

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The weather for the Fall reporting season was more tranquil and normal after the unusually warm first half of the year. The month of September was actually 0.8° below normal. October and November were 0.7° and 1.1° above normal, respectively, negligible compared to earlier in the year. There was a new daily record high of 93° on 17 Sep and another of 70° on 30 Nov. On the cool side, the evening lows did not reach 40° until 14 Oct and the temperature did not go below 30° until 26 Nov. This lack of cold weather had less effect on birding during the current period than it did for the Winter period.

Rainfall normally is low for this period, 11.21 inches for the three month period. We received 7.80 inches this fall, with the largest shortfall in November, which is usually the wettest month of the three. The paucity of rain significantly decreased the numbers and varieties of shorebirds seen compared to the last few years, when we had substantial rain in the late summer and early fall. The warm fall also had a negative effect on the numbers and species of ducks in our Region. Ducks were scarcer and arrived later. Especially notable was the lack of Greater and Lesser Scaup at a number of locations where they usually are quite numerous. On the positive side, eiders were seen in greater numbers early in the winter.

A fierce late fall storm in early November disrupted some birding plans. On November 9, a group from the Rochester/Syracuse area consisting of Jeanne Skelly, Julie Claffee, John Hanyak and Dorothy Crumb arrived at Montauk for a pelagic trip, but found the weather too poor to allow the boats to leave the harbor. Instead they birded at Montauk Point, where they were rewarded with 3 unidentified shearwaters, 10,000 Northern Gannet, 40-50 Common Eider, 50 Black-legged Kittiwake and 7 Black Guillemot.

The Fall hawk flight was about the same this year as last, but more small raptors were seen at the Region's hawkwatches. Both Fort Tilden and Fire Island reported about a third more American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk this year. Large accipiters were more obvious and there were numerous reports of lingering Cooper's Hawk, a number which appear to be wintering. A few N. Goshawk were reported. However, besides reports of migrants from the hawkwatches, there were other birds which appeared to linger and perhaps will spend the winter here. Merlin numbers at the Fire

Island hawkwatch were about same as last year. Because of the increase in the nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcon, this raptor is widely seen over most of the Region. Two birds frequented the water tower at Jones Beach this Fall, a light-colored small bird and a very large dark bird, the latter seen as far west as the jetty.

A female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was found at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 13 Oct by Howard Boltson *et al.* This sighting is substantiated by a fair but identifiable photograph and a NYSARC report. Two uncommon species were seen in significantly greater numbers this fall, Orange-crowned Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow. Blue Grosbeak, a species slowly extending its range northward, was also seen more widely this Fall. Northern finches were few and far between this Fall. A notable exception was a flight at Robert Moses State Park of Purple Finch, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin (as reported by Tony Lauro).

In an after note to Hurricane Bob of last August, Howard Bolston reported a pair of Osprey finally bred and fledged two birds from a platform in a marsh on the North Shore, only to have the nest blown away by the force of the wind. We'll have to wait for Spring to see if the birds rebuild the nest.

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Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CLP - Clover Lake Park, Staten Island; FI - Fire Island; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; FT - Fort Tilden; GKP - Great Kills Park; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; HPd - Hook Pond, East Hampton; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBch - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; SPd - Sagaponack Pond; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: one MPt 16 Nov (NYRBA). N. Fulmar: one 20 mi s FI Inlet 22 Sep (PM). Cory's Shearwater: six from Finback II 7 Sep (JF), one MPt 16 Nov (NYRBA). Greater Shearwater: 625 from Finback II 7 Sep (JF). Manx Shearwater: one from Finback II 7 Sep (JF), one 20 mi s FI Inlet 22 Sep (PM). Wilson's Storm-Petrel: five 20 mi s FI Inlet 22 Sep (PM). N. Gannet: *intro*, 11 Hempstead Harbor 25 Nov (BS, Barbara Lansing); reported in increasing numbers in LI Sound and off SI. Great Cormorant: arr MPt 31 Oct (JR). Double-crested Cormorant: 2450 migrating west RMSP 15 Oct (JR). Tundra Swan: one JBWE 15 Sep (SS, AW), two to

