

REGION 10 – MARINE

Seymour Schiff

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead NY 11550.

Alvin Wollin

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

The season's weather can be described as warm September, warm October and hot November. Temperatures were 0.5°F higher, 1.0° higher and an unprecedented 5.1° higher than normal in each month, respectively. The actual mean temperature

for November was 52.7°, the warmest November ever recorded; there was no frost. After a wet September, it was extremely dry. Only 0.66" of rain fell in October and 1.36" in November. By season's end, the Region had a 10" shortfall for the year.

This fall's unusual weather pattern brought us an odd group of the more uncommon birds and also included three potential additions to the New York State Checklist, pending NYSARC review. The highlights were a rare pelagic, a heron subspecies from the south and a hummingbird, flycatcher and warbler from the west. There was also a good flight of northern species. After the mild, wet September and mild, very dry October, a major shift in weather patterns occurred on 26 October, bringing windy conditions and the first sustained cool (but not cold) spell to the Region. It brought with it a strong hawk flight along the beaches on the 27th and 28th, after a very slow start to the raptor migration, significant northern finch flights and some unusual birds.

On 1 December, Tom Burke went to Ft. Tryon Park in upper Manhattan to investigate the report of two hummingbirds, originally thought to be Ruby-throated, frequenting the park since mid-November. Late hummers should always be studied for a potential rare western species rather than our eastern Ruby-throated. After checking the birds, he made a tentative call that one might be a **Calliope Hummingbird**. Michael Bochnik identified both as Calliope the next morning. A group of birders in the afternoon, including John Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Kevin O'Leary and Gerard Phillips, sorted out the salient points and also identified both birds as Calliope Hummingbird. This was later confirmed by Paul Lehman after viewing photos on the web. The species will become an addition to the NYS Checklist, pending acceptance by NYSARC. Although identification was not made until December, when they were exhaustively studied and photographed by many, over several weeks, the birds were present during the fall season.

On 26 October, John and Gerda Fritz discovered a late season *Empidonax* flycatcher at the Jones Beach West End turnaround. The bird was extensively studied that day and the next by many observers. A preliminary identification of **Hammond's Flycatcher** was made the first day and concurred with the next. In the afternoon of the second day, a migrating Merlin was seen to take it. The species, listed as casual in the East, will become an addition to the NYS Checklist, pending acceptance by NYSARC. An article and photos appear in this issue of *The Kingbird*.

On 6 September, in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, Peter Dorosh and Edward Crowne observed what they concluded was an adult female or first year fall male **Virginia's Warbler**, a species not on the NYS Checklist. It would be a first state record if accepted by NYSARC. Both observers have submitted reports.

As if all this were not enough, in the early morning of 11 November, a **Cave Swallow** was seen flying at the Jones Beach West End turnaround. The bird was seen by Diana Teta, Kevin O'Leary, Steve D'Amato and Rich Berube. Later in the morning it was found over the West End Parking Lot 2 and was seen by others, including your Regional editors, before drifting back toward the turnaround, where it was seen by some of the original group and a few others, and then departing. This

bird was seen clearly when it flew directly over and around several of the observers in the parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Sy Schiff thought it belonged to the Caribbean nominate subspecies (ssp *fulva*), based on the deep chestnut-colored rump and rufous chest and flanks. See the excellent article on the subject, "Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) Second New York State Record," A. Guthrie and A. Wilson, *The Kingbird* 50:2.

The first major pelagic trip of the season occurred on 3-4 September from Barnegat Light, New Jersey, to Hudson Canyon. Dave Klauber listed the following in NY waters: 32 Cory's Shearwaters, 23 Greater Shearwaters, 1 **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, 9 Pomarine Jaegers, 1 subadult Long-tailed Jaeger and 2 Arctic Terns. Also seen on the trip were 15 Audubon's Shearwaters, not definitely thought to be in NY waters.

On 8 September, Carl Safina, about 70 miles south of Montauk, spotted a **tropicbird** species moving past his boat. Seen mostly with the naked eye and with binoculars only when going away, the long white tail was quite evident but plumage characters were not sufficiently noted to distinguish between White-tailed and Red-billed.

