

REGION 10 – MARINE

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March was warm and dry, April was warm and May was very warm and wet. The early flowering shrubs bloomed late and the mid-spring shrubs and trees bloomed early, compressing the botanical season. Thus, the woods were bare to mid March and completely leafed out by mid May. The lack of March rain undoubtedly delayed the vegetation and the subsequent May precipitation and warm weather brought the season into full stream. After a late migration, as far as the birding was concerned, the birds disappeared into the foliage.

On 18 May, P.A. Buckley, Shai Mitra, Pat Lindsay and Andy Baldelli found a Pacific Loon at the Tiana Beach overlook at Shinnecock Bay. The bird was in winter plumage and was swimming in the ocean directly in front of the concession stand. It was not relocated.

On 8 March, Phil Brown found a **Western Grebe** off Wolfes Pond Park on Staten Island. The cooperative bird was viewed by many and remained until 10 April.

On 23 May, Michael R. Wasilco, while fishing with his dad just off and east of Moriches Inlet, saw a large sea bird. The posted description was consistent with that of a **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, although the meager notes do not rule out other species. For the past several summers there have been probable or certain reports of Yellow-nosed Albatross off the south shore of Long Island. It is interesting to speculate on the possible source of these birds and whether they represent the same individual.

The geography of the Town of Hempstead in Nassau County is flat costal plain. The entire town has virtually no elevation. To have Peregrine Falcons breed, it would seem to require tall structures to emulate the cliffs one usually associates with their nesting sites. For a number of years there has been a nest atop the Nassau University Medical Center, the tallest building in the county. This season two additional nests were added within the town. The first was on the northeast corner of the Jones Beach water tower, a high precipice. The nest was discovered when a workman complained of dive-bombing birds. The second addition is an anomaly. It is on a formerly active Osprey nesting platform on one of the bay islands off the end of the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside. A pair of peregrines has visited this site for several prior years and were promptly driven off by the Ospreys who used the platform. This year the Ospreys did not show up and the peregrines moved in. One member of this pair coming to the platform for the last four years has an attached radio antenna on its back. It has also been seen on the local Christmas count. We are assuming that only a single bird with an antenna is involved.

On 16 May, Angus Wilson saw an adult or near-adult **White-faced Ibis** at the northeast corner of the West Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. On 6 April, a **Black Vulture** was seen near Big Reed Pond in Montauk.

On 23 June, *Newsday*, Long Island's newspaper, ran an extensive article on the major increase in the deer population. It also discussed the significant numbers of dead deer found in the woods. The correlation between deer populations and Turkey Vultures has long been suspected over much of the Northeast probably with good reason. Concurrent with the deer expansion, we are seeing a significant increase in Turkey Vultures, both in numbers and in length of season when they are found.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Ken and Sue Feustel went to Montauk to atlas some blocks on the east end. [Ken is the Region 10 Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator]. Stopping at Mecox Bay on 28 May, they discovered a **Bar-tailed Godwit** on the flats. Word spread quickly by phone and internet. Before the day was over, Angus Wilson had driven to the site from New York City with camera and his photos were available on the internet that evening. The bird was seen the next day and then only very late in the day on 30 May. This is the sixth record for New York and the first since June 1985.

In a follow-up summary of the weekend trip, Ken indicated that a "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" might have been started by birders pursuing the godwit. On 28 May, an **Arctic Tern** was present at Mecox Bay. It was described by Shai Mitra as "a 'second-summer type,' essentially adult-looking, but with a faint carpal bar and some black on the bill – very different from first-summer 'portlandica' plumage." On the same day, a Royal Tern appeared late in the afternoon. Later, an adult light morph Parasitic Jaeger flew past the ocean beach. When the godwit did not reappear two days later, birders looked farther afield. At Georgica Pond on 30 May, there was a Black Tern and up to 40 Roseate Terns. At Shinnecock on 31 May, Mike Wasilco found two **Sandwich Terns** sitting on a mud flat. In addition, on the flat the same day Paul Gillen found a male Ruff.

On 18 May, a **Black-necked Stilt** visited the south end of the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge late in the afternoon.