four HPd after 19 Nov (mob). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one near Riverhead 29 Oct (AB), one HPd 30 Nov (AL, AB). Snow Goose: blue morph JFKWS 19 Oct (PM), one County Farm, Yaphank (JR), others JBWR mid Nov; more blue morph reports than usual. Wood Duck: 50 Mill Neck 6 Oct (BC). Eurasian Wigeon: one 2-13 Sep, two 14-15 Sep, then one to 15 Nov JBWR, one FBF 29 Oct, one Mattituck 28 Nov (mob). Ring-necked Duck: reported JBWR 3 Nov, where seldom found. Com. Eider: *intro*, two FT 23 Sep, one JBWE 2 Nov, one FI Inlet 3 Nov, 40-50 MPt 9 Nov, 35 MPt 13 Nov, 100+ MPt 30 Nov, 12 Orient Pt 30 Nov. King Eider: two MPt 13 Nov, 15 MPt 30 Nov (NYRBA). Harlequin Duck: two ShIn 6 Nov (JR, Barbara Conolly) to end of period; six PL 23 Nov to end of period (mob).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Whitestone 10 Oct (Art Skopec). Osprey: one Caleb Smith SP 14 Nov (Ed Kirchmeiser), late. Bald Eagle: three PBP 20 Sep, imm Lawrence Marsh 7 Oct (JB), one FI 13 Oct, one JBWR 9 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: *intro*. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Hempstead L SP 20 Oct and later (SS, AW). Broad-winged Hawk: 3,501 at PBP hawkwatch this year, versus 18,739 last year; a few on the outer beaches; one Horse Farm, MPt 29 Nov (NYRBA), late. Red-tailed Hawk: wintering birds along the Meadowbrook Parkway arrived at the end of Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: scarce. Am. Kestrel: *intro*. Merlin: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Gyr Falcon**: dark morph over Little Neck Bay, Queens 16 Nov (Mary Normandia *fide* TB), no details. Virginia Rail: one Central P 18-19 Sep, one PP late Oct (NYRBA). Sora: one Goethel Bridge SI 15 Sep (HF), one PP late Oct. **Sandhill Crane**: one flew by FI hawkwatch 28 Oct (Bob Kurtz). Lesser Golden-Plover: max 172 Riverhead sod fields 8 Sep, 100+ still present 11 Sep, other scattered reports. Am. Oystercatcher: 77 JBWE 14 Nov (LP). Am. Avocet: one Oyster Pd MPt 8 Sep (NYRBA). Willet: one New Springfield SI 3 Nov (HF). Whimbrel: several CB early to mid Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one 2 Sep, four 15 Sep, one 20 Oct, all JBWR (NYRBA). Baird's Sandpiper: singles from JBWR to MPt 1 Sep-10 Oct. **Curlew Sandpiper**: one JBWR 13 Sep (Paul Steinneck), one GKP 13 Oct (John Stonick *fide* HF). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one JBWR 1 Sep; one CB 2 Sep; one FI 2 Sep; one SPd 2 Sep; five Doctor's Path Riverhead 6 Sep and eight there 11 Sep (PG); one Miller Field SI 9 Sep (Bob Clermont, HF, Scottie Jenkins). Wilson's Phalarope: two SPd 2 Sep (NYRBA). Red-necked Phalarope: one in surf Sumken Meadow SP (HB), unusual in LI Sound. Red Phalarope: imm East Pd JBWR 2 Sep (Arthur Morris). Parasitic Jaeger: one FI Inlet 16 Nov, one Jones Inlet 16 Nov (Andrew Vallely, Paul Steinneck, Jim Ash). Little Gull: one ShIn 13 Nov (Myrna Hemmrick *fide* JR), two MPt 24 Nov (AB, TB, KF, mob), one Moriches Inlet 27 Nov (James Griffin *fide* JR). Com. Black-headed Gull: one JBWR 7-13 Sep, one SPd 11 Sep, one ShIn 30 Nov (AL). Glaucous Gull: GKP 11 Nov (Howie Fischer *fide* HF), one MPt 16 and 24 Nov, one ShIn 17 Nov (NYRBA). Black-legged Kittiwake: *intro*, two ad Moriches Inlet 27 Nov (James Griffin *fide* JR). Gull-billed Tern: one JBWR 2 Sep (Rick Cech). Caspian Tern: one FT 1 Sep, two Broad Channel 11 Sep, two FI Inlet 2 Oct (JF), two RMSP 10 Oct, three ShIn 11 Oct (NYRBA). Royal Tern: one JBWR 8 Sep, two Zachs Bay 13 Oct, 25 FI 28 Oct (NYRBA), three JBWE 7 Nov (Bob Hines). Com. Tern: 675 SI 1 Sep (HF), a very