From 8-10 September, Tom Fiore, the sole birder aboard, was on a fishing boat well offshore but within officially defined NY boundaries. He reported many impressive pelagic numbers, including a single **White-faced Storm-Petrel**.

Orhan Birol reported on a 16 September pelagic trip into the Hudson Canyon, 70 miles south of Long Island. It produced 25 Greater Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 45 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 4 Red-necked Phalaropes, 1 Red Phalarope and 5 Pomarine Jaegers. On 23 September, on a charter fishing boat 60 miles south of Shinnecock, Birol was treated to close views of a **White-faced Storm-Petrel**. The only other pelagics noted were some Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a Black-legged Kittiwake.

A "**Great White Heron**" was found on Staten Island in mid to late September. This subspecies (ssp *occidentalis*) of the Great Blue Heron was formerly considered a separate species and may achieve such status again. On 8 October, John Fritz discovered one in the marsh at Gilgo on the Jones Beach barrier island, which proved to be different than the SI bird. It remained until the 28th. This is a bird of the Florida Keys, rarely venturing farther north. For birders to find two in New York is highly unusual. An article and photos appear in this issue of *The Kingbird*.

Jay Kuhlman, following up on a tip received from local fishermen, found an **American White Pelican** in Mastic. The bird, which was originally seen 19 October, spent most of the morning of the 20th in the Forge River, immediately south of Montauk Village. It was in Northville, northeast of Riverhead, on the 29th, later at Georgica Pond in East Hampton, and was last reported on 7 November. A Brown Pelican appeared in Bellport Bay 18 September. Another was seen flying over the beach at Shirley on 22 October.

On 28 October, two Greater White-Fronted Geese were at the Silver Lake Golf Course on Staten Island; one remained to 6 November. Two of the Greenland form of this species were found on 17 November by Bob Kurtz on the Grumman pond

in Calverton and were seen sporadically to the end of the period. An immature **Ross's Goose** was found there on 30 October and remained until 23 November. The goose flock it accompanied also contained the small "Richardson's" subspecies of Canada Goose.

P.A. Buckley and Tony Lauro found an adult **Barnacle Goose** on Short's Pond in Bridgehampton on 17 November. It was on Hook Pond in East Hampton on the 18th and sporadically thereafter. The bird was not banded and appeared wild. It should be noted that the question of origin is always a problem with this European species as it is often kept in captivity. One of this species was reported on the Connecticut RBA in late November, with the admonition, "origin uncertain."

On 28 October, **four** American Avocets appeared at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and remained until 4 November. On 8 October, Hugh McGuinness found a Red Phalarope at Sagaponack.

Paul Gillen sent us a report summarizing some post-nesting wandering of Royal Terns into our area. He noted that in recent years this species has increasingly favored the north end of Robins Island for roosting. This year, he first saw them there 12 August. They peaked at 57 on 18 September, although 40 birds were frequently seen until 1 October. There were 25 on 24 October and 17 on the 28th, when they were last seen at this spot. This is by far the largest non-hurricane-related number recorded in New York.

Cindy Wodinsky reported that a **White-winged Dove** came to her feeder in Cedarhurst, Nassau County, on 13 October and returned to the yard and feeder for 12 days before departing on the 24th. She graciously allowed dozens of birders access to her property.

On 22 November, Al Ott found an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in Alley Pond Park, Queens County. On 16 September, a **Northern Wheatear** was found by Paul Maldonado and Michelle Wolf at Smith's Point Park, Suffolk County. It remained in the area until 1 October.

Late warblers, in addition to Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned warblers and Yellow-breasted Chat, all of which winter in the Region, included: Blue-winged at Gilgo 9 October, Nashville in Prospect Park 22 November, Northern Parula at Jones Beach 4 November, Black-throated Blue at Sag Harbor through at least 9 November, Black-throated Green in Prospect Park 3 November, American Redstart in Prospect Park 28 October, Pine in Central Park 24 November, Prairie at Montauk Point 23 November, Ovenbird in Prospect Park 17 November, Blackpoll at Montauk Point 10 November, Hooded at Shinnecock 28 October and Central Park 30 October, Wilson's in Prospect Park to 23 November. Several of these persisted into December and CBC season.

