

## CASSIN'S SPARROW AT JONES BEACH STATE PARK, NASSAU COUNTY

A mystery sparrow was seen late in the day 6 Oct 2000 by Tom Burke and Gail Benson at the western end of Parking Lot Six, Jones Beach State Park, Nassau County. Burke could only tentatively narrow the identification down to the genus *Aimophila* that evening, but after researching the field marks on the bird observed, returned the next morning, relocated the individual and identified it as a Cassin's Sparrow, a species whose normal range in the United States is Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. The birding community was immediately alerted and over the next few days, dozens of birders came to share the sighting and most were successful. The sparrow was last seen on 11 Oct.

If accepted by NYSARC, this will bring the official NYS checklist to 457 species.

Interestingly, species number 455, Black-tailed Gull, was discovered about 300 feet due east in the same parking lot.

A full account will appear in Vol 51(1), specifically the next *Kingbird*.

The Editor