

REGION 10-MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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June was wetter and a bit cooler than normal. July averaged about normal in temperature, with rainfall a mere 1.09 inches against the normal of 4.35. August was slightly warmer than normal, again with scant rainfall, 2.78 inches against a normal of 4.35. Thus the season was about average in temperature, but with few extremes, and substantially dry during the summer months. As usual, mid July saw the beginning of migrants, and by the end of August the Fall season had begun.

The most unusual bird of this or any season was a **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** discovered at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge by William Benner on Thursday, 27 August. The bird was seen on Friday, rediscovered on Saturday morning in a small section of the NW corner of the West Pond where, remarkably, it remained at that spot until the following Friday. **This is a first record for the lower 48 states.** The bird was seen by multi-hundreds coming from as far away as California and Alaska. The full report with photos can be seen in *The Kingbird* 1998 Sep; 48(3): 182-186. We might add that the refuge staff was very helpful, with information and strung tape at the site to mark the area and to keep the throngs on the path.

The "Patagonia Picnic Table" syndrome was certainly in effect on Saturday, 29 August at Jamaica Bay. Birders coming to see the Broad-billed Sandpiper also found a Western Kingbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and Blue Grosbeak. NY state birders who attended the Federation Field Trip to Jamaica Bay on that day got more than their money's worth.

Paul Gillen reported that, while a whale watching trip out of Montauk on 21 June was productive, a similar trip on 21 August did not produce a single pelagic. Details of the first trip are listed under the species accounts.

A survey was made of the colonial nesting herons and gulls on Shooter's Island, Prall's Island, and other spoil islands in Kill Van Kull between Staten Island and New Jersey. While there was much nesting activity, one colony of some 250 pairs of birds evidently was devastated by human intervention. Other island communities surveyed appear to be healthy.

We are seeing a range extension of vultures in the Region. Turkey Vultures have been seen more widely and in greater numbers for some time. They are regular on migration and have been frequenting the Staten Island Landfill this past summer. Black Vultures have also been sighted in Staten Island, Central and Prospect parks.

After a slight pause, the Mute Swan population at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge continues its upward spiral with a count of 312 in mid season on the East Pond. This species and Double-crested Cormorant continue their breeding expansions in our Region.

Eric Salzman discovered an adult American Coot with 5 or 6 young at a restored marsh near Riverhead. As he points out, and I quote from his report, "This is an unusual record; these young, in immature plumage in mid-July, would have been hatched in mid-May. There is only one published breeding record for coot in Suffolk County (Mecox Bay, 1954), although a pair nested in Water Mill Pond in the late 1970's (*fide* Jim Ash)."

The sod fields off Route 105 in Riverhead, starting in mid August, attracted the usual shorebird flocks led by two dozen American Golden-Plover. Other shorebirds at this site included a few Upland, Baird's, and Buff-breasted sandpipers. Upland Sandpipers, becoming increasingly scarce in recent years, were noticeably so this year.

A **Thayer's Gull** was seen at Shinnecock on 6 June by Eric Salzman (details to us and to NYSARC).

On 19 July, Cliff Hagen found a **Common Raven** feeding at the Muldoon Ave dump, Staten Island. Receiving a call, Henry Flamm went to the site and confirmed the ID (details supplied). This is the second record for this species at the site. It might be noted that 4 Turkey Vultures and a Red-tailed Hawk were also present that day

As mentioned in the Spring report, the unusually wet May weather and birders being out later in the Spring resulted in numerous comments on late migrants; this was particularly true for warblers. Many birders may have been seeing possible breeding birds. To analyze this phenomenon, a search was made of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Surprisingly, we found that 21 warbler species were probable or confirmed nesters in Region 10 during the 1980-1985 period. For your information a list of these "Summer" warblers follows: Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

A personal note: This report completes 10 years as Region 10 Editors. We thank all our friends for their help and assistance in the past, the present, and into the future.

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Abbreviations: CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CUP-Cupsogue State Park; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; GKP-Great Kills park, SI; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LII-Line Islands; LI-Long Island; MNSA-Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MP- Montauk Point; MOR- Moriches; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PTM-Pelagic trip from Montauk, PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; RT-Route 105 sod farms; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS

Cory's Shearwater: 3 PTM 21 Jun; 2 mi S of JBCH 4 Jul.

Greater Shearwater: 280 PTM 21 Jun.

Sooty Shearwater: 3 off SHIN 7 Jun; 4 off SHIN 13 Jun; 19 PTM 21 Jun.

