

REGION 10 – MARINE

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After a dry period, September exceeded the norm, but only by a mere 0.93". October was a month of significant wet weather, with 7.20" rainfall, or 3.35" in excess of the monthly norm. November was also wet, with 0.70" above normal. By season's end, we had picked up half the shortfall of the year to date. Warm weather continued, with September 2.7°F above normal. October, warm for the first half, finally turned cooler and overall averaged 1.4 ° below normal. November reversed the change and averaged 1.1 ° above normal.

On 28 November, Andrew Block and Anne Connor discovered an exciting warbler at the Jones Beach State Park Boardwalk Restaurant; pictures by Seth

Ausubel appeared on the Internet the next day. Over the next three days it was seen by scores. Painstakingly described and extensively photographed, it was either a **Hermit Warbler** or a **Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid**. Whether "pure" or hybrid, when determined by NYSARC, this far-western bird will still be a first state record. See a full account with photos elsewhere in this issue.

When we review the following observations in aggregate with those of the preceding spring and summer reports, we should get a fairly detailed view of what birders can expect from Region 10's waters during a year on Long Island.

On 1 September, a fishing boat nine miles south of Montauk Point encountered a Greater Shearwater and a Pomarine Jaeger. On the same day, within two miles of the point, there were Greater and Manx shearwaters, as well as a Pomarine Jaeger. A seawatch on 3 September from Mecox and Ocean Road in Bridgehampton produced 50 unidentified shearwaters, most of which were over a mile from shore. Only one bird was close enough to be identified as a Cory's Shearwater. Eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also seen.

On 14 September, Jack Passie reported an unidentified skua within a half-mile of Montauk Point. On an overnight fishing trip to the Dip (65 miles south of Shinnecock) on 19-20 September, Orhan Birol saw 100 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, four Greater Shearwaters and a Pomarine Jaeger in adult breeding plumage.

On 29 September, a seawatch from Robert Moses State Park, Field #2, produced a few Northern Gannets and two or more Parasitic Jaegers harassing Laughing Gulls. On 3 October, Jack Passie reported eight Northern Fulmars 30 miles southeast of Montauk Point. On 5 October, Andy Guthrie saw two unidentified jaegers and a few Northern Gannets off Robert Moses State Park.

On 6 October, Andy Guthrie and Angus Wilson saw a Parasitic Jaeger make a pass over the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a very unusual sight away from the ocean or Long Island Sound.

On 10 October, Bob May and Dave Klauber observed an adult light morph Parasitic Jaeger flying by the Montauk Point restaurant. Then, on 12 October, Ken Feustel reported a late Sooty Shearwater and two Parasitic Jaegers at the point. There were three additional Parasitic Jaegers there the next day. On 13 October, John Suggs reported an unidentifiable shearwater at Cherry Grove on Fire Island.

On 19 October, a Parasitic Jaeger was seen off Democrat Point, at the western end of Fire Island. On 26 October, at Montauk Point, Andy Guthrie reported two shearwaters, 400 Northern Gannets, four Parasitic Jaegers (three adults), an immature Little Gull and three Black-legged Kittiwakes (two immatures, one adult). The next day, 27 October, Hugh McGuinness and Andy Baldelli saw two Pomarine and two Parasitic jaegers and, on 30 October, John Fritz had a Parasitic Jaeger and two Black-legged Kittiwakes there. On 2 November, two Parasitic Jaegers were harassing a large flock of Laughing Gulls at Shagwam Point in Montauk.

This concludes the detailed listing of pelagic birds observed in 2002.

An adult **Ross's Goose** frequented the median at Jones Beach and the adjacent Zachs Bay open lawns. Found 4 November, it was still in the vicinity 19 November.

On 14 October, Lauren and Chris Nuzzi and David Eib found an immature Tufted Duck at Mt. Loretto Park on Staten Island; a positive identification was confirmed by videotape. It was last reported 17 November.

Some reports from hawkwatchers in our Region are noted here. On 28 September, Central Park reported 20 Ospreys, 2 Bald Eagles, 50 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 600 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 American Kestrels, Merlin and several sightings of Peregrine Falcon. By mid October, the intermittent hawkwatch in Prospect Park reported 13 Bald Eagles. The Fire Island Hawkwatch had a record daily total on 28 September with 526 birds, of which over half were Merlins. Their second best day was 23 September with 514. There were three reports of Golden Eagles this season: Central Park on 23 October and 23 November and over Sy Schiff's home in Baldwin on 31 October.

