

REGION 10-MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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Temperatures averaged one degree below normal each month for the entire season with few high and low extremes. When we couple this with a dry period throughout, except as noted below, this resulted in a most pleasant, bland summer. Actually June precipitation was 1.74 in. short and August 0.80 in. short. July was 4.01 in. over, but with 3.75 in. of it falling in one day on the 24th. This was typical of the summer; most rain fell in torrents resulting in less rainy days than the statistics would appear to show. Early reports suggest that the weather contributed to a breeding season that seems to have been quite favorable.

From Henry Flamm comes information of Double-crested Cormorant **nesting** on Shooter's Island off Staten Island. This is a range extension not previously reported here. The bird continues to expand in our Region. Non-breeding, summering birds are common now on South Shore bay beaches and pilings. It's probably only a short time before we find them breeding along the south shore, also.

After the huge flocks of **Common Eider** wintering off Montauk Point this past year, it would not appear too unusual to find a few lingering birds beyond the normal February departures. But, this time some **200 remained** off the point throughout the entire summer. Spring birds are unusual. Summer birds are almost nonexistent. The size of this flock, at this location, at this time of year, is unprecedented

A pelagic trip on a University of Rhode Island research vessel to Block Canyon on 10-14 Jul reported the following from NY waters (Paul A. Buckley and Richard Veit): Cory's Shearwater, some Greater Shearwaters, **12 Manx Shearwaters**, four **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, **BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** (not on the NY list), and five imm. **Long-tailed Jaegers**.

There were twelve Peregrine Falcon pairs nesting on New York City buildings (4) and bridges (8) this season plus two Red-tailed Hawk pairs, also on buildings. In addition, Long Island *Newsday* reported on 6 Jun, in an almost full page story complete with photos and sketches, on a **first successful nesting for Nassau Co of Peregrine Falcon**. The nest was located on a 17th floor ledge of the Nassau Co Medical Center in East Meadow. An attempt last year produced eggs, but failed. The availability of truly isolated nest sites in the guise of man made aeries, conservation oversight (active and very important), and ample food (mice and pigeons) certainly is helping the process. Success of fledglings was not available as of this writing.

Another raptor report from Henry Flamm is of the first proven, successful nest of a **Broad-winged Hawk** on Staten Island at the Clay Pits Ponds State Preserve. (The Atlas project reported a possible nesting on SI and there is an unsubstantiated record before the turn of the century). The *Staten Island Advance* of 11 Jul carried the story in their "On Nature " column and also reported a successful Red-tailed Hawk nest.

The presence of four Eurasian Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in Hampton Bays, SUFF, for more than one year now presents an interesting problem. At present there are resident populations in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and possibly elsewhere. The dispersion seems to have originated from the Bahamas where the species was inadvertently introduced some years ago. However, this species, and the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. rosario*) which it resembles but from which it can be readily separated in the field, are commonly kept in captivity. So are these individuals part of a natural range expansion or are they escapes or releases? Hopefully someone will submit the record to the NYSARC and get the ball rolling on a decision as to the provenance, IF such a decision is possible. Get busy, you avid state-listers!

A further alert on possible range expansion, but admittedly a stretch, is the occurrence of two singing male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows this spring as late as 16 June just outside of our Region at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye. These were undoubtedly late migrants. In the eastern part of its range, the species has not been recorded as breeding south of roughly Portland, ME. However, LI birders stay alert!!

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Abbreviations: CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CM-Cow Meadow, Freeport; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; In-Inlet; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; URI- University of Rhode Island research vessel to Block Canyon.

LOONS-DUCKS

Common Loon: one summered at JBWE.

Cory's Shearwater: URI 10-14 Jul.

Greater Shearwater: URI 10-14 Jul.

Manx Shearwater: 12 URI 10-14 Jul.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 25 SHIN 5 Jun; off Southampton 25 Jul (JF). **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** four URI 10-14 Jul (PB, RV).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: URI 13 July (PB, RV). [RRED: It is unfortunate that apparently no verification will be filed with NYSARC so this species remains only strongly rumored and not a part of NY State avifauna.] **Brown Pelican:** SHIN 12 Jul; FI Inlet 15 Jul; four Jones Inlet 15, 21, 27 Jul; eight Jones Inlet 28 Jul; three Jones Inlet 8 Aug, three Jones Inlet 17 Aug; 11 Rockaways 23 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: nesting on Shooter's Island in NY harbor, many summering birds throughout.

Am. Bittern: Sayville 31 Aug (SW), flushed from relatively open burn area in pine-oak woodlands (pine barrens), sightings in trees are unusual for this marsh ground nester.