On 20 September, Beverly Prentice reported a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at a feeder in Jamesport. It was seen for about 15 minutes. Another young male was seen on private property in Aquebogue on 24 October.

The shift in weather patterns starting 26 October brought an influx of migrating finches along the outer beaches. The birds were mainly fly-overs or temporary drop-ins. Few lingered for long. By late November, the movement was over. In

order of abundance, there were hundreds of American Goldfinches, a good number of Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills in small flocks, Pine Siskins, some Red Crossbills and a few Common Redpolls.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Deborah Allen, Mike Anderson, John P. Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Bill Benner, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Michael Bochnik, Tom Brown, P.A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, James Clinton Sr., John J. Collins, Mike Cooper, Edward Crowne, Bob DiCandido, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Ron Ellard, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Paul H. Gillen, Andrew Guthrie, Cliff Hagen, Sam Jabbazzo, Rob Jett, David W. Klauber, Greg Kunkel, Robert J. Kurtz, Ed Lam (EL), Anthony J. Lauro, Nick Laviola, Emanuel Levine (EML), Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Paul Maldonado, Hugh McGuinness, Shai Mitra, Steve Nanz, Chris Nuzzi, Al Ott, Drew Panko, Robert O. Paxton, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Herbert H. Roth, George Rowsom, Carl Safina, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir, Seymour Schiff, Steve Walter, Angus Wilson (AnW), Cindy Wodinsky, Michelle Wolf, Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; CLP – Clove L P, SI; CP – Central P; CUT – Cutchogue; DP – Democrat Pt, FI; FI – Fire I; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden, Queens; GKP – Great Kills P, SI; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; HP – Hook Pd, Southampton; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long I; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MP – Montauk Point; PEL – pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; SPP – Smith Pt Co P; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, Bronx.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: PBP 7 Sep, rare so early in season.

Eared Grebe: 2 at end of last season
JBWR, at least 1 remained thru.

Cory's Shearwater: 32 PEL 4 Sep.

Greater Shearwater: 23 PEL 4 Sep; 25 PEL 16 Sep.

Sooty Shearwater: DP 25 Sep.

Manx Shearwater: PEL 16 Sep (OB).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 45 PEL 16 Sep.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:
PEL 4 Sep (DK), 8-10 Sep (TF); 16 Sep

(OB); 60 mi s of SHIN 23 Sep (OB).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 1
Mastic to Montauk 19 Oct-7 Nov.

Brown Pelican: Bellport Bay 18 Sep;
SPP 22 Oct.

TROPICBIRD SP.: 70 mi s of Montauk
8 Sep (CS), encounter too brief to identify
to species; *intro*.

Least Bittern: Southold 22 Sep (RE).

"Great White" Great Blue Heron: Wolfs
Pd SI 2 Sep-4 Nov (CN); another Gilgo
8-28 Oct (JF); normally found in FL
Keys, rare at this latitude.

