

REGION 10—MARINE

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	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	69.5°	69.2°	+0.3°	68.2°	66.9°	+1.3°
Oct	56.9°	57.9°	-1.0°	56.6°	55.7°	+0.9°
Nov	50.9°	48.0°	+2.9°	48.7°	45.6°	+3.1°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	4.10"	4.31"	-0.21"	2.89"	3.60"	-1.70"
Oct	5.08"	4.38"	+0.70"	5.35"	3.97"	+1.38"
Nov	3.15"	3.58"	-0.43"	2.50"	3.41"	-1.91"

Temperatures across the Region averaged close to normal or slightly higher than average, with the highest deviations later in the season. Precipitation was down slightly in New York City in September and November, but up in October; however, the Islip weather station recorded much more exaggerated variations during those same periods. This season saw no named tropical storms approach the area, only far offshore, although there were a few species displaced in the wake of Hurricane *Ian*, which fell apart after crossing Florida and the Carolinas at the turn of October.

This fall was rather exciting, with a long parade of remarkable sightings. Among the very first of the rarities reported was **Black-headed Gull**, which may seem an unlikely way to start the season, but an individual spent half a year on Jamaica Bay's East Pond, starting in June. The bird was a staple on the pond throughout the shorebirding season and eventually was joined by a second individual on 6 October. A more mysterious continuing bird was the state first **Mottled Duck** in Amityville, which was found in April 2022 and reappeared on the same pond after a five month absence. Its original discovery was within the spring overshoot period, and despite extensive courting of local Mallards, it wasn't clear if it bred locally or continued north. So far it has not been seen in the middle of summer or winter, so maybe it is using this area as a staging ground during migration.

A few rarities were encountered that were unusual for fall, but more expected in spring and summer. Exceptional species under this umbrella included a **Black-necked Stilt** seen briefly at Jamaica Bay and a **Mississippi Kite** over Prospect Park, both on 17 September. A **White-faced Storm-Petrel** encountered on a fishing trip was always noteworthy but especially for September, although pelagic effort in this month is probably much less than in August, when the species is primarily encountered.

In terms of semi-regular, irruptive, flocking species, there were some to note from both ends of the period. **White Ibis** showed well in the Region, with no fewer than four immatures at three sites. Some of these were continuing from the summer, which saw the largest dispersal event of this species in years. Now that this species breeds in at least one large colony in New Jersey, we can expect these sightings to fade from the headlines, but they are still exciting today. Much later in the season, a variety of finches was documented, with the diversity of flight years but without the volume. In addition to Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills, which are almost always encountered to some degree in autumn, there was a small number of Evening Grosbeaks and one single White-winged Crossbill reported. Sifting through goose flocks continues to reward, with a **Pink-footed Goose** visiting Northport near the end of the period. This species continues to be reliably joining the migrant Canada Geese in our Region. Lastly, after having no groups bigger than two dozen last fall, Bonaparte's Gull made a return to the Region, with a flock of 860 noted off of Fire Island in November.

There was no significant tropical storm-related birding in the Region, although a seawatch from Montauk in the wake of Hurricane *Ian* did produce **Leach's Storm-Petrel** and **Pomarine Jaeger**, both pretty exceptional from land.

Hawk watches in our area showed a general decline in raptors. The Fire Island Hawk Watch noted a decline (as compared to the ten-year average) for six regular species: Northern Harrier, the two common *Accipiter* hawks, and all three regular falcons. The Sharp-shinned Hawk number was 52% below the average, although it was almost twice as high as last year. The only raptor showing in greater numbers was Osprey, at 30% over the average. Although Fire Island had no Broad-winged Hawk, as it is east of their regular route, many were seen over the city, including a wonderful 3,256 over Central Park on 23 September.

