

REGION 10 - MARINE

TONY LEUKERING AND JOHN WALSH

Hot. Wet. Humid. These are the only words necessary to describe the Season. And the weekends seemed to get more than their share of bad weather. There were approximately 20 days with highs of 90° or above and more than 20 with humidity over 75%. The 12.94 inches of rain was nearly two inches above normal.

Despite the heat, many species of water birds normally thought of as winter visitors were seen during the Season. The list includes Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Snow Goose, Brant, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Common Eider, King Eider, all three scoters, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Little, Common Black-headed, and Bonapartes Gulls.

Pelagic trips this summer were very successful at finding rare birds. An Okeanos Foundation trip south of Montauk on 9 June recorded many pelagic species including **South Polar Skua**. This species probably has been under reported in the past due to the lack of trips at the proper time. In recent years it has been seen regularly off New Jersey and Long Island in late May and early June. Adamo reported on the highlights of three pelagic trips taken off Montauk, though in what states waters the boat sailed is not clear. Manx Shearwater was seen on each trip, but the 2 August trip stole the show with an **Audubon's Shearwater** and a **Sooty Tern**! Unfortunately, no details were received by us for the three rarities covered by NYSARC. We encourage contributors to send us a copy of their reports submitted to the NYSARC.

In recent years **Brown Pelicans** have staged large incursions into New Jersey without benefit of hurricanes. This year, they finally made it to New York where there were two separate sightings on the south shore of Long Island. The first was of two flying west off Breezy Pt. on 11 June. On 16 August five were seen flying east past Oak Beach.

There were several notable nesting records. The Osprey nest found near Hempstead was the first for this species in the area in recent memory (*fide* R. Paxton). In addition to their regular nesting site at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Upland Sandpipers may have nested near Calverton as they were seen there in late June (NYRBA). McKeever reported active Purple Martin colonies at Water Mill, Easthampton, and Amagansett, but stated that the species did not return to the Quogue Wildlife Sanctuary which was formerly a thriving colony. He also noted four pairs of E. Bluebirds along along a 15-box trail in a recently burned section of Hither Hills State Park.

On 7 July, while conducting the Jamaica Bay shorebird survey, Arthur Morris and Arthur Berland observed an adult Willet, with young nearby, seize a Least Sandpiper "and hit it against the ground many times." The peep was "left for dead," but in a few moments it recovered and disappeared into the marsh (see page 212 of this issue). Large numbers of Willets were found in many places on the South Shore with a new maximum for Jamaica Bay of 46 on 17 August. Other notable concentrations (probably local breeders) include 35 at Eastport on 4 July and 45 at East Inlet Island on 1 August.

The hiatus between northbound and southbound shorebird migrations was shorter than usual this summer. There were 634(!) Semipalmated Sandpipers at Jamaica Bay on 6 June and scattered White-rumped Sandpipers into late June. Early southbound birds included the first-ever adult Baird's Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay on 25 July and a very early Pectoral Sandpiper there on 5 July. The last week of August saw a big push of juvenile Baird's along the South Shore with at least seven individuals at five sites. It was good season for finding large migrant shorebirds. Whimbrel and Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits were reported often from Jamaica Bay, Line Islands, and Mecox and Shinnecock Bays. Arthur Morris observed a Ruddy Turnstone defending a feeding territory against a European Starling at Jamaica Bay on 7 August. He also reported two Argentine-banded Sanderlings at Jamaica Bay in mid August. Wilson's Phalaropes were widely reported from 6 June to 30 August with a minimum of 11 individuals sighted. The only other phalarope reported was Red Phalarope.

In contrast to the decline of breeding Roseate Terns in the Region, Com. Terns continue to increase. The estimated 6000 pairs (5000 of which were trapped on the nest) of Commons at Great Gull Island this summer was the highest count since the inception of the banding project there. Kolodnicki, reporting that Least Terns nested at Caumsett State Park and at Sands Pt., states, "it appears that a lot of the old sites were used this year." Fifty Royal Terns at Great Peconic Bay 12 August was the highest count ever made by Gillen of the species at that location.

