

through mid Aug. Chipping Sparrow: in flocks along roadsides late Aug. Vesper Sparrow: sadly no reports. Savannah Sparrow: two Vassar Farm, Humpo Marsh area Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: Woodstock Rd Jul (FG). Henslow's Sparrow: none reported, the old Airfield in SULL where they are known to be is now a Government restricted area. Dark-eyed Junco: two 7 Jun Deep Hollow where they are known to breed. Bobolink: breed well in DUTC, starting to move end of Aug. Red-winged Blackbird: gathering in flocks late Aug. E. Meadowlark: few at most farm areas. Northern Oriole: singing 28-29 Aug. Purple Finch: one in yard Aug (MVW), one young male (FG). Pine Siskin: one 18 Jul used thistle feeder and bird bath, stayed all day (MVW), daily through early Jul (MTM). Am. Goldfinch: feeding fledglings 21 Aug (HM).

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REGION 10 – MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

We wish to thank our friends and contributors for their kind words and offers of support in this new undertaking. They have made past records and present data available to us so that we can attempt to summarize the missing period. In addition, we have been able to obtain records and mail sent to the previous Region 10 editors for part of the missing period. Unfortunately, prior weather data has been mostly unavailable.

Part A: Summer 1988

The weather for the period covered by this report was remarkable in that to some prophets it signaled the much heralded coming of the "greenhouse effect," but in actuality wound up being pretty much just a hotter than average summer in terms of temperature and rainfall. However, the averages are deceiving in that some 32 days were over 90°F and the rain, when it came, varied significantly from place to place. LaGuardia Airport reported 8.6 inches in July, while MacArthur Airport received 2.4 inches. The exceedingly hot dry middle of the period was tempered at both ends by cooler, wetter weather. The position of the jet stream which produced our unusually prolonged summer heat also effects the Gulf Stream and, with that, the movement of sea birds. Although this is not necessarily the cause this year, pelagic species were few and far between during Aug in contrast to prior years, as seen from the Finback II. Shearwaters were mostly absent.

The big news was **Brown Pelican**, first reported last Dec, then in Mar (CM). Six were seen off Moriches 26 Jun (JC). Pelicans were seen in groups of 2-20 along the South Shore of Long Island as far west as Jones' Inlet on and off from then until early Aug, and. The high count was 31 at Fire Island on 31 Jul (NYRBA).

Several species have shown considerable breeding population increases or summer range extensions in recent years. A total of 399 Mute Swans were counted on the Central Suffolk Breeding Bird Census 16 June (JR) and 55 were on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay on 16 Aug (SS). Significant numbers were in the Montauk area also. Ospreys continue to increase. Quoting the DEC, 213 young are esti-

mated to have been born on Long Island and Long Island Ospreys were captured and used for an upstate hacking project. Two pairs nested successfully in Nassau Co (JZ). One nest with three birds was visible from the Jones Beach fishing piers and the other with two birds could be seen from the MNSA in Oceanside. The latter nest is farther west than the nest described by JZ in the article in this Spring's issue of *The Kingbird*. No nests of Cattle Egret were found in the bay areas of Hempstead Town (JZ), but they were more noticeable this year at Jamaica Bay with as many as half dozen feeding in the marsh at one time. Other observations in the Nassau Co. bay areas indicate that Least Tern numbers were down and Piping Plover were up from last year, but the censuses are not yet available. Common Barn-Owls continue to nest successfully on the bay islands. Reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker come from almost all areas with large trees. This is another species from the South which has continued to extend its range. Boat-tailed Grackles are being seen with greater frequency in more locations. While it is difficult to estimate totals, a definite dispersal trend continues. In addition to the birds in the Jamaica Bay area, at least two of the islands in the bay in Nassau Co had at least 5-10 pair each (SS).

Highlights of reports to the International Shorebird Surveys sponsored by Manomet Bird Observatory at Jamaica Bay by Artie Morris and David Mizrahi are as follows: Spring migration peaked on 1 Jun rather than in May with 2478 shorebirds of 11 species. Shorebird numbers were above average in early Jul but below average by late Jul, affected for the most part by weather conditions. Adult shorebirds peaked at 4907 on 5 Aug, about 25% higher than the last seven year average.