There was no shortage of rarities across the Region. Two **Golden Eagles** were noted, including one bird that was seen in Suffolk and then Brooklyn a few hours later. A **Sandhill Crane** passed over Staten Island in late October. Many of the potential western passerine vagrants appeared in our area, possibly more motivated to move by western wildfires. **Townsend's Solitaire** was again recorded in the Oak Beach residential area, where one was seen in winter 2008. Although **Western Tanager** didn't return to Carl Schurz Park, three were encountered more "in the wild" this period. **Cave Swallow** was also recorded in three places, just as flyby individuals. Brooklyn has done really well with **Townsend's Warbler** in the last few years, and one spent an extended period in a small urban oasis. As if one western *Setophaga* warbler isn't sufficient, there was also a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Oceanside, which might have been the first recorded in Nassau in 61 years. Last in the "rare but expected" department is **Northern Wheatear**, which was formerly more regular on the barrier islands of Nassau and Suffolk. This season's Jones Beach individual was the first in the county since almost thirty years (not to say that thirty years is a long time!).

Folks who left out hummingbird feeders were rewarded with a total of four *Selasphorus* in the Region, all in Suffolk. One was a **Rufous Hummingbird**, two were not quite identified to species, and the last was a **Calliope Hummingbird**, which cooperated for birders for two weeks in November. A **White-winged Dove** was documented at a Bedford-Stuyvesant feeder, but it was only seen on one occasion. And not quite a feeder bird, but after its original sighting at Camp Hero, Suffolk's first **Crested Caracara** spent some time on the fully private Gardiner's Island. Not everyone can open their doors to the community for a backyard rarity, but we are grateful to the ones who do.

Vagrant flycatchers are on a different level, mostly because they are hard to predict and often leave the scene before they can be appreciated. Any season with a *Tyrannus* that isn't Eastern or Western Kingbird is noteworthy, and this one had two species. A **Gray Kingbird** appeared in Staten Island, again, but was only seen by one observer. The following month, Queens was graced by its first **Tropical Kingbird** (and New York's third), just a few short years after New York state recorded its very first. It is remarkable that four kingbird species for the season was overshadowed by a different flycatcher. Thanks to sharp eyes, New

York's very first **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was documented at the lovely Wave Hill in the Bronx on 9 October, and with some effort, the bird was seen on and off the remainder of the day. This species has occurred a few times in eastern Canada and the Maritimes, but an October record from Cape May is the only other sighting from the northeast United States.

It's hard to beat a state first flycatcher, and maybe this next species doesn't, but it could easily be argued to be the bird of the season. The *American Princess* crew had a September pelagic planned that was delayed twice due to weather, and it finally went out the night of 16 October. The next morning the boat encountered a surprising number of **Black-capped Petrels**, and to the shock of all onboard, a fresh **Bermuda Petrel**. This species is famous for being Bermuda's last extant endemic bird, and for having been declared extinct in 1620 due to overhunting. In 1906, the first clues that the birds had survived on tiny islets in Bermuda's harbors surfaced and expeditions to rediscover it began. On one such expedition in 1935, a freshly dead juvenile was recovered after striking a lighthouse. It was sent to the American Museum of Natural History bird curator Robert Cushman Murphy, who has a Suffolk County park (and a different *Pterodroma* petrel) named after him. Sixteen years later, he and his wife Grace Murphy were among the first group of people to see them alive. Another of their group, a young Bermudan named David Wingate, went on to lead the conservation effort that brought them back from the brink. There are over 100 pairs today. The first record for Massachusetts waters was September 2019, and then New Jersey in August 2022. Although this was the first seen in New York waters, tracked individuals have occurred, and inform us of the incredible distances that they cover all over the North Atlantic. Still, given the enormity of their known foraging space, the total time pelagic trips spend in deep water, and the species population, it is a remarkably unlikely record.

330 species were reported in the Region this season, 27 more than last autumn.

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Shane Blodgett, on the morning of 16 September, after a battle with cancer. Sean Sime and Doug Gochfeld posted a fitting tribute to him on the NYS listserv, excerpted here.

Shane Blodgett passed away due to lung cancer yesterday morning in the company of family in Brooklyn.