Species reported (including a Patagonian Conure from 26 June in the Calverton area and a female Cockatiel at Montauk Pt. on 6 June) in the Region and otherwise not mentioned totaled 131 for a grand total of 212. Rarities included: **Audubon's Shearwater**, **Brown Pelican**, **South Polar Skua**, **Little Gull**, **Common Black-headed Gull**, **Sooty Tern**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

Abbreviations: AMNH - American Museum of Natural History; CP - Central Park; CSCBBC - Central Suffolk County Breeding Bird Census (13 June, compiled by JC and JJR); GGI - Great Gull Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI - Long Island.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, Jim Clinton, Sr., Paul Gillen, Bill Kolodnicki, Anthony Lauro, Brook Lauro, Tony Leukering, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society (R. Cioffi - field notes ed.), Chris McKeever, Arthur Morris, New York Rare Bird Alert (Thomas Burke - ed.), Queens Co. Bird Club (Lore Schore - field notes ed.), John J. Ruscica.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two CSCBBC 13 Jun. Corys Shearwater: 35 off Fire I 3 Jul (NYRBA). Greater Shearwater: max 177 off Fire I 3 Jul (NYRBA). Sooty Shearwater: two S of Montauk 29 Aug (NYRBA); last report. Manx Shearwater: *intro*. **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER**: *intro*. N. Gannet: arr one S of Montauk 29 Aug (NYRBA). **BROWN PELICAN**: *intro*. Great Cormorant: one Napeague 14 Jun, one Montauk 18 Jul (both NYRBA); rare but increasing in summer. Little Blue Heron: one to two JBWR most of season (mob); uncommon summer visitant. Snow Goose: during Jul at Jamaica Bay (mob). Brant: one CSCBBC. Green-winged Teal: two CSCBBC. N. Pintail: female JBWR late Jul (TL), uncommon in summer. N. Shoveler: 6+ JBWR late Jul (TL), uncommon in summer. Eurasian Wigeon: arr JBWR 7 Aug (NYRBA). Canvasback: arr male JBWR 7 Jul (AM). Greater Scaup: male JBWR throughout season (mob); uncommon summerer. Com. Eider: one to two females and an im male Montauk all summer (mob). King Eider: im male Montauk all summer (mob); ad male Montauk 6 Jun (CMcK). Black Scoter: at

