

REGION 10 — MARINE

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Overall, the fall season was cool, with about normal rainfall. However, September and November were both much wetter and October dryer than normal. There were a few flight days in early September when large numbers of warblers were found, and another in mid October with good sparrow numbers. But, for the most part, fall birding has become a sport of following rarities rather than enjoying numbers.

The exceptional weather event for the season was tropical storm Daneille, which came up from the south, veered east along the New Jersey coast, and gave Long Island rain, not too much wind, but lots of beach erosion. Except for the following, this storm produced little in the way of unusual birds or birding interest. In the late afternoon of 26 Sep, Peter Martin saw a storm-petrel in the surf at Tobay moving to the east, but was unable to identify it. About 5:30 PM on the same day, Starr Saphir and Robert Machover reported seeing a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** in the surf east of Tobay at Cedar Beach. This species is much less common than the Wilson's Storm-Petrel near land and seldom is found even far offshore. Evaluation of this record by NYSARC is awaited.

A pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon on 7 Sep reported (*vide* NYRBA) one Cory's Shearwater, six Greater Shearwater, 100+ Wilson's Storm-Petrel, three Red-necked Phalarope, five Pomarine Jaeger, one Parasitic Jaeger and one unidentified jaeger.

It is interesting to compare the results of the two hawk watches in our area. Preliminary details from Fire Island and Ft. Tilden come from Drew Panko and Steve Walter respectively. Although both sites are on the coast and on Long Island, Ft. Tilden to the west begins to show some of the characteristics of mainland migration patterns. One third of the falcons at Fire Island are Merlin, while American Kestrel numbers are about the same at both locations. Accipiters and buteos are more numerous to the west, with Sharp-shinned Hawk making up the bulk of the difference. The two locations reported approximately the same number of hawks for the season with about 1,000 more Merlin along the beach offset by 1,000 more Sharp-shinned Hawk at Ft. Tilden. Our own limited observations of large accipiters and buteos at Jones Beach West End appear to support a difference in migration habits for these species between the Fire Island watch site to the east and the western end of Jones Beach.

Cooper's Hawk continue to be more visible in recent years, with increasing numbers reported both at the beaches and inland areas. An extremely large, very dark Peregrine Falcon wintering in the area (seen most often at the Jones Beach water tower, and it, or another very large dark bird, has been seen on the Marine Parkway Bridge). A similar bird was also present last fall and winter. The report of a dark phase Gyrfalcon last Fall lacked details and, in retrospect, should be considered suspect. One should be very careful in reporting Gyrfalcon.

The best land birding spot of the Fall was the Fire Island Hawk Watch, or nearby, where **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and **Lark Bunting** were observed. There were **no** reports of Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, winter finches and few Purple Finch and Pine Siskin. Henry Flamm made a special note of a Vesper Sparrow he had seen 23 Oct in a grassy field in Great Kills Park on Staten Island. His previous Staten Island sighting was on October 24, 1954. Although its nests in the Riverhead area, this species has become increasingly rare in the western part our Region.

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Abbreviations: CB – Cedar Beach; CLP – Clover Lake Park, Staten Island; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; FT – Ft. Tilden; GB – Gilgo Beach; GKP – Great Kills Park, Staten Island; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; MPt – Montauk Point; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP – Robert Moses State Park; SPt – Sands Point.

Fall reports: **N. FULMAR:** one picked up on a street in Atlantic Beach 10 Sep, released 17 Sep (per JB to TB). **Cory's Shearwater:** *intro*, one MPt 26 Sep (NYRBA). **Greater Shearwater:** *intro*, one MPt 26 Sep (NYRBA). **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** *intro*. **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** *intro*. **N. Gannet:** one GKP 6 Nov (HF), west of the normal migration route, good numbers in the ocean after mid Nov. **BROWN PELICAN:** six JBCH 9 Sep (HR), 21 off Tobay 10–11 Sep. **Great Cormorant:** increasing numbers. **Cattle Egret:** one Belt Parkway 9 Sep (MH). **Least Bittern:** one Flushing Airport 5 Sep (GD). **Green-backed Heron:** one 10 Nov Gardiner P, West Islip (JQ). **Tundra Swan:** two J.F.Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary 13 Nov (BC), two Hook Pd Easthampton from 11 Nov (mob). **Snow Goose:** blue morphs Yaphank 28 Nov (JR) and JBWR 4 Nov (HR). **Wood Duck:** one RMSP 10 & 17 Nov (JR). **Green-winged Teal:** one Eurasian race Islip 17 Nov (NYRBA). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one JBWR 12 Sep, increasing to five on 3 Nov; one Deephole Creek, Mattituck 9 Nov (PG). **Tufted Duck:** one

