

REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

The fall season began with both normal temperatures and normal rainfall for the month of September. October also had normal temperatures but was exceptionally dry. Only a scant 1.35 inches of rain fell, less than half the norm. In November the rainfall returned to normal, but now the temperature was extraordinary. November was the fourth warmest on record. Summing up, this was an exceptionally warm, dry fall. As a result there were fewer noticeable flight days, many lingering warblers and few or no winter finches. The lack of rain in mid season, with its concomitant fewer frontal systems, had to have affected flight patterns of migrant birds. This year, total hawks numbers, which have been increasing at the hawk watches for several years, were down. The optimist in us likes to attribute this to the weather and consequent alteration of flight patterns rather than to a reversal of recent gains.

The status of Bald Eagle is undergoing a major change in our Region. The number of reports have increased and the number of individuals seen is increasing. In all we received 34 sightings. Steve Walter reported six from the Fort Tilden Hawk Watch, 6, 24 Aug, 29, 30 Sep, and 2, 5 Oct. There were sixteen seen from Central Park on 18 Sep with seven more the next day. Other reports included singles at Fire Island Hawk Watch on 2 Oct, Central Park on 27 Oct, and Hook Pond on 20 Nov.

Results from a single pelagic trip from Montauk to Block Canyon was reported by John Askildson, Tony Lauro, and Paul Buckley. For some time we have seen very few blue morph Snow Goose reports. This year reports were numerous and widespread, and many flocks included one or more individuals. Turkey Vulture sightings are increasing in the Region. Numbers of Rough-legged Hawk along the Meadowbrook, Loop and Ocean Parkways were up, nearly equal to the numbers of Red-tailed Hawk. One or two Golden Eagle are now seen each fall; they used to be few and far between. Lesser Black-backed Gull is seen in increasing numbers; this season at least six widely scattered birds were reported. Short-eared Owl was very scarce, and Red-breasted Nuthatch was virtually absent. Cape May Warbler have been scarce since the 1985 fall hurricane. Clay-colored Sparrow continues to migrate through the Region in small numbers.

Great rarities reported included *Audubon's Shearwater*, *Black Vulture*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Ash-throated Flycatcher*, *Fork-tailed Flycatcher*, *Sedge Wren*, *Northern Wheatear*, and *Lark Bunting*.

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Abbreviations: CBch – Cedar Beach; CP – Central Park; DPt – Democrat Pt., Fire I.; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS – John F. Kennedy (Tobay) Wildlife Sanctuary; JBch – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; LI – Long Island; MPt – Montauk Point; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; Pkwy – Parkway; RMSP – Robert Moses State Park.

Fall reports: **Red-necked Grebe:** Marine P Brooklyn 20, 26 Nov; MPt 25 Nov (NYRBA). **Eared Grebe:** three JBWR 10 Sep (JC, Allen Bendiger). **Cory's Shearwater:** 50 se MPt 10 Sep. **Greater Shearwater:** 500 se MPt 10 Sep. **Sooty Shearwater:** three se MPt 10 Sep. **Audubon's Shearwater:** one se MPt 10 Sep. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 175 se MPt 10 Sep. **Tundra Swan:** eight Hook Pd after 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Eurasian Wigeon:** two JBWR after mid Oct; Mill Pd Oyster Bay 8 Nov (Neal Maruca). **Tufted Duck:** male JBWR 23–29 Oct (Seth Ausabel, mob). **Com. Eider:** four MPt 16 Oct, 75 12 Nov (NYRBA). **Harlequin Duck:** DPt 10 Nov, two Greenport 12 Nov (BP), eight Pt Lookout after 24 Nov (mob).