While he enjoyed birding throughout New York State and beyond, and at one point held the state big year record, Shane was especially fond of his local Kings County patches, and spent countless hours doggedly scouring the Brooklyn waterfront in the most inhospitable conditions. While some are drawn to birding to commune with nature, Shane would often be found birding on the side of the Belt Parkway, on dilapidated piers, parking garages and litter strewn parking lots, all in pursuit of interesting birds. His track record of finding Common and Short-billed Gulls over the years has been both astounding and confounding to those

who scour coastal New York year after year without finding even one, and it's safe to say that he singlehandedly changed our understanding of the status and distribution of these two species in the region. Many people on this listserv have been the beneficiaries of Shane's rarity finding prowess as well his generosity and knowledge in the field.

Shane was also a talented musician, and a regular in the NYC Bluegrass scene, regularly playing Sunday jams at Sunny's in Red Hook, which he referred to as his church. Watching him perform posed strong evidence that birding was potentially Shane's second favorite past time. Consistent in both pursuits was Shane's sense of community and kindness. He will be deeply missed.

There will be others, but there will never be another.

FIRE ISLAND HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture				0
Turkey Vulture				0
Osprey	9/8	165	9/13	607
Golden Eagle				0
No. Harrier	9/8	24	9/29	147
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/8	31	10/27	103
Cooper's Hawk	9/8	7	10/27	35
No. Goshawk				0
Bald Eagle	9/20	4	10/28	14
Red-shouldered Hawk				0
Broad-winged Hawk				0
Red-tailed Hawk	10/18	4	10/27	5
Rough-legged Hawk				0
Am. Kestrel	9/9	164	9/29	559
Merlin	9/8	131	9/23	1042
Peregrine Falcon	9/18	14	10/27	124
Unidentified				3
Total inc unidentified				2639

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPt – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **dep** – depart; **FI** – Fire Island, SUFF; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GovI** – Governors I, NEWY; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **OP** – Orient Pt CP, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PtL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RanI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 FT 27 Oct (S. Walter), overhead migrating with Canadas; Northport, SUFF 22 Nov thru end of period (mob).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Northport, SUFF 27 Nov thru end of period (S. Clarke, mob).

Cackling Goose: many singles in all counties except NEWY and RICH.

Tundra Swan: imm, JBSP 21 Nov (R. Maharaj, PJL).

MOTTLED DUCK: Ketcham’s Creek, Amityville, SUFF 18 Oct – 16 Nov (EMu, mob), presumably same ind found by Emu last spring.

Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 12 Nov thru end of period (mob); Mill Pd, Sayville, SUFF 17 Nov thru end of period (mob); Mill Pd Oyster Bay, NASS 27 Nov thru end of period (mob).

Canvasback: singles 8 Nov, only reports from traditional sites at Flushing, QUEE, and Eastport, Centerport, and North Sea, SUFF.

Redhead: max 5 Avon L, Amityville, SUFF 25 Nov (mob), continued decline, down from fall 2018 R10 max of 65 there. Small flocks elsewhere in RICH, QUEE, SUFF.

King Eider: none,

Harlequin Duck: arr PtL 5 Nov (mob); only other 1 f at BPt, 27 Nov (R. Ellard).

Northern Bobwhite: several reports in SUFF and NASS from known reintroductions.

Wild Turkey: Port Washington, NASS 10 Sep (BFo), unusual outside of RICH, BRON, and SUFF.

Ring-necked Pheasant: individuals from RICH, KING, QUEE, and SUFF only.

Red-necked Grebe: PlumbB 24-25 Oct (“Jeff G”, mob); WPP 18 Nov (ACi); GKP 23 Nov (SSM); PBP 23 Nov (P. Horan).

EARED GREBE (R10): JBWR 11-14 Sep (DGo, SSi, mob).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Bedford-Stuyvesant, KING 22 Nov (R. Colluci), coming to feeder, ph.

Common Nighthawk: max 311 Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, SUFF 10 Sep (PDom, *et al.*), season total of 1,625, low.

Chimney Swift: max 2901 Upper W Side, NEWY12 Oct (B. Cacace), roost.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD:

Eastport yard, SUFF 6-23 Nov (D. Massey, mob).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Rocky Pt yard, SUFF 23-28 Nov (mob).

***Selasphorus* sp.:** Deer Park yard, SUFF 8 Nov (P. Kumar); Babylon yard, SUFF 21 Nov (SFe, KFe, mob), presumed same sp. also seen briefly 15 Nov.

