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Editor – Paul A. DeBenedictis
Highlights of the Season
Editor – Robert Spahn
Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins
STATE BIRD BOOK REPRINTED

Long out of print and essential to students of New York's avifauna, *The Birds of New York State* by John Bull has been reprinted by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. The reprint contains the entire text, maps and figures of the original together with the 1976 *Supplement*, originally published by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. This reprinted edition is available both soft- and hard-bound from book stores everywhere, or from the Laboratory of Ornithology.
AN ACCOUNT OF NEW YORK STATE'S FIRST RUFOUS-NECKED STINT

ARTHUR MORRIS

On the afternoon of 27 July 1985 I was birding the "Raunt" (the pilings near the south end) at the East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, N.Y. with Paul A. Buckley. I noticed three birders slogging through the mud on the western shore. When they reached the East Garden one of the birders, Georges Dremeaux, shouted to us through the breeze, "STINT at the NORTH END!" We quickly made our way to the parking lot. There Georges, his wife Myra and Rick Cech gave us a somewhat confusing description of a bird which they thought was either a Rufous-necked Stint (Calidris ruficollis) or a Little Stint (Calidris minutua). Paul and I drove to the north end. As we walked toward the island about 1,500 peep were flushed by a jet and we watched in dismay as some four or five hundred birds departed the East Pond. An hour's careful search of the remaining shorebirds left us disappointed.

The next morning I arrived at the pond at 5:45 A.M. I started at the south end and quickly checked the handful of birds at the Raunt. I rapidly worked my way up the eastern shore. Just west of the aforementioned island at the north end of the pond several hundred Semipalmented Sandpipers were roosting on a large floating mat of algae. Among them was a peep with the lower half of its face a rufous/reddish pink, and the dark-brown centered feathers of the upperparts and scapulars having chestnut/rufous edgings.

I began to wade into the pond for a closer view, testing the soft mucky bottom with my tripod. While standing in thigh-deep water I was treated to excellent views of the bird from within sixty yards at 60 power. Viewing conditions were perfect with no heat distortion in the cool of the early morning and a bright morning sun at my back. I was able to note the following features which left no doubt as to the bird's identity – New York State's first Rufous-necked Stint!

A peep about the same size as, but standing slightly shorter (due to its shorter legs) than the surrounding Semipalmented Sandpipers. Lower half of the face, neck, throat and upper breast rufous/reddish pink. The color about the face, neck, throat and upper breast was clear and unstreaked. Lower breast with grayish/brown streaks, spots and smudges. Upperparts and scapulars dark-brown centered feathers with bright chestnut/rufous edgings. These feathers contrasted markedly with the coverts and tertials which were gray with

The American Birds' article “Field identification of smaller sandpipers within the genus Calidris” made identification of the bird as a bright but fading adult Rufous-necked Stint a straightforward matter. I had studied this article so often that my copy is now tattered and worn.

Little Stint was ruled out for the following reasons: Little Stint is more delicately built than Semipalmated Sandpiper and exhibits a more erect posture; this bird was squat and stockily built. Little Stint has a slender finely pointed bill; this bird had a short blunt bill with a deep base. Little Stint has longer tarsi than Rufous-necked Stint; in direct comparison with Semipalmated Sandpiper this bird stood well shorter. The rufescent tones of Little Stint have an orangish cast; the rufescent tones of this bird were reddish on the upperparts and salmon about the face, neck, throat and upper breast. Little Stint has the crown and auriculars cinnamon/rufous; this bird had a brown crown and showed color only on the lower half of the face, not on the auriculars. Little Stint has a white throat; this bird had a rufous/reddish pink throat. In Little Stint the rufous about the face and neck is always spotted or streaked with dusky brown; on this bird the color about the face, neck, throat and upper breast was clear and unstreaked. Little Stint has dusky brown inner coverts and dusky brown tertials both broadly edged with rufous and sometimes with buff; on the bird in question these feathers were gray with faint white edgings. In breeding plumage Little Stint always shows a double row of white "vees" on the mantle; this bird had no white vees.

The bill shape of this bird ruled out Spoonbill Sandpiper (Eurynorhynchus pygmeus).

I returned to refuge headquarters and entered a detailed description of the bird in the log. I drove home and attempted to contact other birders, but most phones were unanswered on this beautiful summer Sunday.