On 15 October, Eric Salzman reported seeing a small rail on the marsh at Quogue. He identified the bird as a **Yellow Rail**, called after being flushed. On 2 September, Issac Grant reported a juvenal **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at the Marine Park Driving Range in Kings County. The bird was in a large (100+) flock of Pectoral Sandpipers plus other shorebirds and was described in detail. Both of these species are subject to NYSARC review, as are all of those highlighted below [Regional Reports Proofreader].

On 10 September, Andy Baldelli reported a **Sandwich Tern** sitting on the flats north of the parking area at Cupsogue County Park in Westhampton Dunes. Royal Terns are common post-season wanderers along the South Shore of Long Island and the past several years they have roosted in considerable numbers at the north end of Robins Island, Suffolk County.

There were significant numbers of late fall hummingbirds. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Joe Manzione's feeder in Farmingville, Suffolk County, on 16-17 November. Tom Fiore reported a *Selasphorus* hummingbird discovered by Nick Wagerik on 10 November in Central Park. Observed and photographed by numerous birders through 23 November, it was identified as a probable **Rufous Hummingbird**. On 19 November, another late hummingbird appeared in Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park, which is at the southernmost part of the green area of Battery Park in Manhattan. Ben Cacace, who found the bird, was fairly confident it was a **Calliope Hummingbird**. This bird was last seen 24 November. Birders who went to see the Wagner Park bird observed a second late hummingbird on 23 November, thought to be an immature *Selasphorus*.

On 21 November, while driving on the Jones Beach back road west of the fishing piers, John Fritz, Gerta Fritz and Joan Quinlan spotted an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**. On 25 November, Bob May and Dave Klauber saw another Ash-throated Flycatcher at Breezy Point while unsuccessfully looking for a **Cave Swallow** seen there the day before.

In late November, a major invasion of **Cave Swallows** occurred in the Northeast. Our reports from west to east included: 17 November - Peter Dorosh, leading a Brooklyn Bird Club trip, found one at Lemon Creek, on the south shore

of Staten Island; 24 November - Tom Fiore reported one flying with four Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Saw Mill Creek marsh on Staten Island; 24 November - Angus Wilson discovered one at Breezy Point, over the dunes at the end of the access road; 23 November - Hugh McGuinness, leading a field trip to Montauk Point, reported, "watched three Cave Swallows fly off the ocean"; 25 November - another was seen at Hallockville on the North Fork, along Sound Avenue a few miles east of Riverhead, by Mary Laura Lamont, Richard Wines and Nancy Gilbert. The extraordinarily late appearance of the Northern Rough-winged Swallows is also notable.

P.A. Buckley, John and Gerta Fritz discovered a **Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler** on the snow fence at Mecox on 20 November. This rare western race has a yellow rather than white throat.

A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found in Central Park 29 September, seen by a number of birders and photographed by Phil Jeffrey.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BP – Breezy Pt, western end Rockaway Peninsula QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach; CFF – Cutchogue farm fields; CLP – Clove L P SI; CP – Central P; DP – Democrat Pt FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; HP – Hook Pd Southampton; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; MTL – Mount Loretto SI; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PB – Pikes Beach Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP

– Riis Park; RSF – Riverhead sod fields; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; SPCP – Smith Pt Co P, Mastic; SPM – Shagwong Pt Montauk; ZB – Zachs Bay.

LOONS – DUCKS

Eared Grebe: JBWR 7-8, 18 Sep, 3 Nov.

N. Fulmar: 8 at 30 mi SE of MP 3 October (JP).

Cory's Shearwater: off MEB 3 Sep.

Greater Shearwater: 1 at 9 mi S of MP 1 Sep; 2 at mi off MP 1 Sep; 4 at 65 mi S of SHIN 19-20 Sep.

Sooty Shearwater: MP 12 Oct.

Manx Shearwater: 2 at mi off MP 1 Sep.
shearwater, sp.: 50 off MEB 3 Sep;
Cherry Grove FI 13 Oct.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 8 off MEB 3 Sep;
100 at 6 mi S of SHIN 19-20 Sep; 2 MP
26 Oct.