Sora: dep PP 4 Nov (F. Wickman, mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): WPP 27 Oct (M. Shanley).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: JBSP 17 Sep (M. Mut), rare in fall.

American Avocet: good year, Cold Spring Harbor/Lloyd Neck, SUFF 1-6 Sep (E. West, mob), JBWR 3 Sep – 23 Oct (mob); OMNSA 7 Sep (mob); Glenwood Landing, NASS 10 Sep (S. Perrault, MNo), unusual loc; Wertheim NWR, SUFF 17 Sep (“Brian M”).

American Golden-Plover: after four years of no larger flocks in the SUFF sod: 17 Riverhead, SUFF 5 Sep (AnW); max 44 PBP (M. Benoit), flyover flock after storm; singles in all counties.

Golden-Plover sp: Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 18 Sep (BBom, TS), flyover Pacific candidate heard, poor ph.

Upland Sandpiper: Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 1 Sep (TS), flyover; Eastport, SUFF 1 Sep (mob), cont from August; Sag Harbor, SUFF (H. McGuinness), flyover; Cutchogue, SUFF 6-7 Sep (P. Polshek, mob); East

Hampton, SUFF 17 Sep (B. Rattray, mob).

Marbled Godwit: max 12 FI Old In, 11 Oct (eBirders “Stollery & Flood”).

Red Knot: max 97 Oak Beach, SUFF 31 Oct (MMcB).

Baird's Sandpiper: singles/pairs KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: RanI 21 Sep (J. Suzuki, mob), singles in all other counties except BRON.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 1-5 Sep (mob), continuing from Aug; River Rd marshes, RICH 3-5 Sep (ACi, mob); Amityville Ck, SUFF 9 Sep (MMcB).

Red-necked Phalarope: none.

Red Phalarope: MP 3 Oct (MMcB), remnants of Hurricane *Ian*.

Pomarine Jaeger: FI 10 Oct (R. Downer); RMSP 13 Oct (SSM, PJL).

Dovekie: OP 27 Nov (L. Betti, PDom, ph), deceased).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Little Neck/Eastchester Bay NASS/QUEE/BRON 7-8 Sep (MMcB, mob), and again 4 Oct (MMcB, MBK), unusual loc.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 860 RMSP 25 Nov (KFe, SFe), up from max 23 last fall.

Black-headed Gull: start of period thru 6 Nov JBWR (mob), summer ind joined by second 6-29 Oct; RanI 19-23 Nov (D. Aronov, mob); Setuaket, SUFF 27 Nov thru end of period (mob), poss returning ind.

Black Tern: dep Springs, SUFF 2 Oct (AnW).

Royal Tern: dep Mecox In, SUFF 26 Nov (MMcB).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: pelagic coordinates (39.5581,-72.3987) 4 Sep (S. Weiss).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: MP 3 Oct, MMcB, while seawatching as

remnants of Hurricane *Ian* passed; very rare from land.

Norther Fulmar: none.

BERMUDA PETREL: pelagic coordinates (39.2084,-72.0040), 17 Oct (J. Denesevich, mob), *intro*.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: max 18, pelagic 17 Oct (mob).

Great Shearwater: Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 8 Sep (TS, ph), sitting on water, very rare for location.

Audubon's Shearwater: dep, pelagic coordinates (39.182257, -72.018969) SUFF 15 Nov (mob), late.

BROWN BOOBY: GovI 7 Sep (DGo); Block I Sound, SUFF 15 Sep (D. Woolston); Mariner's Harbor, RICH 30 Oct - 20 Nov (mob); MP 1 Nov (BBol).

Brown Pelican: several, dep FT, QUEE 14 Nov (mob).

Cattle Egret: PBP 19 Oct (M. Benoit); GovI 9 Nov (DGo).

WHITE IBIS: all imms, W Meadow Wetlands Res, Stony Brook SUFF 1 Sep (mob) cont from Aug; River Rd marshes, RICH 11 Sep (ACi); Cedar B and Captree I, SUFF 21 & 30 Sep (MMcB, "Stollery & Flood").