Manx Shearwater: off RMSP 6 Jun (TB).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 3 off SHIN 13 Jun ; 5 PTM 21 Jun.

Brown Pelican: 1 FI 7 Jul; 10 JBCH 9 Jul; 9 SHIN 12 Jul; 1 MOR 13 Jul; 2-3 during next week inlets at JBCH, FI, SHIN; 10+ FI bridge 17 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: at least 53 nests at Stony Brook mill pond.

Least Bittern: 1 ad, 2 y SI 12 Jul, breeding on this site at River Road on oil tank property for the past several years.

Cattle Egret: only report came from SI and JBWR, after initial increase on LI east of New York City, this species is less common or absent.

Black Vulture: bird present since mid-May picked up emaciated 6 Jun at Montauk fide (TB).

Turkey Vulture: PP 6 Jun; Captree 6 Jun.

Mute Swan: 300+ east pond JBWR.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: N. Queens had its first Osprey nesting, on a platform erected in a salt marsh restoration area on Little Neck Bay, 2 y raised (SW).

Bald Eagle: SI 4 Jun; JBWR 4, 11 Jul.

Red-tailed Hawk: additional nesting sites of note, NY City building and SI.

Am. Coot: 1 ad, 5-6 y near Riverhead (fide Jim Ash), an unusual record, intro. It has

vanished or is nearly gone from previous breeding strongholds in the NY City area.

Am. Golden Plover: CUP 1 Jun; scattered reports from 16 Aug on, 26 max RT by end of Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 6 Gabriski Airport, Westhampton 21 Aug thru; 20 Aug thru.

Whimbrel: Acabonack 6 Jul; scattered reports JBWR to CUP 2 Aug thru.

Hudsonian Godwit: LII 31 Jul; then scattered reports JBWR to CUP 16 Aug thru.

Marbled Godwit: CUP 22 Jun, LI 11 Jul; then scattered reports JBWR to CUP 16 Aug thru.

Baird's Sandpiper: single widely scattered 25 Aug thru.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER: JBWR 27 Aug-4 Sep (WB,mob,NYSARC), **first NY and lower 48 states record.**

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 RT 20 Aug; increasing to 8 by 30 Aug; a few others JBWR to Cutchogue.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 10 Jun; 2 JBWR 9, 22 Aug; Riverhead farm pond 18 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 JBWR 9-10 Aug; JBWE 25 Aug (mob).

Parasitic Jaeger: Democrat Pt 1 Jun.

Black-headed Gull: BR 27 Aug, old one-foot back for its 9th year per Jim Ash.

THAYER'S GULL: SHIN 6 Jun (ES!).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: GKP 22 Aug; BR 27 Aug.

Gull-billed Tern: per staff 5 pr nested with Com. Terns on the marsh islands off the foot of the MNSA; numbers of these pairs were seen flying over the area hawking insects

during the summer, and a pr fed y still in juv plumage on the property in Aug; birds were seen during Jul at JBWE to the east and CM to the west.

Royal Tern: CUP late Jul; others on South Shore 16 Aug thru.

Black Tern: SHIN 13 Jun; scattered reports JBWR to Sagg Pond 16 Aug thru.

Black Skimmer: 1 seen flying west over 168th Street, Manhattan 11 July (GB).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Chuck-will's-widow: 4 heard Fresh Pond, Acabonack 6 Jul; others usual places Oak Beach, Riverhead.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Connetquot 6 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: PP 7 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 CP 4 June; others to 13 Jun.

W. Kingbird: near FI banding station 18 Jun (SM), very rare in the spring; JBWR 28 Aug.

COMMON RAVEN: Muldoon Ave dump, SI 19-20 Jul (CH, HF!).

WARBLERS

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A list of warblers warblers lingering into summer, many PO or PR in the NYBBA, may be found in the *intro*.

Yellow-throated Warbler: singing PP 4 Jul; JBWR 29 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: Maple Swamp area, Flanders 31 July !, perhaps a breeding bird (ES!, *et al*).

Prothonotary Warbler: JBWR 29 Aug.

Worm-eating Warbler: bird found feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird, Hunter's Garden, Riverhead; same or another bird feeding a young warbler later in the same area (DF); PP 19 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: thru early Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: apparent resident bird JBWR, no evidence of breeding.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Oak Beach 6 Jun.

Blue Grosbeak: JBWR 29 Aug.

Boat-tailed Grackle: SI, JBWR, MNSA, JBCH, CB, SH.

Evening Grosbeak: CP 1 Jun; JBWE 11 Jul (EL,AW), unusual date.