Least Bittern: five with some being fed on SI at Atlas site 15 Jul.

Mute Swan: continue to proliferate.

Redhead: one summered JBWR East Pond.

COMMON EIDER: after the huge numbers that wintered off MP approx 200 remained through the summer; the size of this flock at this time of year is **unprecedented**. **KING EIDER:** four in ocean off Hamptons 10 Jun; three 13 Jun. **Black Scoter:** FI Inlet 30 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: Connetquot River SP 7 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: Douglaston 14 Jun; Edgewood Preserve, Suffolk Co 4 Jul; near Kissena Park, Flushing 6 Jul, soaring over residential area.

Bald Eagle: Fort Tilden 29 Jul (SW); JBWS 24 Aug (JF).

Red-tailed Hawk: two pair nested on NY City buildings, a recent and new phenomenon.

Peregrine Falcon: 12 nests are established on buildings and bridges in NY City; Nassau Co Medical Center in East Meadow, a first for the county.

Wild Turkey: two Wertheim NWR, Suffolk Co, more probably present.

Black Rail: Oak Beach marshes.

Sora: Pilgrim State Hospital late Jul.

Am. Golden-Plover: small numbers in eastern LI fields from late Aug (larger numbers in Sep).

Am. Avocet: two then three JBWR 6 Jul to early Aug; one to 16 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: four Rte 51 west of Riverhead late June to 1 Jul; 11 Dr's Path 3-4 Aug, lesser numbers to 30 Aug; seven Cutchogue 31 Aug.

Whimbrel: various late Jul to early Aug; five JBWR 31 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: Cupsogue Co Park late Jul; JBWR 19-31 Aug.

Marbled Godwit: two Dune Road 3 Aug; West Fox Creek, Great South Bay 7 Aug; two JBWR 10 Aug; one to 24 Aug; six 30 Aug; five 31 Aug, MEB 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: Cutchogue 23-24 Aug; MEB 23-27 Aug; JBWE 11 Aug. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Dr.'s Path 18-21 Aug.

Ruff: JBWR 13-15 Jul; CM 7-13 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 12 Ju thru.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 19 Jul; JBWR east pond 19, 27-29 Aug; two 30 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: JBWR 12 Aug.

Parasitic Jaeger: MEB 16 Jul; Georgica Pond 18 Jul.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: five URI 12 Jul (PB, RV).

Black-headed Gull: Sagg Pond late Jul, one footed bird seen previously. **Lesser**

Black-backed Gull: single birds eastern LI 21-30 Aug.

Gull-billed Tern: birds nesting on bay islands, seen sporadically from various south shore locations.

Caspian Tern: MEX 27 Aug.

Royal Tern: over the ocean at Quogue 13 Jul (Art Cooley); three Westhampton Dunes 27 Jul; two Cupsogue 3 Aug; four Westhampton Dunes 14 Aug; eleven 24 Aug.

Black Tern: various early to late Jul; throughout Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Chuck-will's-widow: calling 9:00 PM St. Johns Pond Preserve, Laurel Hollow 13 Jun, a single occurrence but probably Nassau Co.'s first.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING

Red-breasted Nuthatch: an East End nester, extremely erratic in winter. This year it appeared on western LI as early as 20 Jul and in increasing numbers thereafter.

VIREOS-WARBLED

Warbling Vireo: two Belmont Lake SP 7 June, uncommon breeder on the south shore; but now fully resident at HLSP; adult feeding fledgling in Aquebogue, a confirmation of nesting in an area where it has been rare of late (ES); this species is expanding on the Island in wooded areas.

Philadelphia Vireo: banded FI 11 Jun.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Hoffman Estate, Muttontown 23 Jun (MR).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Prospect Park 18 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: banded FI 17 Aug; another FI 26 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: to 12 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: singing east of Connetquot River 7 Jun, also seen 1 and 8 Jun; banded FI 17 Aug, Muttontown Preserve 31 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: banded FI 9 Jun.

Dickcissel: FI 8, 25 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: CP 20 Aug.

Lark Sparrow: CP 20 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: the areas of Suffolk Co where grasslands persist have produced exceptional numbers of singing birds, 50 pair in one report, 120-125 in another. When grasslands go, so do the sparrows.

Boat-tailed Grackle: increasing in the SHIN area.

Pine Siskin: JBWE heard 31 Aug (DF)

ERRATA

The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** reported in the Winter report should read **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** : Great South Bay in East Patchogue 18 Jan (DT). [A typo which eluded us].

EXOTICS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: two to four Hampton Bay area, provenance unknown; see discussion in commentary.

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