Black Vulture: many BRON, NEWY, RICH, otherwise mostly near traditional overwintering group in Riverhead, SUFF, and a new group in Bellerose, QUEE.

Osprey: season total 607 FIHW (mob), *intro*.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): singles, Lindenhurst, SUFF (S. and A. Macchiarola) and GwC (DGo, SSI, JMal), presumably same bird; Woodlawn Cem BRON 28 Nov (RAr).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: season total 216 FIHW (mob), *intro*.

Northern Goshawk: none reported.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: PP 17 Sep (C. Winstanley).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 3256 CP 23 Sep (J. Suzuki).

Snowy Owl: none reported.

Long-eared Owl: none reported.

Short-eared Owl: arr Green Pt marsh, SUFF 11 Oct (JGI), unusual loc.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): several locations in RICH and BRON, also Sands Pt Pres, NASS 11 Oct (mob); FP 19-22 Nov (mob), probably cont from earlier in the year.

CRESTED CARACARA: MP 2 Sep (E. Markee-Ratner, E. Ratner) and Gardiner's I sev dates 7 Sep – 8 Oct (AFa, MSCh), surely same bird, which was seen again at latter loc after end of period.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: GwC 24 Nov (eBirder "terry VP"), ph.
SULPHUR-BELLIED

FLYCATCHER: Wave Hill, BRON 8-9 Oct (GW, mob), first state record.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD: BPt 28 Oct (DGo, mob).

Western Kingbird: River Rd marshes, RICH 11 Sep (ACi); RMSP 16 Sep (MMcB, PJL) and 29 Sep (MMcB).

GRAY KINGBIRD: MF 22 Sep (M. Shikhman).

Tyrannus sp.: PBP 25 Sep (DCh, N. Schleissman), probable Western Kingbird.

CAVE SWALLOW: Coney I, KING 8 Nov (RyM); Cupsogue CP, SUFF 8 Nov (MMcB); FT 18 Nov (mob).

SEDGE WREN (R10): Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 15-16 Oct (TS, mob).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Oak B, SUFF 29 Oct (AGi, mob).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: JBSP 21 Sep (S. Janazzo, mob).

Evening Grosbeak: few, singles/pairs in RICH, KING, NASS, and SUFF.

Red Crossbill: max 14 JBSP 21 Nov (P. Palmieri), few others in KING, QUEE, NASS, and SUFF.

White-winged Crossbill: Rocky Pt State Pine Barrens Pres, SUFF 8 Sep (J. Cuomo), unusual date.

Pine Siskin: few, max 29 RMSP 2 Nov (MMcB).

Lapland Longspur: few, max 1.

Lark Sparrow: at least one report from each county.

Clay-colored Sparrow: many, all counties.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10): HSP 1-2 Oct (JGl, mob); Riverbank SP, NEWY 8 Nov (A. Kramer, V. Vila, DAr).

Prothonotary Warbler: Salt Marsh Nature Center, KING 8 Oct (E. Rudden), late.

Connecticut Warbler: many, about 20 reports in all counties.

Yellow-throated Warbler: ad Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 8 Sep (A. Cooper, S. Scheibel, mob), known breeding loc.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: OMNSA 15-16 Nov (MFa, mob).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: Ft Greene P, KING 16-26 Nov (DGo, mob).

Summer Tanager: GwC 8 Oct (mob); RMSP 8 Oct (KFe); Georgica Cove Hollow, SUFF 26 Nov (MMcB).

WESTERN TANAGER: RMSP 9 Oct (JGl, MAc, mob); GwC 16 Nov (M. Lichtenstein); FT 27 Nov (mob).

Dickcissel: reports from all counties.

EXOTICS

Northern Red Bishop: FBF 23 Sep – 24 Nov (MEp, mob).

Yellow-crowned Bishop: Shirley Chisolm SP, KING 8 Oct (SSi).

European Goldfinch: away from traditional PP area: Bethpage SP, NASS 6 Sep – 11 Oct (O. Alui); Ferry Pt P, BRON 25 Oct- 10 Nov (P. Horan, mob).