On 18 April, Dr. Roger Pasquier reported a Cerulean Warbler from Central Park. This is the earliest state date for this species. On 20 May, Howard Fischer found a singing **Swainson's Warbler** in the Grymes Hills section of Staten Island near Wagner College. The bird was observed well at close range while it sang for a 20-minute period; it was not relocated. On 7 May, Eric Miller found an adult male **MacGillivray's Warbler** at the water hole in Forest Park. Through the magic of modern technology now in use by the birding community (including cell phones, internet, etc), Andy Guthrie, birding in the field, was alerted, arrived and obtained a set of photographs to accompany descriptions by the birders on the site. Andy's photos appeared on the internet almost immediately with comments: "[the photos] show the pertinent field marks, primarily the bright, blunt-tipped eye arcs that are the key separation point for adult male MacGillivray's compared with Mourning and Connecticut warblers." This is the third New York State report. The first record was a bird on Staten Island 15 Dec 1999 to 1 Jan 2000 (note correct end date); the second, a bird banded in Rochester 4 June 2003.

On 17-18 April, Diane Judge reported that a **Painted Bunting** visited a Southold feeder. Hugh McGuinness saw the photo and confirmed the identification.

A FINAL NOTE FROM YOUR REGION 10 EDITORS:

This issue brings to a close **16** full, long years under this by-line. For those not completely familiar with us, I (Sy) write the draft of the column and Al supplies criticism, wisdom and general knowledge to the output prior to submission. We wish to take a bit of time here to sincerely thank the multitude of birders who have contributed to this space over the years, have enjoyed reading the deathless prose prepared and have expressed their appreciation and approval. We enjoyed this and tried to prepare an interesting and informative column. But it's time for someone else to take over. I think I just got tired. Good birding and hope to see you in the field.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Ken Allaire, Gene Arpino, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Bobby Berlinger, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Andrew Block, Vicki Bustamante, Ardith Bondi, Phil Brown, P.A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Michael Farina, Ken & Sue Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, John J. Fritz, Joe Giunta, John Gluth, Isaac Grant, Andrew Guthrie, Ken Harris, Dan Heglund, Gene Herskovics, Joel Horman, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Diane Judge, Joan Payne Kincaid, David W. Klauber, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Nellie Larsen, Emanuel Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Joe Manzione, Robert McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, Jack Meyer, Lauren Miller, Shai Mitra, Israel Mizrahi, Steve Nanz, Chris & Lauren Nuzzi, Al Ott, Roger Pasquier, Pat Pollock, Peter W. Post, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Patrick Santinello, Starr Saphir (SSa), Barbara Saunders, Vinnie Schiappa, Seymour Schiff, Marty Sohmer, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit & Rex Stanford, Steve Walter, Alex Wilson (AIW), Angus Wilson (AnW), Michael R. Wasilco, Cindy Wodinsky, Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach; 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; GKP – Great Kills P SI; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; In – Inlet; INH – Inwood Hill P Manhattan; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; M – Montauk; MASH – Mashomack Preserve, Shelter I; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area Oceanside; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; MTL – Mount Loretto SI; NYBG – New York Botanical Gardens BRON; PB – Pikes Beach Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; PT – pelagic trip from Barnegat Light to Hudson canyon; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP – Riis P; SG – Sagaponack Pd; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; WPP – Wolfes Pd P SI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Canada Goose: “Richardson’s” subspecies M 15 Mar.

Brant: “Black” morph Marine P Nature Center KING 14, 30 Mar; Miller Field SI 25 Mar.

Tundra Swan: up to 6 shuttling back and forth between Hook Pd, East Hampton and Rt 114 farm fields south of Stephen Hands Path to early Mar; 6 PBP 7 Mar; CP 18 Apr; HLSP 28 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: West Islip pd thru 7 Mar; FBF thru 21 Mar.

“Common” X Green-winged Teal, hybrid: HLSP thru 21 Mar.

Harlequin Duck: PL to mid Apr; MP to mid May.

PACIFIC LOON: Tiana Beach SHIN 18 May (PAB, AB, SM, PL).

WESTERN GREBE: WPP 8 Mar-10 Apr (PB, et al).

ALBATROSS SP.: east of Moriches Inlet 23 May (MW); the posted description was consistent with **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, although the meager notes do not rule out other species.

N. Fulmar: 8 fishing trip 20 miles s of MP 6 Mar; PT 23 May.

Cory’s Shearwater: PT 23 May.

Greater Shearwater: 2 PT 23 May.

Sooty Shearwater: 2 in ocean at Tiana Beach 20 May; MP 20 May; PT 23 May; 2 FTT 23 May; 5 MOR 26 May; 5 SHIN 29 May; 3 Hither Hills 29 May.

Manx Shearwater: PT 23 May.

Wilson’s Storm-Petrel: PT 23 May.

LEACH’S STORM-PETREL: PT 23 May.

Least Bittern: perched 20’ up in a bare tree PP 9 Apr (RJ); JBWR 16 May on; MEB 24, 28 May.