Lesser Golden-Plovers, Upland Sandpipers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers continue to frequent the sod farms in western Suffolk Co in early Aug, and American Oystercatchers have become so numerous that many observers have stopped counting them. Black Terns were reported from Jones Beach and Jamaica Bay in late Summer.

Jamaica Bay had a male Eurasian Wigeon on 27 June (NYRBA) which remained through the period. A **White Ibis** was seen flying along the Peconic River in Riverhead 2 Jul (Carl Helms *vide* JR). A possible **Violet-green Swallow** was reported at Montauk Point 17 Jul (JC), details submitted to NYSARC.

The CSCBC taken on 18 Jun gave some indication of breeding birds of interest including four Broad-winged Hawks, 13 Red-tailed Hawks, four Eastern Screech-Owls, seven Great Horned Owls, one Chuck-will's-widow, 15 Whip-poor-wills, nine N. Rough-winged Swallows, four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, eight White-eyed Vireos, two Yellow-throated Vireos and four Orchard Orioles.

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Abbreviations: CSCBC - Central Suffolk Co Breeding Bird Census; DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State; FPR - Farm Pond, Riverhead; FI - Fire Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MNSA - Marine Nature Study Area; MeB - Mecox Bay; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Manx Shearwater: seen near Block Island 7 Aug (BA). **Brown Pelican:** *intro.* Great Cormorant: imm Shinnecock Inlet 21 Aug through period (HMcG). Cattle Egret: *intro.* **White Ibis:** *intro.* Mute Swan: *intro.* Eurasian Wigeon: *intro.* Com. Eider: Montauk Pt 18 Jul (JC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro.* Red-shouldered Hawk: one Shoreham 28 Jun (JC). Peregrine Falcon: successfully nested on a building e side mid-Manhattan. Black-bellied Plover: 1193 JBWR 31 Aug (AM, DM) new high for location. Am. Oystercatcher: 170 JBWR 17 Aug (Max and Nellie Larson). Willet: 70 Shinnecock 14 and 21 Aug (HMcG), increasing everywhere. Marbled Godwit: one to three JBWR 8-31 Aug (NYRBA), one Oyster Pd Montauk 21-27 Aug (HMcG). Baird's Sandpiper: three imm MeB 19 Aug (HMcG), two FPR (AD, PG). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one MeB 13 Aug, one Wainscot 14 Aug (HMcG). Wilson's Phalarope: 1-2 MeB 13 Aug to end of period (HMcG), one FPR (AD, PG). Little Gull: imm JBWR 8 Aug (AM, SW). Bonaparte's Gull: JBWR 17 Jul (SW), a very late date. Gull-billed Tern: two Cow Meadow, Freeport 17 Jul (SS). Caspian Tern: Moriches Bay 12 Aug (HMcG). Royal Tern: 29 Shinnecock Inlet 21 Aug (HMcG). Roseate Tern: 250 max Shinnecock 27 Aug (HMcG). Black Tern: *intro.* Black Skimmer: 480 JBch 16 Aug (EL).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Common Barn-Owl: *intro.* E. Screech-Owl: *intro.* Great Horned Owl: *intro.* Chuck-will's-widow: *intro.* Whip-poor-will: *intro.*

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Amagansett 28 Aug (HMcG). **Violet-green Swallow:** *intro.* N. Rough-winged Swallow: 10+ Wainscot 26 Aug (HMcG).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: *intro.* Worm-eating Warbler: Amagansett 28 Aug (HMcG);

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one Brookhaven Lab 27 Jul to 2 Aug (JC). Grasshopper Sparrow: one singing Mitchell Field 12 Jun (SS), also reports from e LI. Boat-tailed Grackle: *intro.* Orchard Oriole: *intro.* Red Crossbill: four Ridge 11 Jun (JC).

EXOTICS: Chilean Flamingo: banded bird MeB all summer (mob).

