

REGION 10—MARINE

Patricia J. Lindsay

28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706

pjlindsay@optonline.net

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College Staten Island,
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

About a week of hot weather in early June contrasted with the cool spring. The Eastport-Westhampton area was affected by a series of violent storms featuring lightning, hail, and destructive winds, most notably on 8 June.

After several years of rapidly increasing occurrence at all seasons, Turkey Vultures were finally confirmed breeding on Long Island when Charlie Morici found two half-grown young in a cellar ruin near Montauk this summer.

It was a good summer for land-based seawatches, with many productive sessions conducted from Jones Inlet to Montauk. Angus Wilson's series of reports from Amagansett nicely complemented the hard work of Tom Burke and others at Shinnecock and Moriches inlets. Cumulatively, the observations of many skilled people proved the presence this summer of good numbers of Cory's Shearwaters, along with smaller numbers of our other four species of regularly occurring tubenoses, quite close to Long Island's ocean shores. The routineness of Manx Shearwater inshore has only been appreciated for a few years. Offshore, John Shemilt single-handedly produced multiple, photographically documented, records of **South Polar Skua** and **Audubon's Shearwater**, as well as a **Bridled Tern**. This shearwater was also recorded on an organized pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon on 24 August.

Careful surveys of the Moriches Inlet flats from late May through early July in recent years have yielded not only many noteworthy larids, but also surprising numbers of summering shorebirds. This year was no exception, and especially noteworthy among the mid June records were "Western" Willets, a Western Sandpiper, at least two "Prairie" Short-billed Dowitchers, and a Long-billed Dowitcher. Later, during the height of southbound shorebird migration, a **Red-necked Stint** and a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** coincided at Jamaica Bay (see p. 355). Other notable vagrants at Jamaica Bay this summer included a **White-faced Ibis** found by Doug Gochfeld and others during a field trip of NYSOA's Young Birders Club and a **Black-necked Stilt** found by Joseph O'Sullivan.

No fewer than nine individually distinguishable **Arctic Terns** were photographed near Moriches Inlet from 8 June to 20 July, continuing a trend that we have commented on in many a recent summer. **Sandwich Terns** also made news, with five distinguishable birds photographed at Cupsogue 8-29 June, dates that would have been very unusual just a few years ago (see p. 358). Unlike the

relatively cryptic **Arctic Tern**, which was likely overlooked in the past, **Sandwich Terns** really seem to be occurring earlier and more frequently than in the past, a pattern observed previously and on a much larger scale in Royal Terns.

CONTRIBUTORS

Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Catherine Barron, Robert Bate, Willy Becker, Gail Benson, Bob Berlingeri, Shane Blodgett, John Brush, Jr., Tom Burke, Ben Cacace, Robert DeCandido, Ken & Sue Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, John & Gerta Fritz, Karen Fung, Doug Futuyama, Paul Gillen, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Juliette Goulet, Bob Grover, Joe Grupp, Paul Guris, Joel & Peg Horman, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Pat Jones, Liz Karp, Dave Klauber, Kathy Klecan, Peter Kniffen, Sue Krause, Robert J. Kurtz, Mary Laura Lamont, Joe Landesberg, Anthony J. Lauro, Eve Levine, Patricia J. Lindsay, Bob May, Michael McBrien, Robert McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, S. S. Mitra, Charlie Morici, Mary Normandia, Joseph O'Sullivan, Robert O. Paxton, Larry Penny, Tony Poldino, Joan Quinlan, Peter Reisfield, Sy Schiff, John Sep, John Shemilt, Jason Silverman, Lloyd Spitalnik, Carl Starace, Richard Veit, Scott Whittle, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney, Brian Zitani.

ABBREVIATIONS

CCP – Cupsogue Co P, SUFF; CP – Central P, NEWY; DOP – Dreier-Offerman P, KING; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; PB – Pikes Beach, SUFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RSF – Riverhead sod fields, SUFF; sb – southbound; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SY – second year; TY – third year.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: a few summered along LI south shore, as usual.

Mute Swan: 342 ads & 21 y Jam Bay 16 Jul (RJK).

Wood Duck: flocks early Jul, e.g., 14 Ridgewood Res 9 Jul.

Gadwall: away from Jam Bay, reported in Jun from DOP, Forge R.

Am. Wigeon: a few summered Jam Bay.

Blue-winged Teal: Cedar Beach, SUFF 15 Jun & Jam Bay 9 Jul, only reports before mid Aug.