Montauk all summer (mob). Surf Scoter: at Montauk all summer (mob). White-winged Scoter: at Montauk all summer (mob). Com. Merganser: male Shinnecock Bay 4 July (JJR). Red-breasted Merganser: female East Inlet Island, Moriches Bay 1 Aug (JJR).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture: one over Quogue Wildlife Sanctuary 26 Jun (*fide* CM); rare visitant. Osprey: *intro*. N. Harrier: arr one GGI 2 Aug (AM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one CSCBBC; one Montauk Pt. 18 Jul (JJR); uncommon nester. Peregrine Falcon: arr JBWR 19 Aug (AM). Sora: one Brookhaven National Lab. 31 Aug (R. Santkulis *fide* JJR) only report. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 20 St. Charles Cemetery 16 Aug (NYRBA). Semipalmated Plover: max 1015 JBWR 16 Aug (JJR). Am. Oystercatcher: record max 360 N Line I 30 Aug, ca. 20% juveniles (AL, BL). Am. Avocet: one to two JBWR 19-23 Aug (AM, NYRBA), rare visitant. Willet: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: max 30 St. Charles Cemetery late Aug (NYRBA); *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*. Sanderling: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: *intro*. W. Sandpiper: arr three N Line I 18 July (TL, S. Drennan et al.), max 25 Mecox 30 Aug (NYRBA). White-rumped Sandpiper: max six JBWR Aug (JJR). Baird's Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral Sandpiper: one JBWR 5 Jul (AM); poss record early date. Stilt Sandpiper: arr JBWR 5 Jul (NYRBA), max 15 JBWR 9 Aug (NYRBA). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one St. Charles Cemetery 29 Aug (NYRBA); only report received. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 27 JBWR 13 Aug (NYRBA). Wilson's Phalarope: *intro*. Red Phalarope: 3 off Montauk 24 Aug (RA), only report. **S. POLAR SKUA:** *intro*. **LITTLE GULL:** E Moriches Bay in early Jul (RA, JC, JJR). **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** E Moriches Bay in early Jul (RA, JC, JJR). Black-legged Kittiwake: arr one S of Montauk 29 Aug (NYRBA). Royal Tern: *intro*. Com. Tern: *intro*. Forster's Tern: arr JBWR 18 Jul (NYRBA), max 20+ JBWR late July (AM). Least Tern: *intro*. **SOOTY TERN:** *intro*. Black Tern: max four Shinnecock 22 Aug (JJR).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Chuck-will's-widow: max eight between Amagansett and Acabonack 20 Jun (NYRBA). Whip-poor-will: max 29 CSCBBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Connetquot R SP on Captree Summer Count (NYRBA), one Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary 21 Jul, rare in summer.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: present Amagansett and Easthampton in June (NYRBA), rare in summer; first reported migrant one CP 11 Aug (TL). Purple Martin: *intro*. Tree Swallow: max 2200 Mecox 30 Aug (JJR). E. Bluebird: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr JBWR 30 Aug (NYRBA). Magnolia Warbler: one Kissena Pk, Queens 7 Jun (QCBC) is late. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary 21 Jul (BK); rare on N Shore and first reported migrant. Kentucky Warbler: one JBWR 11 Aug (NYRBA), rare migrant. Connecticut Warbler: one JBWR 25 Aug (NYRBA), very early. Mourning Warbler: one JBWR 30 Aug (NYRBA), early. Yellow-breasted Chat: one on Captree Summer Count (NYRBA), two Easthampton 24 Aug (NYRBA); rare in summer.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one CSCBBC, male Brookhaven Natl Laboratory 3 Jun (JJR), second-year male found dead GGI early Jun (*fide* P. Cane; spec to AMNH); rare in summer. Vesper Sparrow: only reports one CSCBBC 13 Jun (JJR, JC), one near the Hamptons 28 Jun (NYRBA). Grasshopper Sparrow: only reports four CSCBBC, one Manorville 4 Jul (JJR). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** im male JBWR 30 Aug (I. Cantor, M. Sohmer). Orchard Oriole: only report two CSCBBC.

ADDENDA: YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: female Amityville 19 Jan (AL, BL).

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*[This report is the last to be co-authored by Tony Leukering and John Walsh, who now will assume sole Editorship of Region 10. On behalf of the Federation, thanks to Tony for his contributions to **The Kingbird**. Reports for Region 10 should be sent to **John Walsh, 33 Second Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231** —The Editor.]*

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

[This report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue. Arrival dates marked with an asterisk in the accounts of species are corrections to the list of arrival dates tabulated in the previous issue - The Editor]

March started out wintry in Binghamton with 2.9 inches of snow in the first few days. Then the weather abruptly changed to sunny and dry with normal to above normal temperatures. Snowfall for the month was well below the norm of 14.6 inches, and precipitation was almost two inches short of the average 3.19 inches. Only one day, 10 March, had a mean temperature significantly below the norm while record breaking high temperatures of 62°F, 64°F, and 67°F were recorded on 7, 8, 24 and 25 March, respectively. For the last ten days of March temperatures were ten to twenty degrees above the norm. The weather faucet turned back on to produce the expected April showers but then turned off for May. April was wet, with an above average 1.13 inches of rainfall, and warmer than normal, with only eight days of mean temperatures moderately below normal. May was quite sunny and dry with 1.9 inches of rain less than the average. May seemed warmer than normal with at least ten days in the last three weeks with temperatures in the seventies and eighties, but mean temperatures were nearly normal.

Despite the mild weather which caused an early thaw of our lakes and created good conditions for sighting waterfowl, the species list tied the low of twenty one. Apparently the good weather caused an early migration. Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck, which have been reported in roughly half of the spring reports since 1979, were not reported again, and its not clear why. Greater Scaup was not seen for the first time since 1979. On the bright side Surf and Black Scoter occurred for the first and third times in nine years. Snow Geese in excellent numbers were reported for only the fourth year in nine. Apparently, observers have discovered the secret; keep looking up to see the flocks flying over in early March and April.