Great Cormorant: res in CP, a new
location; becoming more widely
dispersed.

Am. Bittern: 13 along Dune Rd 4 Nov, a
large number for one location.

Cattle Egret: JBWR 9, 29 Sep; 11 horse
farms along Manor Lane Jamesport 12
Nov; 1 the following day (BP).

Glossy Ibis: JBWR thru 13 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: south fork LI mid Sep-
early Nov; 3 PP 8 Nov; 2 CP 23 Nov;
others.

Greater White-fronted Goose: ad (pink-
billed) Marratooka L Mattituck 31 Oct;
imm HP 5 Nov thru; these birds seen on
various ponds on the east end.

ROSS'S GOOSE: single in a group of
Canada Geese and/or Brant along Ocean
Parkway and ZB JBCH 4-19 Nov (AW *et al*).

Brant: ad that closely resembled "Gray-
bellied Brant" RMSP 26 Oct (SM, PL).

Tundra Swan: 2 HP 3-17 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 6-15 Oct;
Patchogue L 6 Oct-20 Nov; Gateway
Driving Range Flatbush Ave KING 12
Oct & late Oct; Marratooka L Mattituck 9
Nov thru; Shorts Pd Bridgehampton 20
Nov; Massapequa L 23 Nov thru.

Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: FBF
23-24 Nov (IG).

Tufted Duck: imm MTL 14 Oct-17 Nov
(CN, *et al*), confirmed from video tape.

King Eider: early reports of singles PL
and MP 29-30 Nov.

Com. Eider: 5 Jones Inlet 14-15 Sep; 4
Jones Inlet 20 Sep; 3 MP 30 Sep; all early;
200 MP 30 Nov.

Harlequin Duck: SPM 2 Nov; Georgica 3
Nov; PL 30 Nov; early reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: thru 9 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 2 PP 5 Sep; CP 10 Sep;
JBCH 17 Sep; MP 21 Sep; 2 CP 28 Sep;
imm over Southampton Village 23 Sep;
total 13 PP by early Oct; Blue Heron P &
Goethals Bridge Pd SI 5 Oct; imm JBWE
14 Oct; imm Riverhead 24 Oct; Eltingville
SI 18 Oct; imm SPCP 9 Oct; CP 7 Nov;
JBWE 23 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: 600 CP
Hawkwatch 28 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: Gilgo 29 Oct; PBP
24 Nov.

Golden Eagle: imm CP 23 Oct; imm or
sub ad at modest height over Baldwin 31
Oct (SS).

Peregrine Falcon: 49 FI Hawkwatch 3
Oct, large number.

Wild Turkey: vicinity City I BRON 18
Oct; 12 Culloden Woods Montauk 12 Oct;
Bridgehampton late Oct-early Nov; 4
Grumman property 9 Nov.

N. Bobwhite: Quogue mid Sep-early Oct;
30 Holtsville Ecology Center 21 Oct.

YELLOW RAIL: Weesuck Creek
Quogue 15 Oct (ES, NYSARC).

Am. Golden-Plover: 39 RSF 5 Sep; 45
RSF 7 Sep; 35 RSF Sep 23; 67 RSF Sep
24 (AJL); others to Oct 31.

Semipalmated Plover: MEB 16 Nov.

Piping Plover: MEB thru 13 Oct.

Am. Oystercatcher: 240+ Jones Inlet late Oct-mid Nov; > 50 remained thru; 44 SHIN 29 Oct.

Am. Avocet: 2 JBWR 1 Sep, then 1 thru 13 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: CP 3 Nov.

Upland Sandpiper: 1-2 Gabreski Airport 1, 6, 8 Sep; Great Kills P SI 11 Sep.

Whimbrel: RSF, MEB, SPCP, BP early-mid Sep; Ocean Pkwy east of Gilgo early to 9 Oct.

Hudsonian Godwit: JBWR thru 16 Sep; Massapequa Preserve 22 Sep; 2 there 9 Oct; SHIN vicinity 5, 10 Oct; MEB 29 Oct thru.

