

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Ruffed Grouse at Muttontown Preserve, Nassau County, Spring 1983

It was a beautiful sunny and cool spring day in the southern part of Muttontown Preserve where there are a lot of pine trees and my friend Geoff Schaffner and I heard the distinctive and unique drumming of a male Ruffed Grouse that could only be this species. The drumming started off very slowly (maybe one beat per two seconds) and quickly became a very rapid drumroll (maybe 10 to 20 beats per second). It was a remarkable find and we listened to this rare sound for several minutes. We even found its likely drumming log, a dead pine tree. I did not know how special this "sighting" was until I joined eBird this year. When I looked at the map for all the historical sightings for Ruffed Grouse on Long Island, I was rather surprised at the complete absence of recorded sightings west of Shirley. Therefore, this sighting is obviously very important and I feel obligated to report it even though I do not have an exact date or even year. However, I am very sure it was Spring of 1983 and most probably May. I was and am a pretty experienced birder and I have no doubt whatsoever that my friend and I heard the drumming of a Ruffed Grouse on that spring day in Muttontown Preserve.

Vincent Glasser
Suffolk County, NY

[See article on Ruffed Grouse on Long Island, *Kingbird* 72 (4): 322-330—*Ed.*]