I returned to the pond at about three P.M. and found the bird at the north end asleep in typical shorebird fashion with its bill tucked among the feathers of its upperparts. This would prove to be its favorite activity as it spent most of its time sleeping. I was soon joined by about thirty birders. Two observers familiar with the species, Paul Buckley and Paul Lehman, concurred with my identification. Through Buckley's Questar at 120 power two additional field marks diagnostic of Rufous-necked
Stint were also noted; a dark loral line and a fuzzy white ring around the base of the bill.

Five days later the Stint was still in its now familiar haunts at the north end of the pond. It was not as bright as it had appeared a week earlier, but still had “good color.” I saw the bird several more times, the last on 11 August. By this time feather wear and the bleaching effect of the sun left the bird but a pale reminder of its former self. There was no color on the face and just a blush of orange on the sides of the upper breast. The brilliant feather edgings had faded to a chestnut/beige. My final view of the bird was from less than forty feet and is one I shall long remember. I believe that the bird departed the pond for good on either 12 or 13 August, as a north wind blew on both these nights and Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers dropped by more than 1,500 between 11 and 13 August.

Hundreds of birders from many states flocked to the pond during the Stint’s astoundingly lengthy stay of 17+ days. None, however, traveled as far as the Stint. Rufous-necked Stint breeds along the northern coast of Siberia and winters mainly in southeast Asia. Vagrants have been seen in North and South America, in western Europe and in South Africa (Veit and Jonsson, 1984). This species has previously occurred in Maine, Ohio, Massachusetts (at least two records) and Bermuda (Tom Davis – pers comm). In 1981 five top New York State birders were asked to predict the next ten additions to the New York State List (Able, 1981). Rufous-necked Stint was the only bird to appear on all five lists!

LITERATURE CITED:

35 Mimosa Lane, Staten Island, N.Y. 10312
THE SQUIRRELAWAY

ALAN W. BERNHEIMER

For five summers I have been experimenting with devices designed to keep a commonly used type of bird feeder free of squirrels. The foolproof contrivance that evolved suspends the feeder from a helical spring attached to an eave or other fixed structure of convenient height. The lever of a micro-switch is fastened by wire and epoxy cement to the spring. The feeder is wired to receive current from a common farmer's electric "fencer" when the micro-switch is closed. Earlier versions used other means to encourage the squirrels' departure, but a variety of horns, whistles, sirens, and a supersonic rodent repeller proved to be simply music to their ears.

Birds that visit our feeder weigh between one ounce, the weight of a House Sparrow, and three and a half ounces, the weight of a Blue Jay. The common Eastern Grey Squirrel weighs between fourteen and twenty-five ounces. By virtue of this large difference in bird and squirrel weights, the micro-switch can easily be mounted so that it closes when a squirrel is on the feeder, but remains open when one or more birds choose to congregate there.

A squirrel can get food out of the feeder only when it clings vertically, and in this position it makes contact with two of the three metal cross-bars to which the fencer is electrically connected. Ordinarily, a bird makes contact with only one crossbar, but on the off-chance that it does touch two, the open switch insures the bird's safety.

The relatively low, pulsed current delivered by a fencer will repel even the most voracious squirrel with astonishing rapidity. And its memory of the tingle seems so vivid that when a squirrel has been repulsed two or three times it has learned, perhaps for the rest of its life, not to approach the apparatus again. Instead, it is content to consume the feed that falls to the ground. The birds are rather sloppy eaters, spilling about as much as they eat. Once the neighborhood squirrels have been "trained", the fencer can be disconnected for an undetermined period of time.

Four summers of experience have demonstrated that the fencer's charge is innocuous to the Eastern Grey Squirrel. This should quell any objections from the International Society for the Preservation of Squirrels and Other Rodents. As for the protection of humans, the electricity delivered by the fencer is considered harmless. Nevertheless, some vivid memories of my own recommend that you disconnect the 110-volt
supply to the fencer when you are filling or handling the feeder. One should be aware of the possibility that in very cold weather, the birds' feet may be injured by the metal crossbars. Finally, if the feeder is located remote from a source of electricity, a solar-powered fencer can be used.

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BREEDING BEHAVIOR BY A BLACK TERN
ON A LONG ISLAND SALT MARSH

ERIC SALZMAN

A Black Tern (Chlidonias niger) on territory in an East Hampton, Long Island, salt marsh between late May and late July, 1985, provided a rare case of a summering, breeding-condition bird of this species in a coastal, estuarine environment. Black Terns are regular fall migrants on eastern Long Island, mostly at South Shore locations. Spring birds in breeding plumage are relatively rare and usually are seen in passage on fresh ponds.