Marbled Godwit: SHIN 5 Sep; 2 SHIN 7, 8, 15 Sep; Little Egg Marsh Jamaica Bay 5 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: last Long Pd Sag Harbor mid Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 RSF 3 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 CFF 1-5 Sep; RSF 1, 8 Sep; 2 Marine Park Driving Range 2 Sep; MEB 5, 9 Sep; SPCP 7 Sep; Gilgo 27 Oct; RSF 19 Oct, 2 RSF 27 Oct with 1 to 31 Oct; last few sightings are very late.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: Marine Park Golf Driving Range Flatbush Ave KING 2 Sep (IG), in a large (100+) flock of Pectoral Sandpipers.

Purple Sandpiper: arr 3 L Montauk jetty 30 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-3 MEB 1-11 Sep; RSF Sep 4-5; 7 RSF 7-10 Sep; DP 7 Sep; 11 CFF 8 Sep; 3 CFF 12 Sep; 2 CFF 13 Sep; BP 19-22 Sep; 4 RSF 24 Sep, 2 RSF 6 Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: MEB 1 Sep.

skua sp.: mi off MP 14 Sep (JP).

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 at 2 mi off MP 1 Sep; 1 at 9 mi s of MP 1 Sep; 1 at 65 mi s of SHIN 19-20 Sep; 2 MP 27 Oct.

Parasitic Jaeger: RMSP 29 Sep; JBWR 6 Oct (AG, AnW); MP 10 Oct; 2 MP 12 Oct; DP 19 Oct; 4 MP 26 Oct; 2 MP 27 Oct; MP 30 Oct; 2 SPM 2 Nov.

jaeger sp.: 2 RMSP 5 Oct.

Laughing Gull: some thru.

Little Gull: FTT 29 Oct; MP 26 Oct; 2 ad MP 23 Nov.

Black-headed Gull: in a pasture west of MP 26 Oct (AG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: singles scattered all along the south shore thru.

Glaucous Gull: 2nd year Eastport Country Club pond 16 Nov; Coney I 30 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: MP 26, 30 Oct, 23 Nov; 20 MP 16 Nov; 40 seawatch at Main Beach East Hampton 30 Nov.

Caspian Tern: Cupsogue 9 Sep; 2 Mecox 25 Sep; 2 RMSP 22 Sep; Miller Field Gateway SI 26-27 Sep; SHIN 4 Oct; ZB13 Oct.

Royal Tern: large concentration north end of Robins I: 40 on 12 Sep to 62 on 25 Sep, 40 on 13 Oct; others elsewhere to 10 Nov.

SANDWICH TERN: Cupsogue Co P Westhampton Dunes 10 Sep (AB).

Com. Tern: SHIN 30 Nov.

Forster's Tern: 100 Jones Inlet 20 Oct; 70 Ponquogue Bridge Shinnecock 5 Nov; 40 SHIN 9 Nov.

Least Tern: to early Sep.

Black Tern: to end Sep.

Black Skimmer: flock FTT 2 Nov, late.

Razorbill: MP 16 Nov; 10 Main Beach East Hampton 30 Nov.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: JBWE 24 Sep; PP 13 Oct; 2 Baldwin P 17-24 Nov.

Barn Owl: Gilgo 27 Oct, in small pine.

Long-eared Owl: JBWE 29 Oct; others.

Short-eared Owl: landfill by Lemon Creek SI 19 Nov; SHIN area 16 Nov; Napeague 20 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWE 31 Oct; CP 7, 25, 28 Nov; PBP 3, 29 Nov, 2 PBP 24 Nov; JBWE 31 Oct, 23 Nov.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: feeder Farmingville SUFF 16-17 Nov (JM), very late.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: imm m Wagner P, foot of Manhattan 19-28 Nov

(BC, *et al.*, NYSARC).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: CP 10-23 Nov (TF, NW, *et al.*, NYSARC) extensively ph.

SELASPHORUS SP.: CP 10-23 Nov; Wagner P 23-28 Nov (TF, *et al.*).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 CP residents; SPCP 2-5 Oct; 2 JBWE 6 Oct; Mashomack Shelter I 8 Nov; CB 21 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: CP to 17 Nov.

empidonax sp.: JBWR 24 Nov; SI 23 Nov.

E. Phoebe: CP thru.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: back side JBCH 21-23 Nov (JF *et al.*); BP 25 Nov (DK, BM).

W. Kingbird: FTT 17, 29 Sep; RP 5-6, 19 Oct; JBWR 15 Oct; MTL 17-30 Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: last CP 8 Nov.