Tricolored Heron: last MNSA 3 Nov.
Cattle Egret: Riverhead 16-25 Oct.
Green Heron: last 2 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: PP 7 Sep; VCP 15 Sep; CP 28 Sep, 8 Oct, 15 on 12 Oct, 16 on 18 Oct, 2 on 22 Oct; PP 30 Oct, 3 on 28 Oct, 7 on 27 Oct; SI 28 Oct; 2 CP 28 Nov.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Silver L Golf Course, SI 28 Oct-7 Nov; 2 Grumman Pd Calverton 17 Nov and vicinity thru.
ROSS'S GOOSE: Grumman Pd Calverton 30 Oct-23 Nov (BA, et al.).
"Richardson's" Canada Goose (ssp *hutchinsii*): with other Canadas and the Ross's Goose.
BARNACLE GOOSE: Shorts Pd Bridgehampton, then various locations 17 Nov thru (PAB, AL); often kept in captivity, origin of birds typically uncertain.
Tundra Swan: 2 HP 21 Nov thru.
Eurasian Wigeon: Blydenburgh Co P Smithtown 14 Oct; JBWR 13 Oct-22 Nov; Marine P Brooklyn 4 Nov; Mattituck 23-24 Nov.
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: VCP 27 Nov thru.
King Eider: arr MP late Nov.
Com. Eider: arr JBCH & MP early Nov.
Harlequin Duck: arr PL & MP 4 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Massapequa Preserve 22 Nov.
Bald Eagle: Big Reed Pd Montauk 2 Sep; PP 14 Sep; 2 VCP 15 Sep; FTT 29 Sep, 8 Oct; 3 MP 8 Oct; 2 CP 12, 22 Oct; JBWE 27, 28 Oct; PP 7 Nov; HP 11 Nov; Quogue Refuge 12 Nov; Hudson R Manhattan 20 Nov; total 4 FI hawk watch.
Broad-winged Hawk: last 8 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: still declining.
Wild Turkey: Inwood Hill P Manhattan 23 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: 30 CUT 2 Sep; max 40 near Rocky Pt 25 Sep; last JBWE Nov 14.
SANDHILL CRANE: over GKP 9 Sep

(CH).
Semipalmated Plover: last 18 Oct.
Piping Plover: PB 11 Nov.
Am. Oystercatcher: 100+ JBWE dwindling to 40 by season's end.
Am. Avocet: 4 JBWR 28 Oct-4 Nov, high count.
Willet: Shinnecock Bay 29 Nov (JC).
Spotted Sandpiper: last 3 Nov.
Upland Sandpiper: sod farms E. LI early Sep; fewer reports this year.
Whimbrel: MEB 2 Sep; MP 23-24 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: 7 JBWR 1 Sep, 6 on 9 Sep, 2 on 23 Sep, 1 on 3 Oct.
Marbled Godwit: JBWR 1-3 Sep; Westhampton Dunes 23 Sep; JBWE 20 Oct; JBWR 3 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last 7 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: Aquebogue Duck Farm 1, 3 Sep; 3 MEB 8 Sep; 2 JBWR 9 Sep; 2 MEB 14 Sep; MEB 21-22 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last 29 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 11 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MEB 2, 8-11 Sep; 3 Rocky Pt 18-20 Sep; SPP 21-23 Sep, 2 on 25 Sep; 2 CUT 22-23 Sep.
Ruff: CUT 23 Sep (SM, PL).
Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 8-9 Sep.
Red-necked Phalarope: 4 PEL 16 Sep.
Red Phalarope: PEL 16 Sep; Sagg Pd 8 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: 9 PEL 4 Sep; 5 PEL 16 Sep; MP 29 Sep; MP 20, 28 Oct.
Parasitic Jaeger: 4 MP 29 Sep, 6 Oct; 2 MP 28 Oct, 4 Nov, 11 Nov.
Long-tailed Jaeger: PEL 4 Sep (DC).
Black-headed Gull: MP 28 Oct.
Glaucous Gull: SHIN 10 Oct; other sightings there.
Caspian Tern: SHIN 8 Sep; 2 MEB 29 Sep; Sagaponack 6 Oct; Georgica Pd 1-11 Nov.
Royal Tern: Robins I 12 Aug-28 Oct; 57 on 18 Sep, large numbers other times, the largest non-hurricane-related numbers on record; others early Sep to mid Nov.
Com. Tern: last 27 Oct.
Arctic Tern: 2 PEL 4 Sep (DK).

