

Water Pipit: arrived in large numbers Warren Sod Farms, max 50 Bangall Rd 29 Oct, ten Conklin Marsh 5 Nov. Cedar Waxwings: 100+ Separate Rd 5 Sep, ten Vassar Farm 13 Nov. N. Shrike: one singing Vassar Farm 19 Nov (JMK).

VIREOS -WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: several throughout DUTC Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: one Dennings Pt 23 Oct (WBC), record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: two Stormville 16 Oct. Cape May Warbler: two Fishkill 28 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 12 eating poison ivy berries 2 Oct, eight Basha 16 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: one Dennings Pt 23 Oct. Prairie Warbler: two Depot Hill 15 Oct. Palm Warbler: one 25 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: two 30 Oct. Scarlet Tanager: two Montgomery Place 25 Sep. Indigo Bunting: one Stony Kill Gardens 7 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: three Verbank 12 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: two Flint Hill 29 Oct. Field Sparrow: reported through Oct. Vesper Sparrow: two Grape Hollow 21 Sep (SG). Savannah Sparrow: max 12 Stony Kill Gardens 4 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Stony Kill Gardens 7 Oct. Henslow's Sparrow: one Humpo Marsh 22 Sep, one Warwick 1 Oct. Fox Sparrow: DUTC and SULL early Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: max four Stony Kill Gardens 7 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: one Stony Kill Gardens 7 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: max ten along roadside Amenia 29 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: appeared late Sep. E. Meadowlark: two 14 Nov. (HM). Purple Finch: common at some feeders, max 14 (FG). Pine Siskin: ten Wurtsboro 21 Oct, none DUTC. Evening Grosbeak: in flight over Monroe late Sep, two Stormville 23 Oct, also over Mt Peter late Sep, only reports,

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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After the hot weather of mid summer the Fall reverted to a somewhat more usual weather pattern. September and November were very close to normal in temperature while October was almost 5° below normal. Both September, which was normal, and October, which was cold, each produced a new record low during the month. Only one day during the entire Fall season was below freezing. Precipitation for the period was below normal for September, average for October and over double in November; and just average for the entire Fall. However, for a change, the entire migration period had a virtually unblemished record for clear weekends, affording most birders a maximum of time to be outdoors.

Reporting for the Fall Season started on 1 Sep with the CBS radio traffic helicopter reporting a pelican over Manhattan flying west. [We offer this special field report without comment]. Equally astonishing was the 10 Oct report of birders David Mizrahi and Al Bell from the Fire Island Hawk Watch. A **Yellow Rail** landed on the median strip in front of them just long enough to be identified before flying off.

With the advent of a network of "Hawk Watches" we now have information to survey raptor migration patterns in Region 10. There are marked differences between the southern barrier beaches and the mainland sites, as evidenced by differences in both species and numbers as reported by the Fire Island compared to the Pelham Bay Hawk Watch. Pelham watchers report buteos in large numbers, Turkey Vultures and fewer falcons. On the barrier beaches there are very few

buteos and almost no Turkey Vultures. A mix of falcons comes early in the season while the large flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks comes later. For example Jones Beach had a large flight on 15 Sep mostly of American Kestrel; a major flight on 13 Oct of 50% Sharp-shinned Hawk and 25% each of American Kestrel and Merlin, along with Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon and Northern Harriers. At Pelham 16 Sep was the peak of the Broad-winged Hawk flight when 6030 were reported. Steve Walter reported totals for the season at Pelham Bay including 1447 Osprey, 8366 Broad-winged Hawks, 19 Bald Eagles and 25 Turkey Vultures. All the Hawk Watches reported Bald Eagles in increasing numbers, a promising sign. Also of note were the larger numbers of Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk and Goshawk than in recent years.

Both Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl were reported throughout the fall season from the Muttontown and Welwyn Preserves on the north shore of Nassau Co. where suitable habitat is available. None were reported from the south shore.

