

REGION 10 — MARINE

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The temperature for the period was about normal for the fall. A record low of 44°F was set on 20 Sep and two record highs were set on 14 and 15 Nov, when the temperature was 80°F. This was the latest date by at least two weeks when the temperature had reached 80° or higher. October was slightly wetter and slightly colder, but otherwise without distinguishing characteristics. However, the pattern of frontal passages this fall was more normal than it was last year, and as a consequence, the hawk flights were better on Long Island.

Both *Newsday* and *The New York Times* had articles in early December on this fall's influx of exceptionally large numbers of Snow Goose on the East End. The winter range of these geese has been gradually shifting north from Delaware to New Jersey and perhaps now is extending into New York. According to the articles there were 1000 geese between Sagaponack and Sag Harbor at the period's end.

On 10 Oct your Regional editors were birding with friends in the Zachs Bay area when the sky suddenly filled with birds. All the shorebirds, geese and gulls in the vicinity exploded into the air. About fifteen seconds later an immature Bald Eagle glided over. (A similarly plumaged bird had passed over the Fire Island Hawk Watch approximately 30 minutes before and is presumed to be the same bird.) The sharp-eyed birds saw the eagle long before we did and acted accordingly. Large hawks will flush birds, but nothing like an eagle will.

A preliminary report on the results of this Fall's Fire Island Hawk Watch was received from Drew Panko. The total hawks reported for the season was 6101, approximately 20% more than last year and even exceeded the best total for the preceding 10 years. The increase this year

is due primarily to American Kestrel, which increased 40% over last year, even surpassing the prior 10 years' high. American Kestrel, which numbered just over half the total hawks, continues to be scarce in our Region in spite of these very heartening migration counts. Northern Harrier numbers also increased. The only major decrease was Sharp-shinned Hawk, down 12%.

Steve Walter reported the results of the Fort Tilden Hawk Watch. A total of 6840 hawks was seen, but over a slightly longer period of time. Here too was a substantial increase in numbers over last year, 33% more. The species which fared well mirrored the Fire Island results, with increased numbers of Northern Harrier and American Kestrel, but the increase in total numbers is attributed primarily to Sharp-shinned Hawk at Fort Tilden. While many of the birds at Fort Tilden also could have passed by Fire Island, this is not certain. To determine whether the same hawks appear at both hawk watches, observations of two less common species, Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, should to be particularly useful, but a correlation is uncertain. There were more falcons and fewer eagles at Fire Island, and counts and dates do not overlap with sufficient regularity at the two sites. The data we have seen do not answer the question for these species and the answer cannot be determined for the other species.

Several observers, including J. Askildsen, A. Lauro, P. Buckley, and E. Salzman, reported results of a pelagic trip 90 miles south of Montauk Point on 11 Sep. The trip produced the following list: three Cory's Shearwater, two Manx Shearwater, four to six *Audubon's Shearwater*, 30 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, six to eight Pomarine Jaeger, two *Long-tailed Jaeger*, one *Bridled Tern*, three to five Black Tern, and four Merlin.

There was a large influx of Black Tern in early September, and there were exceptionally large groups of migrant Tree Swallow all fall. Pine Siskin first appeared on 11 Oct, and was last reported on 8 Nov, a short migration period without any lingering. Many migrant American Goldfinch appeared this Fall. Evening Grosbeak had a short migration period with good numbers for the first time in several years, but by early Nov all were gone.

This fall there were multiple reports of a bird not yet on the New York State List. Not one, but several *Rufous Hummingbird* were reported. All were carefully observed, photographed, and identified by seasoned observers. All the records are late in the fall, coming long after Ruby-throated Hummingbird are usually seen, although any hummingbird so late would warrant comment. From the East End comes two reports of *Thayer's Gull*. An *Ash-throated Flycatcher* at Jones

Beach West End was exceptionally tame, and afforded the paparazzi the opportunity of a lifetime. Besides sitting motionless in the open in full sun, the bird was obliging enough to call at intervals leaving no possible doubt as to what it was. There was another report of this species at Riverdale. Another spectacular find has been relegated to last place in the list of most significant events of the season, but only because it is a repeat and an unprecedented one at that. A, or perhaps we should say "the," *Spotted Redshank* returned to the Knapp Street and Avenue X roost on 30 Nov for the second winter in a row. Other great rarities reported include *American White Pelican*, *Northern Wheatear*, Sedge Wren and *Brewer's Blackbird*.