large number for this location. Forster's Tern: 30 SPd 2 Sep, good numbers in Jones Inlet mid Nov, some to end of month. Black Tern: two Oyster Pd 1 Sep, one SPd 2 Sep, one Oyster Pd 7 Sep (NYRBA). Razorbill: four MPt 24 Nov, one ShIn 29 Nov (Peter Joost, Mary Kane Hayes, JR), also seen 30 Nov (NYRBA). Black Guillemot: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: noted in Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: better than usual fall flight. E. Screech-Owl: at usual places on LI North Shore. Great Horned Owl: at usual places on LI North Shore. Snowy Owl: singles FBF 29 Oct, JBWR 14 Nov (LP), GKP early Nov (mob), JBWE mid Nov to end of period (mob), Riverhead 6 Nov (PG), one CB 28 Nov; one-two ShIn mid Nov to end of period (mob); more than usual. Long-eared Owl: very scarce this year. Com. Nighthawk: almost no reports other than "few or no birds." Red-headed Woodpecker: reported South Shore LI 18 Sep-20 Oct, scarcer than usual.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: *Empidonax* species: one Accabonack, East Hampton 28 Nov, subsequently thought to be a Least (*fide* TB, no details); very late for an *Empidonax* regardless of species. W. Kingbird: one Garvies Pt Preserve 28 Sep (Don Thompson), one MPt 28-30 Sep, one FT 20 Oct, two Breezy Pt 23 Oct. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: one RMSP 19 Oct (AL, AB, mob). Tree Swallow: several JBWE through the period and appear to be wintering. **Sedge Wren**: one seen and heard Crab Meadow 2 Sep (HB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1000+ RMSP 19 Oct (HR, mob). E. Bluebird: one JBWE 24 Nov (Lester Feldman). N. **Wheatear**: one RMSP 7-10 Oct, (AL, KF, mob!). Am. Pipit: 12 Old Brookville 2 Nov (Ralph Cioffi). N. Shrike: one JBWE 17 Nov (mob). Loggerhead Shrike: one CB (no date).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Clove L P SI 3 Nov (HF), one MPt 30 Nov (NYRBA). Philadelphia Vireo: a few scattered reports early Sep. Golden-winged Warbler: one Baldwin birdbath 8 Sep (EL), one Napeague 12 Sep (Pat Lindey, Viso). Orange-crowned Warbler: one Brooklyn 29 Sep, one JBWE 29 Sep and 10 Oct, one FT 19 Nov, one JBWE 17 Nov (EL), several reports eastern LI. **Black-throated Gray Warbler**: *intro*. Cerulean Warbler: one Garvies Pt Preserve 12 Sep (Herb Roth, Don Thompson, mob). Am. Redstart: one MPt 28 Nov (Hugh McGuiness). Prothonotary Warbler: one Mutn 3 Sep (Al Lindberg, Adrian Dignan). Kentucky Warbler: one CLP 5 and 20 Sep (HF). Connecticut Warbler: two reported JFKWS 12 Sep (NYRBA). Hooded Warbler: one JBWE 21 Sep (NYRBA). Yellow-breasted Chat: one Brooklyn 22 Sep, one CLP 2 Nov (HF), one MPt 28 Nov, others at JBWE.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one Greenwood Cemetery Brooklyn 29 Sep (Todd Olsen). W. Tanager: one FT 29 Nov (Tom Fione). Blue Grosbeak: at least seven JBch, JFKWS, CB, RMSP and Smith Pt Co P Sep 16- 14 Oct. Dickcissel: three RMSP 7 Oct, one JBWE 13 Oct (NYRBA). Clay-colored Sparrow: one RMSP 12 Sep, one JBWE 14-16 Sep, one MPt 15 Sep, one JFKWS 21 Sep (KF), one CB 26 Sep (SS), one FT 9 Sep- 5 Oct, one MPt 30 Sep, one JBch 20-27 Oct (mob), two near Ponquogue Bridge 23 Oct (Aline Dove, PG). Vesper Sparrow: several reports from RMSP mid Oct, one FT 21 Oct. Grasshopper Sparrow: one JBWE 16 Sep, one 14 Oct

RMSP (KF). Henslow's Sparrow: one JBWR 1 Sep (KF). Lark Sparrow: one RMSP 28 Sep, one RMSP 10 Oct, one MPt 28-29 Sep, one RMSP 10 Oct, one Easthampton 27 Oct (NYRBA). Fox Sparrow: few seen this fall and fewer reported. Lincoln's Sparrow: just a few reports. Lapland Longspur: one-five JBWE 29 Sep to end of period (mob). Snow Bunting: arr JBch 23 Nov. Bobolink: few reports, one RMSP 1 Oct (JF, JR). Com. Grackle: 2000 Sands Point 15 Oct (BS), 1000 Welwyn 18 Oct. Red Crossbill: some on Dune Rd Shinnecock 21 Nov (NYRBA). Com. Redpoll: a few from s shore LI 14-21 Nov (NYRBA). Pine Siskin: very few.

EXOTICS: Monk Parakeet: Zachs Bay 21 Oct (Joan Quinlan), Captree SP 29 Oct (JF).

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