Part B: Summary Of Recent Reports

The following covers only highlights of the period of the Fall of 1987 through Spring 1988. This interval had a number of unusual birds in the fall, most of them already reported elsewhere. A Dec report of **Brown Pelican** was followed with more pelican reports through the summer period. Reports of Christmas Bird Counts will not be included as this information is already published. Unless otherwise noted all records are from the NYRBA, supplied to us by Tom Burke, Jr.

The fall started with a remarkable 3-day pelagic trip sponsored by American Birds on 17-20 Sep which included Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, **Audubon's Shearwater**, **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, **Long-tailed Jaeger** and **Bridled Tern** (this entire trip should be bold faced). Land birds were not neglected as the fall brought to Jones Beach a **Vermilion Flycatcher** on 24 Sep and a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** on 17 Oct. JBWR was not to be outdone with a **Swainson's Hawk** on 1 Nov and a **Little Stint** 2 Sep. Montauk produced two **Northern Wheatear** 9 Oct.

By contrast the winter was dull except for the **Brown Pelican** seen 2 Dec in Quogue and which died the next day. Another bird was reportedly seen by a photographer in Feb and photographed 6 Mar at Northwest Woods. The above information came from Christopher McKeever. To continue the pelican story see the Summer report above.

Spring was notable for a **Wilson's Plover** at Tobay 3 May (Bob Hines fide NYRBA), an **Am. Swallow-tailed Kite** 5 May at Brookhaven Laboratory (JC) and a **Mississippi Kite** 24 May at Forest Park.

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Abbreviations: HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PP - Prospect Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: small numbers e LI from late fall through Apr. Eared Grebe: one JBWR 10-16 Oct. Sooty Shearwater: one Shinnecock Inlet 15 May. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 24 Shinnecock Inlet 21 May. **White-faced Storm-Petrel**: *intro*. Tundra Swan: several during the winter Freeport to the Hamptons. **Audubon's Shearwater**: *intro*. "**Black Brant**:" one JBWR 19 Apr (TH). Wood Duck: 56 Upton 2 Nov (TH). Eurasian Wigeon: a regular winter visitor at several locations. Redhead: 225 Big Reed Pond, Montauk 20 Feb (JR). Tufted Duck: one returned to Central P.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Southaven Park 10 Jan (JR). Bald Eagle: scattered isolated reports of singles from HLSP to MPt during the Winter. **Am. Swallow-tailed Kite**: *intro*. **Mississippi Kite**: *intro*. **Wilson's Plover**: *intro*. Am. Avocet: JBWR 8 Aug, 4-24 Oct (AM). Whimbrel: four on an island in the bay Nassau Co 21 May, usually seen on e LI in Spring (SS). Hudsonian Godwit and Marbled Godwit: both are seen regularly both at JBWR and JBch Zachs Bay. **Little Stint**: *intro*; another (or the same?) stint was seen there 5 Sep and was reported as a Little or Rufous-necked, the birders who included Paul Buckley could not definitely establish which one. Red-necked Phalarope: one 6 Dec JBch Inlet, Atlantic Beach side (SW et al.). **Long-tailed Jaeger**: *intro*. Laughing Gull: JBch Inlet 1 Jan (SS, AW). **Bridled Tern**: *intro*. Razorbill: one MPt 9 Mar. Black Guillemot: one Jones' Inlet 13 Mar (TB).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS. Nothing noteworthy.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Vermilion Flycatcher**: *intro*. **N. Wheatear**: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLES: **Townsend's Warbler**: one 14 May Forest Park. **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** 18 Dec JBch (TH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS. Dickcissel. at least three separate birds at JBch, an uncommon bird, more common recently. Clay-colored Sparrow: w end JBch 3 Oct, MPt 10 Oct, Smith Point 13 Oct, Central Park 14 Oct. **Golden-crowned Sparrow**: *intro*. Lapland Longspur: one 20 Sep MPt (HMcG). Yellow-headed Blackbird: Cedar Beach Golf Course 9 Sept. Red Crossbill: few reports, not a flight year.

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