Cattle Egret: 3 MTL 23 Apr; 1 MTL 25 Apr, 15 May; FBF 8 May; JBWR 16 May.

Glossy Ibis: after an explosive expansion, fewer reported this year.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: JBWR 16 May (AnW).

BLACK VULTURE: Big Reed Pd M 6

Apr, unusual on LI.

Turkey Vulture: 6 PP 2 Mar; 12 in a tree Rocky Pt SUFF 7 Mar; 18 Greenport same week; 14 Shelter I 15 Mar; many others widely scattered throughout.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: early reports: Shelter I 26 Feb; CP 2 Mar; Cutchogue 5 Mar.

Bald Eagle: Watermill 4 Mar; Shu Swamp (Mill Neck Preserve) 7 Mar; Hampton Bays 14 Mar; CP 26 Mar; 2 Watermill 20 Mar; Connetquot Ri SP 4 Apr; PP 19 Apr; NYBG 24 Apr; MASH 30 Apr, 6, 9, 23, 25 May; Northville beach 23 May.

N. Goshawk: Bronx Zoo 11 Mar; Riverhead 11 Mar; Connetquot Ri SP 4 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: 14 migrating high CP 27 Apr; 2 M 28 Apr; East Hampton 17 May; M 29 May; others.

Rough-legged Hawk: Theodore Roosevelt County P 2 Mar; Calverton 7 Mar; CP 9 Mar; Eastport 10-11 Mar; JBWR early Mar; Mattituck 13 Mar; Gilgo 21 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 new nests: JBCH water tower, site anticipated for a number of years; on an unused Osprey platform on a bay island off MNSA; latter nest is a most improbable location for this species.

Com. Moorhen: Sore Thumb pd Oak Beach 23-24 Apr, 1, 10 May; SI 15 May; JBWR 23 May.

Piping Plover: early Mar thru.

Black-necked Stilt: JBWR 18 May (EM).

Whimbrel: Hempstead Bay 7 May; 2 JBWR 13 May; SHIN 9, 18, 20, 31 May; BP 23 May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: MEB 28-30 (K&SF, mob).

Purple Sandpiper: PL to 22 Mar; L Montauk jetties 13 May; SI to 15 May; BP to 23 May; Ditch Plains 23 May.

Ruff: f SG 9-15 May; m SG 11 May; m Dune Rd SHIN 22-23, 30 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: SG 10 May; JBWR 24 May.

Pomarine Jaeger: PT 23 May.

Parasitic Jaeger: ocean MEB 28 May.

Little Gull: 2 PL 7 Mar; PL 15 Mar, 4, 10 Apr; BP 4 Apr; GKP 10 Apr.

Black-headed Gull: PL 7, 15, 20 Mar, 4, 9 Apr; Bay P East Rockaway 25 Mar; BP 15 Mar; 4 PL 24 Mar; WPP 29 Mar; GKP 10 Apr; Georgica Pd 8 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 350+ PL early Mar, seen only sporadically, only a few dozen wintered there.

Iceland Gull: widespread SI to MP including CP, HLSP in addition to more traditional ocean sites; to late Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: widespread to mid May.

Glaucous Gull: CP 10 Mar, 22-23, 30 Apr; WPP 10-13 Mar; BP 15, 17 Mar; T Southold Beach 11, 23 Apr; JBWE 24 Apr; SI 15 May.

Gull-billed Tern: JBWE 29 Apr-mid May; 2 SG 10 May; JBWR mid May on.

Caspian Tern: Swan L Patchogue 18 Apr; MEB 17, 24 Apr; 4 MEB 25, 27 Apr, 3 May; 2 MEB 4 May; SG Pd 27 Apr; L Agawam 28 Apr.

Royal Tern: 3 BP 23 May; MEB 28 May.

SANDWICH TERN: 2 mud flat SHIN 31 May (MW).

Roseate Tern: 40 Georgica Pd 30 May.

ARCTIC TERN: "second-summer type" MEB 28 May (SM, et al).

Forster's Tern: several JBWR 15 Mar (TF), early.

Black Tern: BP 8 May; 2 off Sagaponack 18 May; South Ferry Shelter I 27 May 27; Georgica 30 May.

Dovekie: MP 3, 6 Mar.

Com. Murre: oiled bird found MP 7 Mar, taken to wildlife rehabilitator.

Razorbill: 15 MP 3, 6 Mar; 12 MP 5 Mar; 4 MP 7, 13 Mar; Breezy Pt 15 Mar; JBWE 27 Mar; MOR 20, 23 May; previous late date was 18 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: JBWR 15 Mar; SI 15 May.