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Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CP - Central Park; FTHW - Fort Tilden Hawk Watch; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBSP - Jones Beach State Park; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; JFKWS - J. F. Kennedy (Tobay) Wildlife Sanctuary; MH - Montauk Harbor; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island, SPtP - Smith Point Park; WH - Wave Hill, Riverdale.

Fall reports: **Red-necked Grebe:** three Smith Pt Beach 11 Nov (JR, JC). **Cory's Shearwater:** one MPt 17 Oct (NYRBA). **Greater Shearwater:** two MPt 17 Oct, 20 on 24 Oct (NYRBA). **Manx Shearwater:** *intro*. **Audubon's Shearwater:** *intro*. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** *intro*. **Am. White Pelican:** two over JBWR 2 Nov (*fide* AL). **Brown Pelican:** one on Hudson R off Manhattan 7 Sep (JG), one ShIn 12 Sep (James Jac Quin). **Tundra Swan:** two Hook Pd 11 Nov, five there 18 Nov (NYRBA). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** imm L Panamoka 22 Nov (JR). **Snow Goose:** *intro*. **Wood Duck:** one Silver L Pd Baldwin 24 Nov (SD). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one JBWR 4 Sep, two after 11 Nov; one Loft Pd Baldwin mid Oct; one Mattituck 29 Nov (NYRBA). **Tufted Duck:** one JBWR 28 Sep-3 Oct (Larry Plotnick, mob); one-two Grumman Pd, Manorville 17-31 Oct (JC, BA, mob). **Com. Eider:** two MPt 12 Sep building to 75 on 24 Nov (NYRBA). **Harlequin Duck:** six returned to the Long Beach side of Jones Inlet on 21 Nov (EL, AW), two MPt 24 Nov (NYRBA). **White-winged Scoter:** one in Zachs Bay JBSP 1 Sep (PM).

Turkey Vulture: one FTHW 10 Oct, three Caumsett SP 14 Nov (PM), one flying over Baldwin 14 Nov (SS), four Glen Cove Golf Course (RC).

Bald Eagle: *intro*; five FTHW 11 Sep; nine Pelham Bay P 19 Sep; one Cow Meadow, Freeport 20 Sep (PM); one JFKWS 3 Oct, none seen at Fire I hawk watch that day (PM); one Fire I 5 Oct; one Lawrence Marsh 7 Nov; one JBWR 16 Nov; one over Bellmore 20 Nov (PM). **N. Harrier:** *intro*. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** *intro*. **N. Goshawk:** max four Fire I 1 Nov. **Am. Kestrel:** *intro*. **Merlin:** *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*. **N. Bobwhite:** eighteen Edgewood Property, Deer P (JF), increasingly scarce. **Virginia Rail:** one Lindenhurst 11 Sep (RL), one JFKWS 20 Sep (PM), three Sands Pt 17 Oct (Glenn Quinn). **Sora:** one Lindenhurst 11 Sep (RL). **Am. Golden-Plover:** max 30 Cutchogue sod farms 2 Sep (PG). **Am. Oystercatcher:** max 125 JBWR 3 Oct (NYRBA). **Am. Avocet:** one JBWR 23 Sep-3 Oct (mob). **Spotted Redshank:** *intro*, one JBWR 3 Oct (no details). **Solitary Sandpiper:** one CB 26 Sep (JF). **Upland Sandpiper:** 25 Doctor's Path 5 Sep (NYRBA). **Whimbrel:** several CB mid to late Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit:** several reported. **Marbled Godwit:** several reported. **Baird's Sandpiper:** several reported. **Purple Sandpiper:** arr Democrat Pt 16 Oct (JF). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** max 11 Cutchogue sod farms 5 Sep (PG). **Ruff:** one JBWR 4 Sep (no details). **Red-necked Phalarope:** one JBWR 10 Oct (NYRBA). **Parasitic Jaeger:** one MPt 17 Oct, 13 Nov (NYRBA). **Long-tailed Jaeger:** *intro*. **Little Gull:** one MH 11 Nov (AL). **Com. Black-headed Gull:** one Sag Harbor 5 Sep, one Mecox 18 Sep (both AL). **Thayer's Gull:** one MPt 20 Nov (Tony Lauro); one MH 27 Nov (Jim Ash). **Iceland Gull:** one MPt 11 Nov, one MH 18 Nov, three MPt 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one Glen Cove 11 Oct, two MPt after 11 Nov, one SPtP 30 Oct and 18 Nov (NYRBA). **Caspian Tern:** a few mid Sep to mid Oct. **Royal Tern:** one Aquebogue 7 Sep (BA), one Great Kills P SI 10 Sep (HF); others along the south shore, more numerous than the preceding. **Bridled Tern:** *intro*. **Black Tern:** five Fire I 4 Sep; seven JBWR, 82 Wainscott Pd, 20 Sagg Pd, four FTHW, all 5 Sep; 121 off FTHW, 25 Fire I Inlet 6 Sep; 76 Wainscott Pd 12 Sep; eight FTHW and three Fire I In 18 Sep; three JFKWS 20 Sep (PM). **Razorbill:** one MPt 24 Nov (NYRBA).