Warbling Vireo: PP 17 Nov (SN), latest NY date by 10 days; photo on Internet appears to substantiate identification.

Red-eyed Vireo: last PP 31 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 4 Saw Mill Creek SI with Cave Swallow 24 Nov (TF); latest NY date reported; see Reg 1 report for similar occurrence 23 Nov.

Cliff Swallow: RMSP 28 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: Lemon Creek SI 17 Nov (PD); Saw Mill Creek SI 24 Nov (TF); 3 MP 23 Nov (HMG); BP 24 Nov (AnW, *et al.*); Hallockville 25 Nov (MLL, RW, NG); a major invasion occurred in the Middle Atlantic and Northeast this fall.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: early movement, then very scarce.

Wood Thrush: CP 28 Nov thru, late.

Am. Pipit: 150 Southampton 27 Oct; possibly the same flock another site 31 Oct (AL).

WARBLERS

“Brewster’s” Warbler: CP 14 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last PP 9 Nov.

Orange-crowned Warbler: thru; many

seen this year.

Nashville Warbler: last CP thru; MTL 24 Nov.

N. Parula: last PP 29 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CP 28 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: last PP 28 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last RP 2 Nov.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sag Harbor 19 Nov; last SI 21 Nov; both late.

Yellow-rumped “Audubon’s” Warbler: MEB 20 Nov (PB, G&JF).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last CP 7 Nov.

HERMIT x TOWNSEND’S

WARBLER: JBCH 28 Nov thru (AB1, *et al.*, NYSARC, ph); first state record, only one of a dozen ever found in the east; *intro.*

Prairie Warbler: last Watermill 29 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Shelter I 21 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last SI 24 Nov.

Black-and-white Warbler: last PBP 20 Nov.

Am. Redstart: last Dune Rd 27 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 10 Sep (Ssa); RMSP 28 Sep (AG); uncommon in fall.

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 27-28 Sep.

Ovenbird: PP 17 Nov; CP thru.

N. Waterthrush: last CP thru, very late.

Connecticut Warbler: CP 5, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18 Sep; 2 CP 29 Sep; APP 12 Sep; FBF 15 Sep; MNSA 19 Nov (MF), very late.

Hooded Warbler: CP 4 Sep; Brooklyn Botanical Garden 6 Sep; PL 14 Sep; APP 18 Sep; JBWE 20 OCT (NYRBA), very late.

Wilson’s Warbler: last PP 17 Nov, late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Bryant P mid-Manhattan 28 Oct thru; many others.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: 250 Grumman property Calverton 6 Oct (AL), matches previous fall max.

Clay-colored Sparrow: JBWE 27 Sep, 14, 28-29 Oct; Gilgo 29 Sep; RP 6, 19

Oct; 2 Cedar Beach Marina 5 Oct; ZB 8 Oct; FTT 20 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: FBF 23 Nov; JBWE 23 Nov.

Lark Sparrow: CP 5 Oct; Captree boat basin 5 Oct; JBWR 13 Oct; MTL 14-15 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last Grumman facility Calverton 11 Oct.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: CP 29 Sep, unusual location; Quogue & RP 9 Oct; 12 marshes SHIN at very high tide 4 Nov.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1-2 marshes East Quogue to SI.

Lincoln's Sparrow: PP 18 Sep; JBWR 3 Nov; FTT 9 Nov; others.

White-crowned "Gambel's" Sparrow: hatching-year JBWE 25-26 Oct; FTT 25 Oct-2 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: Camp Hero SP 27 Oct; Eastport 27 Oct; RSF 29 Oct; FBF 2 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr early Nov.

Blue Grosbeak: ad f & juv T Southampton 1 Sep; JBWE 22 Sep; SPCP 4 Oct; FTT 9 Oct; JBWR 27 Oct; RP 25-27 Oct; CP 7 Nov.

Dickcissel: FI 8 Sep; JBWE 17, 19 Sep; Captree 5 Oct; RP 6 Oct; 2 RMSP 14 Oct; FTT 22 Oct.

Bobolink: to early Oct.

Red-winged Blackbird: 3000 Riverhead 9 Nov.

Com. Grackle: 12,000 Riverhead 9 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: to late Nov.

House Finch: some increase, but nowhere near its former abundance prior to conjunctivitis epidemic.