N. Shoveler: a few summered Jam Bay.

Green-winged Teal: away from Jam Bay, reported in Jun from Forge R.

Greater Scaup: reported from Jam Bay & Forge R.

Lesser Scaup: m Jam Bay 19 Jul.

Com. Eider: summering birds reported Montauk, Plum I, Great Gull I; breeding well established S Dumpling I.

White-winged Scoter: summering birds inc m MP 15 Jun.

Black Scoter: CCP 1 Jun; GKP 4 Jul; Jam Bay 15 Jul.

Long-tailed Duck: Plum I 19 Jun.

Bufflehead: m GKP thru.

Hooded Merganser: molting m Little Reed Pd, Montauk 15 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: a few summered along coast, e.g., at DOP, Shinn.

Ruddy Duck: away from Jam Bay, reported in Jun from Forge R.

N. Bobwhite: Better numbers and more sites on North Fork than in recent years (JSe); a few in traditional sites in central SUFF; also birds of suspect origins, e.g., MLUA early Jun & Fort Tilden thru.

Red-throated Loon: Marine P, KING 1 Jun, injured; CCP 1 Jun and later.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Ridgewood Res 9 Jul (RJ).

Cory's Shearwater: many inshore reports, some of large numbers, e.g., 55 HHSP 24 Jun (DG); 120 CCP 5 Jul (TB *et al.*).

Greater Shearwater: many inshore reports of small numbers; max 10 CCP 5 Jul (TB *et al.*).

Sooty Shearwater: many inshore reports of 1-5 inds, RMSP to Montauk.

Manx Shearwater: many inshore reports of 1-4 inds RMSP to Montauk.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: offshore 2 Aug (JSh! ph); 2 Hudson Canyon 24 Aug (PGu *et al.*); 2 offshore 30 Aug (JSh! ph).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: hard to find inshore, with no large counts, e.g., 11 RMSP 5 Jun (PJL); 12 CCP 5 Jul (TB *et al.*).

N. Gannet: land-based reports of 10-40 per day from many sites Jun-Jul; Aug reports widespread but >10 per day.

Brown Pelican: 3 Shinn 19 Jul (TP), flying east, only report.

Am. Bittern: Davis Creek, Southampton, SUFF 30 Jun (WB), only report.

Little Blue Heron: many reports of 1-2 birds Staten I-Shinn; max 6 GKP 31 Jul (SWo).

Tricolored Heron: not reported away from Jam Bay!

Cattle Egret: Jam Bay 24 Jul (RB), only report.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: well reported, with counts >10 breeders from several sites on both north and south shores of LI.

Glossy Ibis: Stony Brook, SUFF 1 Jul (SK), unus loc.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 16 Aug (DG! ph, *et al.*) thru 19 Aug (DG, SB, *et al.*).

BLACK VULTURE (R10): 2 Calverton 28 Aug (AB), only report.

Turkey Vulture: nest with young Montauk (CM, fide LP), first LI nesting record.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: CP 12 Jun (BC); William Floyd Estate 3 Aug (CS).

Bald Eagle: juv Sunken Meadow SP 9 Jul (JS); ad Staten I 17 Aug; ad CP 27 Aug, migr; imm Grumman 31 Aug; 3 CP 31 Aug (TF), migr.

N. Harrier: f CCP 1 Jun; ad m Cedar Beach & f Captree I 4 Jun.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Northville, SUFF 19 Jun (MLL); juv Greenwood Cemetery 2 Jul (RJ); because breeding has very rarely been proven in Region, complete details are desired for reports like these.

Cooper's Hawk: widely reported throughout Region, thru.

Red-shouldered Hawk: S Marion, SUFF 4 Jun (SSM).

Broad-winged Hawk: ad s Staten I (HF); j Ridgewood Res 20, migr; Jam Bay 23 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: many nests NYC (fide R. DeCandido); 1-2 pairs Calverton, SUFF area; otherwise absent from most of Region this summer.

Merlin: arr JBSP 26 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: many reports NYC east to Fire I Inlet thru.

Clapper Rail: many reports from trad sites: Jam Bay, OMNSA, CCP, Dune Rd.

Virginia Rail: nested Arshomomaque Pres, Greenport, SUFF.

Com. Moorhen: Jam Bay 9 Jul.

Am. Coot: 2 Aquebogue, SUFF thru (AB), only report.

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Oyster Bay 27 Aug (MMcB); details desired for all reports of this Regionally very rare species.

Black-bellied Plover: summer max 40 CCP 27 Jun.