JBWR 12 Oct (NYRBA). **Com. Eider**: four Democrat Pt 3 Nov, four MPt 1 Nov, gradually increasing to 1000+ by 28 Nov. **King Eider**: ad male PL 19–22 Nov, two MPt after 7 Nov. **Harlequin Duck**: max 18 Jones Inlet 11 Nov.

Hawk watch totals:

SPECIES	Fort Tilden	Fire Island
Osprey	211	265
eagles	4	6
N. Harrier	249	147
accipiters	2015	883
buteos	36	3
falcons	2610	3627
other	15	34
TOTAL	5140	4965

Turkey Vulture: one Moses Mt Staten I 24 Sep (HF), one Glen Cove 12 Oct (RC), one JBCH 20 Nov (HR, mob). **Bald Eagle**: one Fire I 20 Sep, one JBWE 24 Sep, one FT 1 Oct, two Fire I 5 Oct, one Fire I 20 Oct, two FT 1 Nov, one Flushing Meadow, an increase in migrating birds. **Broad-winged Hawk**: one 27 Sep JBCH, not seen at the Fire I Hawk Watch (PM, SS), two JBWE 1 Oct (JF), rare on the barrier beach. **Rough-legged Hawk**: two RMSP 7 Nov (Mildred Penzer), one Meadowbrook Parkway 26 Nov (PM). **Golden Eagle**: one Fire I 25 Oct. **Peregrine Falcon**: a pair returned to roost for the winter on the water tower at JBCH. **Virginia Rail**: one JFKWS 14 Oct (Art Gruber, ZP), *intro*. **Sora**: one Hook Pd Easthampton 11 Oct (JF), one JBWR 12 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: 47 w Riverhead 3 Sep, other reports JBWR to MPt to 22 Nov. **Am. Oystercatcher**: 80 JBWR 31 Oct, 47 11 Nov, one Zach's Bay to season's end. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Flushing Airport 26 Sep (GD). **Upland Sandpiper**: one Central P 2 Sep (NYRBA). **Hudsonian Godwit**: present JBWR 2 Sep–31 Oct, max nine 24 Oct. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: four CB 29 Oct (SS). **Baird's Sandpiper**: up to four at CB to 18 Sep (mob), one JBWR 2 and 5 Sep. **Purple Sandpiper**: JBWE from 20 Nov, four Morgan P, Glen Cove 24 Nov (RC). **Curlew Sandpiper**: one JBWR 2–7 Sep (mob), one JBWE 18 Sep (BC). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 14 n Riverhead 3 Sep, five Cutchogue 5 Sep (PG), one JBWR 5 Sep, one CB 12 Sep and 4 Oct. **Ruff**: two females Baiting Hollow 3 Oct (BA). **Wilson's Phalarope**: one JBWR 13 Sep (Lars Hansen). **Red-necked Phalarope**: *intro*. **Pomarine Jaeger**: *intro*. **Parasitic Jaeger**: *intro*. **Little Gull**: one Shln 14–22 Nov (JF, mob), two Montauk Harbor 14 Nov and one 21 Nov.

Iceland Gull: one CB 25 Oct), one Southold 28 Nov (NYRBA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** *nine* reports from seven locations JBWR to MPt after 26 Sep; more than usual. **Caspian Tern:** one Mecox Bay 5–7 Oct (PG, mob). **Royal Tern:** 11+ Mecox Bay 17 Oct (PDeB), one RMSP 31 Oct (RM), others late Sep to 3 Nov (NYRBA). **Forster's Tern:** reports to 23 Oct. **Black Tern:** five SPt 3 Sep (GQ), one JBWR 2–3 Sep (mob).