Black Vulture: two CP 19 Sep (Sharon Freidman *fide* NYRBA). **Turkey Vulture:** several Staten I (HF), Fort Tilden (SW); Lattingtown 8 Nov (RC). **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **Broad-winged Hawk:** 5400 CP 18 Sep (NYRBA). **Golden Eagle:** Fort Tilden Hawk Watch Fort 16 Oct (*fide* SW), CP 27 Oct (NYRBA). **Am. Kestrel:** 895 Fort Tilden Hawk Watch 30 Sep (SW). **Am. Golden-Plover:** 45 Cutchogue sod farms 4 Sep (PG), other reports along south shore. **Piping Plover:** five DPt 30 Sep (JF). **Am. Oystercatcher:** 100 Jones Inlet 2 Oct (NYRBA). **Am. Avocet:** two Zachs Bay 9 Sep (EL), one 10 Sep (SS), JBWR 25 Sep (Al Ott) to mid Oct (SK). **Willet:** JBWR to mid Oct. **Whimbrel:** several each sighting s shore LI mid-late Sep (mob). **Long-billed Curlew:** one with Whimbrel Ocean Parkway near Gilgo 18 Sep (EL). **Hudsonian Godwit:** scarce. **Marbled Godwit:** one JBWR 3–5 Sep; one CBch 6–12 Sep (mob), one DPt 24 Sep–9 Oct (NYRBA); four JBWR 12 Nov into Dec. **Baird's Sandpiper:** CBch mid Sep, others indicated. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** six Cutchogue sod farms 1 Sep, nine on 4 Sep (PG); singles CBch 11–18 Sep (NYRBA), JBWR 11 Sep (IC). **Red-necked Phalarope:** 20 se MPt 10 Sep, **Pomarine Jaeger:** seven se MPt 10 Sep, two MPt 10 Oct (SK), one DPt 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Parasitic Jaeger:** three se MPt 10 Sep; two MPt 9 Oct, MPt 16 Oct, JBch 15 Oct, DPt 23 Oct, 10 Nov, MPt 19 Nov (NYRBA). **Little Gull:** DPt 8 Sep, North Haven 19 Nov (NYRBA). **Com. Black-headed Gull:** MPt 19 Nov (AL). **Iceland Gull:** MPt 25 Nov (NYRBA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** two MPt 18 Sep, JBWE 30 Sep–22 Oct, two JBWE 22 Oct, Oyster Pd 16 Oct, CBch 23 Oct, MPt 19 and 25 Nov, Orient Pt 27 Nov (NYRBA). **Black-legged Kittiwake:** MPt 16 Oct, DPt 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Gull-billed Tern:** JBWR 4 Sep (NYRBA). **Caspian Tern:** Great Kills P Staten I 4 Sep (Ed Johnson *fide* HF).

Royal Tern: JBCh to Fire I early Sep-12 Nov, max eight DPt 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Com. Tern:** one Dosoris Pd Glen Cove 23 Nov (RC). **Forster's Tern:** 110+ Dosoris Pd Glen Cove 16 Oct (RC); 80-90 Glen Cove 31 Oct (Herb Mills), one to 30 Nov, 56 DPt 12 Nov.

Black-billed Cuckoo: RMSP 15 Sep (JQ), JBCh 4 Oct (LP, LS). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** JBWR 3 Nov (NYRBA), late. **Snowy Owl:** JBWR 25 Nov (Mike Bochnik *fide* NYRBA). **Long-eared Owl:** two JBWE 12 Nov, CP 26 Nov (NYRBA), others present. **Short-eared Owl:** JBWR 29 Oct, CBCh 20 Nov (NYRBA). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** arr 12 Nov, five Tobay 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** migrant on the south shore 20 Sep-2 Oct.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Clove L P Staten I 3 Sep (HF). Garvies Pt Preserve 6 Sep (Don & Ginny Thompson), Zach's Bay 10 Sep (SS). **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** JBWE 23 Oct (Matt Bayer, mob), RMSP 8-9 Nov (JF, JQ). **W. Kingbird:** CBCh 8 Sep, JFKWS 19 Sep (JF), Fort Tilden 30 Sep, RMSP 8-9 Nov. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** RMSP 3 Nov (EL). **Tree Swallow:** wintering on the bay side of Tobay parking lot. **Sedge Wren:** Montauk dump 25 Sep (AB), seldom reported. **N. Wheatear:** CBCh 5 Sep (mob), 11 Sep JFKWS.

Philadelphia Vireo: singles s shore LI 18 Sep-2 Oct. **Golden-winged Warbler:** Gilgo 11 Sep, JBCh 24 Sep (NYRBA), rare on LI especially in recent years. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** JBWR 4 Sep, RMSP 2 and 12 Oct, Montauk dump 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Nashville Warbler:** Gilgo 29 Oct (JQ). **N. Waterthrush:** Zach's Bay to 24 Oct (mob). **Kentucky Warbler:** Zach's Bay 25 Sep (NYRBA). **Connecticut Warbler:** JBWR 11 Sep (IC). **Mourning Warbler:** several reports. **Hooded Warbler:** Fire I 23 Sep (HR, LS). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** CBCh 6 Sep, RMSP 8-11 Sep (JQ, JF), one at sea se MPt 10 Sep; MPt 11 Sep, JBCh 19 Sep, Zachs Bay 25 Sep, JBCh 10 Nov, Montauk Dump 20 Nov.

Blue Grosbeak: six widely scattered reports. **Dickcissel:** a dozen reports widely scattered. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** a half dozen widely scattered reports. **Vesper Sparrow:** several reports. **Lark Sparrow:** JBCh strip 6 Sep-4 Oct. **Lark Bunting:** female JBWR 19 Sep (Phillip Dempsey *fide* Tom Burke). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** Zachs Bay 29 Sep (JQ, JF). CP 11-12 Oct (NYRBA). **Lapland Longspur:** two in a flock of Snow Bunting 17 Nov (AW, SS). **Snow Bunting:** 150-200 at JBWE, an increase over recent years. **Rusty Blackbird:** scattered records through the period. **Boat-tailed Grackle:** four-six Shinnecock Inlet 18 Sep-28 Oct (PG). **N. Oriole:** *Bullock's type* JBWE 6 Oct (AW, SS).

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