Forster's Tern: last 27 Nov.
Black Tern: last 19 Sep.
Black Skimmer: last late Oct.
Razorbill: a few MP late Nov thru.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Cedarhurst feeder 13-24 Oct (CW).
Monk Parakeet: flying by FTT 8 Oct.
Snowy Owl: JBWE 12 Nov thru; Asharoken 25 Nov; SHIN 22 Nov.
Chimney Swift: last 10 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 30 Sep.
CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: 2 Ft. Tyron P Manhattan 18 Nov thru (TB, MB, et al), identified in early Dec, 1st state record pending NYSARC acceptance.
Red-headed Woodpecker: MP 2 Oct; 2 RMSP 7 Oct; PL 7 Oct; 2 CP late Oct thru.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 4 Nov.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded Gilgo 4-11 Nov (RP); rare after mid Sep, extraordinarily late date. There are several other Nov banding records not in NY literature.
HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: JBWE 26-27 Oct (JF, et al), 1st state record pending NYSARC acceptance.
E. Phoebe: last 5 Nov.
Ash-throated Flycatcher: APP 22 Nov (AO).
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 7 Oct.
Western Kingbird: Babylon 15 Oct; MP 21 Oct; RMSP 22 Oct; JBWE 31 Oct; Calverton 3 Nov; Gilgo 7 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: never particularly common in fall, a number seen in Sep; last CP 4 Oct (DA).
Red-eyed Vireo: last 8 Oct.
CAVE SWALLOW: JBWE 11 Nov (mob), identified as Caribbean subspecies (SS), NYSARC report submitted.
Barn Swallow: last 19 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 18 Nov.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: SPP 16-22 Sep, 1 Oct (PM, MW).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: Gilgo 9 Oct (RK), very late.
Golden-winged Warbler: CP 15 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: CP 14 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: PP thru, stayed into winter.
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: PP 6 Sep (PD, EC); reports to NYSARC. Not on NYS Checklist, it would be 1st state record if accepted by NYSARC.
N. Parula: last 4 Nov.
Yellow Warbler: last 8 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 3 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last 17 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last 13 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 9 Nov.
"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler: Gilgo 10 Nov (AL).
Blackburnian Warbler: last 13 Oct.
Yellow-throated Warbler: JBWE 20 Sep (JDC), very rare in fall.
Prairie Warbler: MP 23 Nov (NL, MA), rare after Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 10 Nov.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 7 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last 28 Oct.
Prothonotary Warbler: CLP 29 Sep (HF).
Worm-eating Warbler: last early Sep.
Ovenbird: PP 17 Nov.
N. Waterthrush: last 28 Oct.
Kentucky Warbler: CP 23 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: PP 7, 10 Sep; APP 12 Sep; CP, JBWE, Manorville, Riverside P 16 Sep; Inwood Hill P 23 Sep; CP 7 Oct; others; total at least 14, a very large number.
Hooded Warbler: PP early Sep; Commack 13 Sep; Shinnecock 28 Oct; CP 30 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: 23 Nov thru.
Canada Warbler: to 29 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: widely scattered.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 23 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last 13 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 16 Oct, then early Nov; few reports, low numbers.

Clay-colored Sparrow: mid Sep to early Nov.

Lark Sparrow: Orient 22 Sep.

Seaside Sparrow: last 9 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last 20 Nov.

"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco (ssp *mearnsi*): Gilgo 22 Oct (TB, RP, et al), chased into nets, banded, ph.

Lapland Longspur: 3 JBWE 28 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr MP 28 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 10 Oct.

Blue Grosbeak: RMSP 22 Sep; PL 7 Oct; Montauk Dude Ranch 20 Oct; Gilgo late

Oct; Montauk dump 8 Nov.

Dickcissel: Riverhead 7 Sep; JBCH 20 Sep; SPP 20-23 Sep; 2 Gilgo 20 Sep; RMSP 16 Oct; Riverdale 20 Oct; Connetquot SP and JBWE 3 Nov; JBCH 4-25 Nov; Eastport feeder 16-21 Nov.

Bobolink: last 31 Oct.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

Jamesport feeder 20 Sep (BP); Aquebogue 24 Oct.

Red Crossbill: 30 Oct - mid Nov; fewer than White-winged Crossbill.

White-winged Crossbill: 30 JBWE 28 Oct; small groups to 17 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr 4 Nov, small numbers.

Pine Siskin: arr 21 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: CP 5 Nov; PP 19 Nov.

syschiff@optonline.net

