

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN CHECKLIST

To streamline the review process, the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) will publish occasional short notes announcing new additions to the New York State Avian Checklist. Full details of the records will appear in the appropriate Annual Report, as is customary. Sightings from 2005 (see Annual Report in the present issue) were highlighted by the first accepted record of Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, based on an individual photographed on 13 Sep 2005 in Queens Co. (see p. 356). Two additional species were added to the Checklist based on reports from 2006, namely a Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*, photographed at sea off Long Island on 11 Feb 2006, and male Broad-billed Hummingbirds *Cynanthus latirostris* photographed at sugar feeders in Wayne Co. and Tioga Co. on several dates in Jun and Aug 2006. With these inclusions, the NYS list stands at 470 species.

New York State Avian Records Committee: Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Andrew Guthrie, Shaibal S. Mitra and Dominic Sherony.

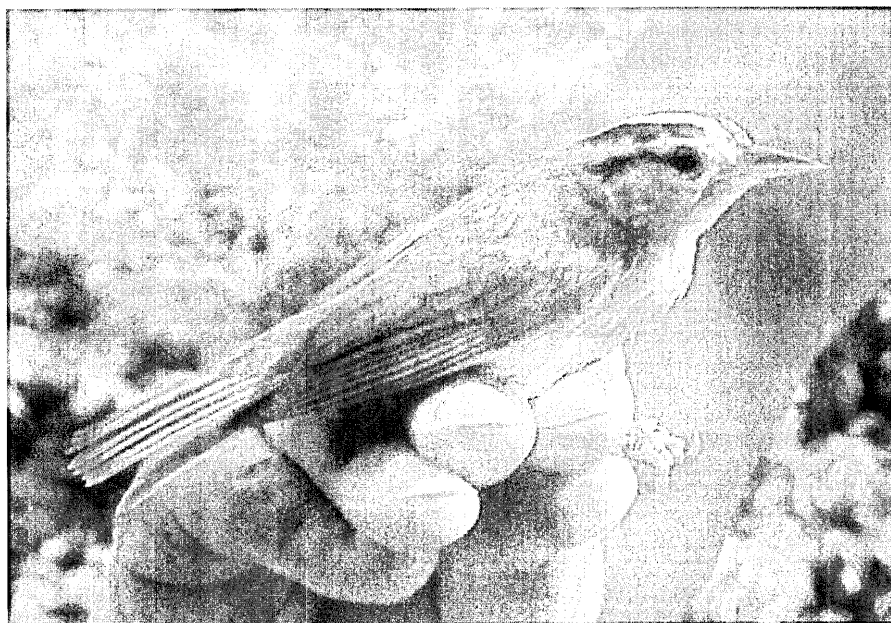
MOLT-MIGRANT WORM-EATING WARBLERS ON COASTAL LONG ISLAND

On 1 July 2008, we captured and banded an adult (after hatching-year, or AHY) Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*) at Fort Tilden, Queens County, in the course of routine field work associated the Institute for Bird Populations' MAPS program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). At the time of capture, the bird had not yet commenced its pre-basic molt. This individual was recaptured at the same site on 5 August 2008, at which time it had nearly completed its pre-basic molt (the outermost primaries on both wings were almost, but not completely, grown). These paired captures indicate that this individual not only arrived on the Long island barrier beach at least a month earlier than is typical for southbound migrants (Bull 1974: *Birds of New York State*, Cornell Univ. Press), but also completed its pre-basic molt there over the course of a month. Furthermore, we are aware of two similar prior occurrences of this species on Long Island's barrier beaches: an AHY bird we banded at Fort Tilden a year earlier, on 10 July 2007, which had not yet commenced its pre-basic molt; and an AHY banded at Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk County, on 23 July 1999, which was in the midst of molting its flight feathers (S. S. Mitra, unpubl. data).

Worm-eating Warbler, like most warblers and many Neotropical migrant passerines, typically completes its pre-basic molt on the breeding grounds, prior to southbound migration (Pyle 1997: *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Slate Creek Press). This species is a very rare breeder on Long Island, where the few known and suspected breeding sites have been along the North Shore (Smith 2008: *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, Cornell Univ. Press), in woodland settings very unlike the barrier beach shrub thickets described here. Thus, it is highly unlikely that these pre-molt and molting birds encountered on the coast had nested or attempted to nest nearby. Instead, it seems more likely that Long Island's barrier beaches serve as previously unrecognized molting site for small numbers of Worm-eating Warblers prior to southbound migration.

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Worm-eating Warbler, Fort Tilden, Queens Co., NY, 10 Jul 2007, copyright Juliette Goulet.