Snowy Owl: 1 found dead just west of Wading River Creek 24 Mar.

Long-eared Owl: CP 4-8 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: 2 Dune Rd to 11 Apr; Orient Beach SP to 3 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: RP 15 Mar; 2 Southampton 23 May (GA).

Chuck-will's-widow: SI 15 May; East Quogue 30 Apr thru; Napeague Harbor Rd & Poxabogue Pd 23 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Calverton 15 Apr, 4 May; JBWE 1, 5 May; CB 2 May; MASH 9 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 15-22 May; MASH 16 May; Cupsogue Co P 21 May; others.

Bicknell's Thrush: singing CP 19 May.

Am. Pipit: CP 8 Mar; Theodore Roosevelt P 24 Mar; JBWE 11 Apr.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 29 Apr.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: CP 29 Apr; singing Blue-winged song M 30-31 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 23 Apr; SI 15 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: PP 20 Apr, - 3 May; HLSP 20 Apr; NYBG 24 Apr; Bronx Zoo 30 Apr; Muttontown Preserve East Norwich 1 May; FP 5-6 May; CP 7 May; JBWR 15 May; CP 26 May.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 18 Apr (RP), earliest state date; PP 24 Apr; FP 29 Apr, 8 May; CP 5 May; INH 13-14 May; JBWR 15 May; PP 19 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Shirley 19 Apr; CLP 22-26 Apr; Massapequa Preserve 25 Apr; HLSP 28 Apr; CP 5-6 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: widespread NYC & NASS late Apr, eastern LI early May.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Grymes Hills section SI 20 May (HF).

Kentucky Warbler: 2 PP 23-28 Apr; CP 24, 27, 30 Apr, 1, 6, 8, 11, 26 May; E. Northport 6 May; CLP 9 May; APP 11 May; FP 11 May; Hunter's Garden Eastport 11 May.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: FP 7 May (EM), 3rd documented NYS record.
Hooded Warbler: CP 21 Apr; 3 CP 23 Apr; CP 24-25, 27-29 Apr, 1-4, 7-10 May; PP 24 Apr, 5 May; CLP 22-24 Apr; PP 25 Apr; E. Quogue 8 May; NYBG 15 May; Northville 8 May; Southold 11 May; CP 26 May; MASH 2 May on.
Yellow-breasted Chat: INH 30 Apr; CP 27-29 Apr, 7 May; SI 15 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 22 Apr, 3-4, 10 May; PP 24 Apr, 8 May; FP 23-24, 27-29 Apr, 1, 7-8, 22 May; CP 28 Apr; INH 29 Apr; JBWR 1 May; CLP 1 May; HLSP 2, 16 May; former Grumman facility 4 May; Eastport, 7 May; E. Quogue 9 May; Riverside P Manhattan 10 May; Northwest Woods 30 May.
Clay-colored Sparrow: JBWE 20-27 Apr; JBWR 13 May.
Vesper Sparrow: CP 11, 17 Apr; PP 14-17 Apr; JBWE 14 Apr; Gabrieski Airport Westhampton and other east end locations where it breeds from mid-May thru.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Calverton 11, 14 May; a few others in breeding areas that become fewer and fewer.

Lincoln's Sparrow: CP 24, 29 Apr, 9, 20, 26 May; PP 6, 19 May; INH 7 May; FP 8 May; APP 9 May; Northville 11-12 May.
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: JBWR 10 Apr.
Lapland Longspur: with Snow Buntings RP 15 Mar.
Snow Bunting: JBWE to 14 Mar; RP to 15 Mar.
Blue Grosbeak: RMSP 19 Apr; HLSP 5 May; PP 8 May; others in the area where they bred last summer.
PAINTED BUNTING: Southold feeder 17-18 Apr (DJ).
Dickcissel: MP 30 Apr.
Bobolink: arr 6 May; on breeding areas mid to late May.
Com. Redpoll: CP Ramble thistle feeders thru 4 Mar; 2 Shelter I 7 Mar; 3 Breezy Pt 15 Mar; Wading River feeder 19 Mar, 2 on 21-22 Mar, 28 Mar-3 Apr; CP 19 Mar; 2 another Wading River feeder 2, 4-5 Apr.
Pine Siskin: RP 15 Mar; Rocky Pt feeder 27-29 Mar, 2, 10 Apr; Sag Harbor feeder 3, 10 Apr; CP 17 Apr; Farmingville 9 May; CP 26 May.