Am. Golden-Plover: ad arr Jam Bay 15 Aug (SB, DG).

Semipalmated Plover: summer max 6 MI 19 Jun.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Jam Bay 27 Jun (JO'S) to 28 Jun (mob! ph).

Am. Avocet: CCP 8 Jun (AB).

Greater Yellowlegs: very few mid-season reports, e.g., 4 CCP 15 Jun; arr CCP 28 Jun; max 50 Jam Bay 23 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: very few mid-season reports, e.g., CCP 15 Jun; arr CCP 28 Jun; first big sb flight 25 MI 5 Jul; max 250 Jam Bay 23 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr CP 11 Jul.

Willet (*inornatus*): alt ad CCP 23 & 27 Jun; most of the few Jun records to date have been 1S in basic aspect.

Spotted Sandpiper: sb migr arr early Jul; no reports of breeders; information of current breeding sites desired.

Upland Sandpiper: no reports.

Whimbrel: 2 arr JBSP 24 Jul, followed by many reports of 1-4 birds from many sites along ocean coast and North Fork.

Hudsonian Godwit: no reports.

Marbled Godwit: arr MI 3 Aug (PJL, SSM); 3 MI 23 Aug (CS); 6 MI 24 Aug (PJL *et al.*); and 9 MI by season's end; Jam Bay 9 Aug (mob); Plum Beach, KING 14 Aug (DG).

Ruddy Turnstone: mid-season max 23 MI 19 Jun.

Red Knot: mid-season max 50 PB 10 Jun & 33 MI 23 Jun.

Sanderling: mid-season max 75 PB 10 Jun & 50 PB 19 Jun.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: mid-season max 100 PB 10 Jun; 86 PB 23 Jun.

Western Sandpiper: 1S CCP 19 Jun (SSM), rare before mid Jul.

RED-NECKED STINT: alt Jam Bay 1 Aug (DG *et al.*), mob!).

Least Sandpiper: no more than scattered singles mid-season; first big sb flight 61 MI 5 Jul; sb max 500 Jam Bay 23 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: mid-season max 23 MI; 18 alt PB & 5 alt CCP 19 Jun (PJL, SSM), present simultaneously; 16 still present PB 23 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 27 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 4 Jul (TF).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: alt Jam Bay 3 Aug (P Jeffrey *et al.*, mob!).

Dunlin: mid-season max 7 (6 alt, 1 bas) CCP 19 Jun (SSM).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr Aquebogue 6 Jul.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 arr RSF 29 Aug (DK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: mid-season max 275 CCP 12 Jun; 210 CCP 19 Jun, incl 2 alt *hendersoni* (SSM, ph); first big sb flight 500 CCP 5 Jul, incl 6 *hendersoni*; sb max 1,500 Jam Bay 23 Jul (TF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: alt ad CCP 21, 27 Jun (TB, SSM ph, *et al.*), rare before mid Jul.

Wilson's Snipe: arr OMNSA 9 Aug (LK), early.

Wilson's Phalarope: CCP 25 Jun (KF); 2 ad Jam Bay 23 Jul; juv Jam Bay 30 Jul; 1-2 birds reported Jam Bay thru Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr juv Jam Bay 12 Aug (LS).

Little Gull: ad Georgica Pd 3 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Jam Bay 30 Jul, unus date.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1S CCP 28 Jun (SSM); 1S JBSP 26 Aug (BF, ph); only reports.

Gull-billed Tern: well reported from two trad nesting areas Jam Bay: up to 3 ads 19 & 27

Jun, 3 & 9 Jul, and 3, 9, & 19 Aug; ad & 2 juvs 15 Aug. Jones Inlet: ad OMNSA 6 Jul; ad

JBSP 13 Aug; no reports from Fire I Inlet this year, but one from e LI: Shinn 15 (PJL, SSM).

Caspian Tern: 6 Jam Bay 21 Jun, many for date.

Royal Tern: arr PB 3 Jun (PJL, SSM); CCP 7 Jun (PJL); 42 PB 10 Aug; 112 MI 24 Aug.

SANDWICH TERN: 2 (alt & bas) CCP 8 Jun (AB, PJL, SSM ph); SY CCP 12 Jun (SSM ph, *et al.*); 2 alt pr CCP 29 Jun (SSM ph).

Roseate Tern: 1 pr Goose Flat, Gilgo (BZ, fide ROP); up to 5 CCP thru (SSM); 1 pr Shinnecock Bay (SSM), FY 6 Jul; ca. 20 prs Cartwright I (fide ROP); 1359 prs Great Gull I (HH).