The sod farms on eastern Long Island continue to attract migrating shore birds. On 7 Sep Paul Gillen reported 97 Lesser Golden-Plover, three Pectoral and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Cutchogue, on 9 Sep John Bull reported 40 Lesser Golden-Plover and four Buff-breasted Sandpiper in a pasture near Mecox Bay, and on 21 Sep James Clinton reported 81 Lesser Golden-Plover, nine Pectoral, eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a **Reeve** in Wading River. Smaller numbers of the first two species above were reported into early Oct. Arthur Morris reported on shorebirds at Jamaica Bay. Based on the last seven year average, numbers were slightly higher in early Sep and slightly lower from mid Sep to mid Oct. From late Oct through late Nov the shorebirds were down 86% due to the Refuge personnel maintaining the East Pond water level at exceptionally high levels. Migrating Dunlin, among other birds, found no suitable habitat available at the site during this period. Forster's Terns appeared in larger numbers and stayed longer at Jones Beach. Over 100 were seen flying south from the inlet behind the Coast Guard Station toward the ocean on 16 Oct and at least 60 still remained on Oct 30. By early Nov they were all gone (SS,AW).

Most observers commented on the increased numbers of both flycatchers, thrushes and sparrows during migration. Oct 30 had large numbers of E. Phoebes and huge flocks of Tree Swallows at Jones Beach. In addition this was the first Fall in quite a few years that we saw good numbers of sparrows along the edges of vegetation at Jones Beach. This pattern persisted over a period of weeks with the peak of the sparrow flight on 20 Oct. In addition many observers commented on the large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows seen this fall. Whether the overall nesting season was successful or the weather cooperated, it is an encouraging sign. On the other hand migrating finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually absent during migration. A group of 50 Pine Siskin was the largest and almost only report of this species. For diversion the Fire Island Hawk Watch had a woodpecker flight on 6 Oct which included one Red-headed, three Red-bellied, one Downy along with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Flicker (SW).

Christopher McKeever sent us a belated report received from Kimble Hicks on the Hither Hills Bluebird Box Project for the past Summer. In summary, 19 boxes produced 22 Bluebird fledglings in 6 of the boxes. In addition 12 boxes had House Wren nests and 2 boxes had Tree Swallow nests. Careful readers will

notice this adds to 20 boxes. Of interest is the comment that "one of the Bluebird pairs built a nest over a House Wren nest. A first. Usually the reverse." The members of the project are to be commended. We would like to believe this has something to do with wide spread reports of E. Bluebirds this Fall from Eastern Long Island.

A FINAL NOTE: It is part of the Fall reporting requirements of the regional editors to furnish a synthesis of last sightings for the selected group of 62 migrants on the "Fall Reporting Form". This is particularly difficult for Region 10 as ten of the birds on the list regularly overwinter here. It is impossible to separate the individuals which stay from true migrants without additional information from you, the observer. We solicit your help.

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Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pond Park; BNL - Brookhaven National Laboratory; FI - Fire Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; WEJB - West End Jones Beach.