Snowy Owl: one SI 3 Nov, one Long Beach 8 Nov, one ShIn after 11 Nov, one Riverhead 22 Nov, one Breezy Pt 27 Nov (NYRBA). **Long-eared Owl:** one CP 28 Oct, 13 Nov (NYRBA). **Short-eared Owl:** one Gilgo (BA), one JBWE 27 Nov, scarce. **Rufous Hummingbird:** one WH 16 Nov (Betty Loeb); imm male, "female" Manhattan 18-24 Nov (T Burke, Hugh McGuinness, mob); one at a feeder Queens 22-24 Nov (Tony Lauro). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** a number of migrants along the barrier beaches mid Sep to early Oct.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: one, also heard calling, in shrubbery surrounding the West End #2 parking field at JBSP 2-7 Nov (JQ, JF, ph,

mob); one WH 18 Nov (T. Burke, Hugh McGuinness, Joe DiCostanzo, mob). **W. Kingbird**: one JBWE 1 Oct, one Zachs Bay 11-18 Oct (mob). **Sedge Wren**: one Douglaston, Queens 24 Oct (LS), one RMSP (AL); seldom reported. **N. Wheatear**: one JBWE 18 Sep (AL), one Great Gull I 18 Sep (Roger Pasquier), one Inwood Hill P 22-28 Sep (Nathaniel Berkins, mob). **E. Bluebird**: 50 Fire I and 30 FTHW 7 Oct, flight day. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Suffolk Co Community College 20-21 Sep (AB).

Golden-winged Warbler: one JBWE 29 Sep (JF), rare on Long I and very rare on the barrier beach. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one CP 21 Sep and 1 Oct, one RMSP 10-13 Oct (JF, mob), one Zachs Bay 24 Oct. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: one Long Beach feeder to 9 Nov. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one Clove L P SI 9 Sep (HF). **Connecticut Warbler**: one CP 6 Sep, one Clove L P SI 13 Sep (HF), one JBWE 20-23 Sep (NYRBA). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: two MPt 12 Sep; one RMSP after early Oct, one JBWE after mid Sep (NYRBA).

Summer Tanager: three College Pt Lot 29 Sep (LS). **Blue Grosbeak**: one MPt 12 Sep, one RMSP 26 Sep, one JBWE 3 Oct, one RMSP 3-15 Oct, one College Pt 6 Oct (LS). **Dickcissel**: one RMSP 14 Sep, one JBWE after 4 Oct. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one Baldwin 25 Sep (SS), others reported. **Vesper Sparrow**: present 17-31 Oct. **Lark Sparrow**: two Fire I 10 Sep (HR, LS), one SPtP 7 Oct (JC,JR). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one RMSP 7 Oct (JF). **Henslow's Sparrow**: one SPtP 11 Oct (JC). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: several into Oct. **Lapland Longspur**: one SPtP 15 Oct, one CB 30 Oct, two CB 17 Nov (NYRBA). **Brewer's Blackbird**: one CP at Azalea Pd feeders (Sharon Freedman, mob).

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