Barn Owl: one JBCH 8 Nov (JF). **Snowy Owl:** one Smith Pt P 5 Nov; one CB 6 Nov; three ShIn 15 Nov, four 22 Nov, two 28 Nov; two CB 29 Nov; one Democrat Pt 29 Nov (NYRBA). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** three JBCH to Fire I late Nov (NYRBA). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** seven reports of migrants at the Fire I Hawk Watch, another at Ft Tilden Hawk Watch.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one CLP 5 Sep (HF), one JBCH 12 Sep (DT). **E. Phoebe:** 100+ 1 Oct (LS). **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:** one Riis P 24 Oct (SW). **Great Crested Flycatcher:** one Wading River 2 Nov (John S. Ruscica), late. **W. Kingbird:** a dozen reports JBWE to MPt 3 Sep to 29 Nov. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** one RMSP 22 Oct (DT, Bob Hines). **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** one RMSP 13 Oct (AL, mob). **N. WHEATEAR:** one JBWE 24 Sep (Ken Carpenter, AL, mob). **SEDGE WREN:** one Forest P 3 Oct (Guy Tudor). **Am. Pipit:** flying over JBCH 25 Oct (SS,AW).

Philadelphia Vireo: several 2 Sep to 7 Oct (NYRBA). **Golden-winged Warbler:** one Central P 2 Sep (NYRBA), one Brooklyn 12 Sep (NYRBA), one SPt 19 Sep (HM, Aln). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** a half dozen reports. **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER:** one Fire I Hawk Watch 14 Sep (JQ, mob). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one JBWE 18 Sep (David Nyzio). **Pine Warbler:** three RMSP 7 Nov (JQ). **Cerulean Warbler:** one JBWR 13 Sep (Lars Hansen). **Kentucky Warbler:** one Central P 2 Sep (NYRBA). **Connecticut Warbler:** two SPt 7 Sep (HM), one SPt 20 Sep (GQ), one Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn 12 Sep (NYRBA), one Fire I 20 Sep (NYRBA). **Mourning Warbler:** one SPt 20 Sep (GQ), others. **Hooded Warbler:** one SPt 20 Sep (GQ), one RMSP 30 Sep (NYRBA). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** several reported.

Blue Grosbeak: one JBCH 4 Oct (MB, mob), one RMSP 13 Oct (JF), one FT 18 Oct (NYRBA). **Dickcissel:** one FT 29 Sep (NYRBA), two Whitestone 6 Oct (LS), one GB 11 Nov (SS, AW). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one JBCH 27 Sep (RM, StS), one GB 12 Oct, one FT 24 Oct, one RMSP 7 Nov (JQ). **Vesper Sparrow:** *intro*, one FT 6 Oct, two Muttontown 21 Oct (AL), one Piping Rock Country Club 27 Oct (BC). **Lark Sparrow:** one Fire I 6 Sep, one Smith Pt County P 13 Sep (NYRBA), one PL 19–23 Sep (mob). **LARK BUNTING:** one Fire I Hawk Watch 14 Sep (Dave Mizrahi,

mob). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one JBWE 1 Oct, one FT 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Henslow's Sparrow**: one Central P 4 Oct (Wilma & Bill Baumann). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: very dull bird on lawn with migrant sparrows MPt 18 Oct (PDeB). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: several. **Lapland Longspur**: two-three CB 4-12 Oct (NYRBA). **Snow Bunting**: flock of 50 GKP 3 Nov (HF), 160 JBCH wintering. **Bobolink**: Flushing Airport 5 Sep (GD), 25 SPt 10 Sep (GQ). **Rusty Blackbird**: two CM 25 Sep (PM) Alley Pd P 13-27 Nov. **Boat-tailed Grackle**: eight CB 21 Sep (JR), 40 CM 19 Oct (PM). **Orchard Oriole**: one CLP 28 Sep (HF). **N. Oriole**: one RMSP 29 Nov (NYRBA); one **BULLOCK's** race GB 11 Nov (MB, mob).

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