Gloria was the

large number of land birds that the hurricane brought, particularly to Jones Beach. Birders arriving at the West End as soon as the causeways were opened in the midafternoon found the ground carpeted with thousands of passerines. Overhead, hundreds of Chimney Swifts were flying west into the wind. We watched warblers attempting to cross the bay and dropping into the water, apparently no longer able to fight the wind, only to be picked up by Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls taking advantage of an easy meal. The predominant species was Cape May Warbler. Al Wollin estimated 3000 or more Cape Mays on the West End, a number that seems very credible from my own observations. Al also estimated 150 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 1000-2000 Am. Redstarts and 2000-3000 Boblinks. A very surprising aspect of the warblers was that the majority of them appeared to be adults. Ornithologists believe that the adults of many warbler species migrate south over the Atlantic Ocean while the young birds move along the coast. Perhaps these birds were caught over the ocean by Gloria and carried back northward to Long Island. Other hurricane records in the rest of the report are marked simply – Gloria.

Arthur Morris continued his shorebird survey at JBWR. Continuing the trend established in August, most species were found in below average numbers. He also found that many species departed early. An exception was Semipalmated Sandpiper; peak numbers were up 20%. Another exception was Am. Oystercatcher, which lingered late in unprecedented numbers. For much of September, Arthur found about 20 species on any given day, but on 30 Sep he recorded 27 species. On that day several birders were treated to the sight of Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers all in one binocular field. Diversity declined to about 15 species per day in October and to less than ten in November.

Reports were received from two coastal hawk watches. Arthur and Hannah Richard summarized the eighth year of the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station. The station was operated for 34 days from 17 Sep to 24 Oct, three days longer than last year. They banded only 89 hawks, well below their seven year average of 247. The difference was due solely to the small numbers of Am. Kestrels banded, only 34, well below their average 198. Other species, 41 Sharp-shins, one Cooper's, one N. Harrier, one Peregrine and 11 Merlins were about normal. The Richard's total of 811 hawks seen was their all time low, once again caused by record low numbers of Am. Kestrels. Other species were seen in average numbers. Drew Panko's report on the fourth year of the Fire Island Hawk Watch provided some interesting contrasts. This year the watch was kept on 36 days from 11 Sep to 27 Oct, seven days more than last year and over a longer period. This is somewhat longer than in 1983, their longest previous coverage. Their total of 4377 hawks was the highest yet. They counted 1615 Am. Kestrels, up from a high of 1204 in 1982. Other species numbers included (previous high and year in parentheses): Sharp-shinned-1282 (676-'84); N. Harrier-239 (151-'84); Osprey-167 (108-'84); Merlin-1027 (497-'83). A total of 40 Peregrines was down from last year's high of 53.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Leach's Storm-Petrel, frigatebird, Sandhill Crane, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, Western Tanager, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: JBCh–Jones Beach; WEJB–West End, Jones Beach; NYC–New York City; LI–Long Island; SI–Staten Island; CRSP–Connetquot River State Park; HLSP–Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR–Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; NYRBA–New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP–Robert Moses State Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: EARED GREBE: JBWR 22 Sep–18 Nov (I. Cantor, mob), this was an often elusive individual. N. Gannet: invaded w LI Sound 28–30 Nov; 50 at Throgs Neck Bridge 28 Nov. Tundra Swan: max 11 Mashomack Nature Preserve, Shelter I 17 Nov (AC); six Hook Pd 24 Nov. “Blue” Goose: one with 60 Snows JBWR 29 Oct (TH), only report. Eurasian Wigeon: two males coming out of eclipse plumage JBWR 29 Sep (JD); one Lawrence 23 Oct (A. & M. Penzer). King Eider: one Montauk 7 Oct, early; one Caumsett SP 24 Nov (B. Conolly, E. Carey *fide* LLAS), rare for the locality. Harlequin Duck: Montauk after 5 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: four reported, all im, one Laurel Hollow 9 Oct (A. & L. Lindberg); two Southold 18 Oct (A. Bisk); one Riis P 24 Nov (JD, AS), all. N. Goshawk: im Yaphank 8 Oct (RA), only report. **SANDHILL CRANE:** ad & im Mt Sinai 17–30 Nov (C. Bergold), im picked up injured 23 Nov, died same day. Lesser Golden-Plover: 160 Riverhead sod farm 24 Sep (PB), very high. Am. Oystercatcher: 125 JBWR 19 Oct (AM); 65 JBWR 23 Nov, unprecedented numbers for fall. Upland Sandpiper: one Hofstra campus 1 Sep (JL, HR), only report. Marbled Godwit: JBWR after 19 Nov, late. Red Knot: about 500 JBCh 3 Nov, very high count for so late. Pectoral Sandpiper: one JBWR 19–29 Nov (TH, A. Skopac), late. Curlew Sandpiper: one, at least at a time, JBWR 17 Sep–2 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 8 Riverhead sod farm 23 Sep (RA). Ruff: two reports, JBWR 25–29 Sep (AM); Dune Rd 1 Oct (PB). Iceland Gull: im Rye 16 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: photographed JBCh 28 Sep, apparently the nominate race (P. Post); Riis P after 24 Oct (mob); WEJB 5 Nov (J. McConville, H. & L. Merryman); JBWR late-Nov (NYRBA). **SANDWICH TERN:** three Mecox 28 Sep (AM, JD); five Fire I inlet 29 Sep (KF, SF); five WEJB 1 Oct (FF); six Mecox 1 Oct (BS); three Mecox 6 Oct (AM). Com. Tern: last Montauk 23 Nov (NYRBA). Forster’s Tern: 20 Zach’s Bay, JBCh 5 Nov (FF), late for so many. Dovekie: two Montauk 30 Nov (R. Kelly), only alcid report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: BURROWING OWL: Shinnecock from approx. 17 Oct–23 Oct, seen by birder on 21 Oct and reported by duck hunter to have been present for five or six days (S. Elliott). N. Saw-whet Owl: JBCh 17 Oct (AW); JBWR 24 Nov, only reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: SAY’S PHOEBE: Fire I Hawk Watch 6 Oct (DP). W. Kingbird: Forest P 29 Sep; JBCh 17–19 Oct; one Rye 17 Nov; JBWR after 21 Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: RMSP 17–20 Sep (*fide* FF), only report.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Golden-winged Warbler: one JBCh 1 Oct, very rare in fall, perhaps Gloria. Orange-crowned Warbler: JBWR 20 Oct Rye 11 Nov; Montauk 13 Nov, only reports. Yellow-throated Warbler: one JBCh 28 Sep (J. Popp), Gloria, very rare in fall. Worm-eating Warbler: two WEJB 27 Sep (AW), Gloria, rare on outer beaches. Connecticut Warbler: WEJB 27 Sep, Gloria. Yellow-breasted Chat: WEJB 27 Sep, Gloria.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: W. Tanager: WEJB 9 Oct (R. Villani), no details received