LOONS-DUCKS: Tundra Swan: two Hook Pd 27 Nov. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one with orange bill of Greenland race MeB 8 Nov (PG). Snow Goose: blue morph JFKWS 10 Oct (Harriet Sato, LS). Wood Duck: ten Muttontown 6 Oct. Eurasian Wigeon: one JBWR, same bird which remained through the summer, one Eastport 12 Nov, one Deephole Creek, Mattituck, 21 Nov (PG). Tufted Duck: one CP Reservoir 27 Nov (Steve Sherman). Harlequin Duck: two JBWE 15-22 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Rockville Centre 28 Sep (LF), Muttontown 29 Sep (Al Bell). **Yellow Rail:** *intro.* Sora: Cow Meadow, Freeport 6 Sep (JB). Lesser Golden-Plover: *intro.* American Oystercatcher: fall peak of 106 JBWR 29 Oct (AM). Whimbrel: eleven on school yard grounds in West Hempstead 23 Oct (Millard Lindauer). Hudsonian Godwit: various reported at locations from JBWR to MeB from 3 Sep to mid Nov. Marbled Godwit: four JBWR 5-8 Sep dwindled to one 4 Oct (AM). Baird's Sandpiper: one JBWR 3 Sep (SS). Purple Sandpiper: arr JBch 6 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: JBWR 7 Sep (TH); *intro.* **Ruff:** *intro.* Wilson's Phalarope: MeB 2-5 Sep (HMG). Red-necked Phalarope: swimming in ShIn 11 Oct (MO'B). Little Gull: one ShIn 6 Oct (MO'B); one JBch 27 Nov (SW). Com. Black-headed Gull: Gull-billed Tern: one JBWE 15 Sep (SS, AW). Caspian Tern: two ShIn 2 Sep, one MeB 5 Sep, two JBch 13 Sep, JBWE 18 Sep. Royal Tern: one JBch 1 Oct, 80 ShIn 8 Oct (MO'B), 15 MeB 27 Oct (PG). Forster's Tern: *intro.* Black Tern: two JBWR through early Sep, two FI 4 Sep, one PBP 30 Sep. Black Skimmer: 466 roosting on spit at tern nesting area JBWR 8 Oct (AM). E. Screech-Owl: *intro.* Great Horned Owl: *intro.* Snowy Owl: Smith's Pt 11 and 27 Nov (JC), JBch 25 Nov. Long-eared Owl: JBch 18 Oct (Matt Bayer, LS). Short-eared Owl: PBP Hawk Watch 23 Oct (SW), JBWR 4 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWR 27 Oct and 18 Nov, two JBch 30 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Monk Parakeet: pair PBP throughout period (David S. Kunstler). Canary-winged Parakeet: JBch Sep 2 (Jacqueline and Jean Paul Latil). Com. Nighthawk: 33 over Franklin Sq. 9 Sep (Joann Larsen). Whip-poor-will: New Suffolk 21 Nov (PG). Red-headed Woodpecker: *intro.* Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro.*

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: JBCh 12 Sep and 7 Oct. W. Kingbird: scattered records from all over, PBP 14 Sep, Welwyn Preserve, Glen Cove 23 Sep, JBWR 28 Sep, RMSP 6 Oct. Cliff Swallow: six JBWR 1 Sep (HMG). E. Bluebird: three JBWR 25 Oct (TH), five Oakland L 9 Nov, four Planting Fields 11 Nov, four to six BNL early Oct through Nov (JC). Hermit Thrush: 50 JBCh 20 Oct. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one JBCh 6 Sep (JB).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: Accabonac 4 Sep (HMG). Philadelphia Vireo: JBWR 3 Sep (SS), Amagansett 4 Sep, RMSP 16 Sep, two JBWR 6 Oct. Brewster's Warbler: FI Sunken Forest 24 Sep (SS). Orange-crowned Warbler: one Far Rockaway 5 Oct (JB), 9 Oct (JC). Cape May Warbler: one ShIn 31 Oct (PG). Pine Warbler: two JBCh 3 Nov. Prothonotary Warbler: Sands Point Preserve 22 Sep (Herb Mills). Connecticut Warbler: JBWR 16 Sep (Stu Lipkin), JBCh 6 Oct (JB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: BNL 12 Sep (JC). Blue Grosbeak: two juv FI 2 Oct (AM,DM), one JBCh 11 Oct. Dickcissel: one 22 Sep JBCh (EL) and another in the same spot 9-10 Oct. Clay-colored Sparrow: close to a dozen reports along the south shore of NASS and SUFF from 16 Sep to 22 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: Glen Cove 12 Oct(RC), RMSP 14 Oct, APP 19 Oct (SW), 25 Oct JBWR(TH). Lark Sparrow: JBCh 2 Oct (LF) Garvies Pt Rd 16 Oct (RC). Grasshopper Sparrow: JBCh 12 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: JBCh 21 Sep (EL), one RMSP 14 Oct, JBCh 20 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: *intro*. Lapland Longspur: Smith Pt 7 Nov (JC); ShIn 8-29 Nov (MO'B). Snow Bunting: arr JBCh 10 Nov. Yellow-headed Blackbird: RMSP 2 Oct (AM,AL). Rusty Blackbird: Douglaston Marsh 15 Nov (Queens Co Bird Club). Boat-tailed Grackle: eight of both sexes Cedar Beach 1 Oct (HR). Purple Finch: APP 27 Oct (Art Wagner, Sam Yeaton). Pine Siskin: 50 Lawrence 8 Nov (Helen Herschbein).

EXOTICS: Chilean Flamingo: 5 Nov last date for which we have received reports.

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