Com. Tern: 2 SY & 4 TY CCP 1 Jun, first of these age-plumage classes this year; 5 SY & 6 TY CCP 8 Jun, max for SY this year.

ARCTIC TERN: 9 demonstrably distinct individuals: ad/TY CCP 8 Jun (PJL, SSM!, AB); SY CCP 14 Jun (SSM! *et al.*); SY & TY CCP 21 Jun (SSM! *et al.*); SY CCP 27 Jun (SSM! *et al.*); ad CCP 11 Jul (PJL, SSM!); TY PB 12 Jul (SA!, DK, BM); SY PB 13 Jul (PJL, SSM!, *et al.*); SY PB 20 Jul (PJL, SSM!, MN). **Forster's Tern:** SY CCP 1 Jun; 3 (alt pr & SY) CCP 8 Jun.

BRIDLED TERN: Block Canyon 26 Jul (JSh).

Black Tern: 3 alt CCP 3 Jun (PJL, SSM); 2 alt & 1 SY CCP 7 Jun (PJL); alt & SY CCP 8 Jun (SSM *et al.*); 3 juvs MI 24 Aug, first juvs of season; southbound max 118 Napeague-Mtk 30 Aug (AnW).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Block Canyon 17 Jul (JSh!, ph); Block Canyon 7 Aug (JSh!, ph).

Pomarine Jaeger: Lawrence, NASS 1 Jun (PK ph).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: juv Hudson Canyon 24 Aug (PGu *et al.*, ph).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 12 Marine P, KING 1 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: CP 1 Jun (BC, EL).

Red-headed Woodpecker: nested Calverton (R. McGrath, mob); at least one fledged; juv 30 Jul (KK, ph).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RMSP 18 Jun (JQ), unus date & loc.

Great Crested Flycatcher: RMSP 18 Jun (JQ), unus date & loc.
Warbling Vireo: s Marine P, KING 1 Jun (EL, BC), unus date-loc combination.
Purple Martin: 3 f 3 mi s Fire I Light, SUFF 27 Jun (RJK); none this year at trad colony Lemon Creek P, RICH.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr 27 Jun Grymes Hill, RICH (HF).
Brown Creeper: feeding young Maple Swamp, SUFF 7 Jun (AB *et al.*).

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Clove Lakes P, RICH 22 Aug (CB).
Worm-eating Warbler: ad molting flight feathers b FT 1 Jul, a very unus date coastally; recaptured there 5 Aug in fresh basic plumage (JG, SSM).
Louisiana Waterthrush: no reports of breeders; arr CP 21 Jul (TF).
Kentucky Warbler: m terr Bethpage SP 6-13 Jul (JGr, JL, *et al.*).
Mourning Warbler: f OP 4 Jun (SSM).
Hooded Warbler: m s Muttontown Pres 7 Jun (Peter Reisfeld), only report prior to mid Aug arr.
Yellow-breasted Chat: m s Jam Bay 5 Jun; migr widely reported 18 Aug thru.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: no reports.
Vesper Sparrow: no reports; does this species still breed in the Calverton Grasslands and around Gabreski Airport?
Lark Sparrow: arr JBSP 22 Aug (P Jones, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: a few scattered reports of breeders.

Grasshopper Sparrow: breeders Grumman & other Calverton, Napeague; only reports.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: in addition to south coastal marshes, reported from Downs Creek, Cutchogue, SUFF 2 Jun (PGi).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: CCP 8 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: breeders Arshomomaque Pres, SUFF, only site reported; does this species still breed in the upper Peconic R?
White-throated Sparrow: sev summered CP (TF); s Gramercy P 3 Jul.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: f nest-building Willowbrook P, SI 2 Jun (PJL), rarely breeds on SI.
Blue Grosbeak: m Calverton 1 Jun, terr.
Bobolink: no breeders reported; arr FT 15 Jul.
E. Meadowlark: Grumman thru, only breeding site reported.
Orchard Oriole: increasingly common and widespread breeder.
Baltimore Oriole: migr CP 26 Jul.
Purple Finch: arr CP 27 Aug.
Red Crossbill: Flanders thru 5 Jun.

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Jam Bay 28 Aug (SWh).
Orange Bishop: Marine P, KING 6-7 Aug (mob).

ADDENDUM

Laughing Gull: four nested South Oyster Bay, NASS during summer 2007 (fide ROP), long-anticipated first nesting east of Jam Bay.