but observer is familiar with species. Blue Grosbeak: total of five reported 2 Sep-20 Oct. Dickcissel: JBCh 8 Sep; Jones 28 Sep, only two reports. Vesper Sparrow: JBCh 28 Sep (AW), only report. Lark Sparrow: three JBCh 28 Sep (AW) ties state record max, but not Gloria related as two there 26 Sep (QCBC). White-crowned Sparrow: many reports mid-Oct, above average. Lapland Longspur: very few reports, two Southampton 9 Nov; two JBCh 13 Nov; one Bay P 20 Nov. Snow Bunting: max 60 Great Kills, SI 3 Nov (T. Preston), other small flocks. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: Seatuck 12 Sep (Seatuck staff). White-winged Crossbill: Great Kills P, SI 23 Nov (AM), only report. Com. Redpoll: scattered reports of small numbers, three JBCh 17 Nov; six Caumsett SP 24 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 40 JBCh 26 Oct (AM); other scattered reports. Evening Grosbeak: max 40 JBCh 26 Oct (AM); other scattered reports.

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REGION 10 – MARINE

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(*Editor's Note: This report of Summer, 1985 arrived too late to be included in the preceding issue of The Kingbird.*)

Overall, it was a cool summer with average rainfall in the Region. Temperatures were normal or below on 21 days in June putting the month's average at 68.6° F, 2.8° below normal. June's total rainfall of 4.41 inches was 1.18 above normal. The weather moderated a little in July but the pattern remained the same. Normal or below temperatures on 18 days kept the month's average at 76.2°, 0.5° below normal. July's total rainfall of 4.41 in. was 0.64 above normal. Temperatures in August remained at or below normal on 18 days. However, 90°+ readings on the 14th and 15th helped raise the month's average to 75.4°, exactly normal. August was drier than the previous two months with 2.58 in. of rain, 1.45 below normal. (All weather data are from New York City.)

The summer reporting period really covers three seasons: late-spring migration, breeding season and early-fall migration. June sees the end of the spring migration with flycatchers often at their peak numbers in early to mid-June. Late migrant warblers continue to pass through as evidenced by Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers at Great Gull Island 8 June. A Kentucky Warbler found by Tony Lauro at Hecksher the same day is harder to characterize because it could be breeding here at the northern limits of its range. Early July saw the beginning of the fall shorebird migration, particularly at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Shorebird numbers swelled there through August producing New York State's first record of Rufous-necked Stint. Cool fronts on 21 and 31 Aug brought the first significant numbers of fall migrant passerines to the Region.

Among Long Island breeders the Osprey continues its comeback. Mike Scheibel