A Black Tern was first observed in the area in late May at the mouth of Three Mile Harbor in East Hampton Town by two baymen (actually a bayman and a baywoman) who recognized it as an unusual species. Three Mile Harbor is a creek-fed salt estuary which opens north onto Gardiner's Bay. Black Terns are rare here at any time. Presumably this same individual was seen subsequently on the east side of the mouth of the harbor where it fished with Common and Roseate Terns. I observed the bird beginning in early June from the west side of the inlet where a sand spit closes off the harbor. This spit encloses a salt marsh (mostly Spartina alterniflora) and a number of sandy islands and sand edges with typical dune species. These islands are the site of a loose breeding colony of Common Terns (Sterna hirundo), Willets (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus) and Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia); Least Terns (Sterna antillarum), Roseate Terns (S. dougallii), American Oystercatcher (Haematopus palliatus) and Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus) frequent the area but are not proven breeders.

All observers, including myself, initially assumed the bird to be a migrant in passage. However, it remained in the area throughout the month of June and most of July, joining in the general activity of the colony, repeatedly calling and often flying past me in a conspicuous manner as if investigating my activities, generally in company with the very vociferous Willets.

My observation post was a large spoil hill at the end of the sand spit from which I could overlook the inlet as well as the marsh and its islands. To avoid detection by Willets, I began to use an indirect approach, a spotting scope and a Red Cedar for a blind. But even if the Willets did not find me, the Black Tern invariably did, circling the observation post and calling. Nevertheless, after twenty to forty-five minutes, the bird would return to a fairly well-defined island territory, land in a characteristic wing-up posture and then move out of sight into the beach grass. It chased other terns, Common Grackles and Common
Crows from this area, sometimes with considerable effort and belligerence.

The bird usually fished in the narrow entrance to the harbor with Common and Roseate Terns. It had considerable success, generally catching Sand Launces or other small bait fish which it carried out over the Harbor. Then it came back in over the marsh and circled its island territory, calling loudly. On at least three occasions it came to the island with a fish and disappeared in the beach grass. A few minutes later it flew off without the fish. It also appeared to hunt over the tidal creeks and marshes but without observable success. No insect hawking was observed.

Its territory, at the highest point of the sand island, was covered with beach grass (Ammophila), tidal wrack and a few emergent shrubs. All nests, eggs, broken egg shells and chicks found on the island belonged to Common Terns or Spotted Sandpipers. When I examined the island, the Black Tern hovered in the area, calling loudly and displaying evidence of anxiety. Its agitation increased markedly in the clearly demarcated area where it normally landed but it made no diving attacks on me. This territorial behavior persisted into the third week of July, when all breeding activity in the colony ended.

There were persistent reports, dating from the spring observations, that two or more Black Terns were present. However, all observers whom I contacted reported only a single bird. During many hours of observations and three careful onsite inspections, I never saw or heard more than one bird at a time.

A brief survey of the literature reveals no records of coastal or salt-marsh nesting of this species in North America and there are few breeding-season reports anywhere on the coast. However Stone (1937) gives several reports of Black Terns in Common Tern colonies between 1921 and 1932. He thought these were misplaced birds who had been stimulated into similar behavior by the breeding and territorial activities of the colony. This is the most likely explanation. In such situations, isolated birds in breeding condition have been known to feed or attempt to feed chicks of other species; this may have been the case here. Intergeneric pairing, although unlikely, must also be considered as at least an outside possibility.

I would like to thank Jim Ash for calling my attention to the Witmer Stone reference.

LITERATURE CITED


29 Middagh St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201
A Shorebird Haven on Lake Champlain: In the autumn of 1979 I discovered what has proved to be one of the best shorebird viewing areas in the Adirondack-Champlain region (Region 7). This site on King's Bay in Clinton County is described neither in Philip H. Warren's, *Birds of Clinton County* nor in Susan Roney Drennan's *Where To Find Birds In New York State*. Since 1980 I have reported shorebirds observed at this site to the Region 7 editor of *The Kingbird*. I believe this is the only reference to this Lake Champlain hot spot in print. I have referred to this area as the King's Bay Campsite area when reporting to *The Kingbird*.

Lake Champlain is not a major stopping-off point for shorebirds on either their northward or southward migration. There are relatively few areas along Lake Champlain that are suitable for shorebirds. Some of these areas are suitable only in low water years. The only other areas in Clinton County besides King's Bay where numbers of shorebirds stop consistently are Chazy Landing to the north and the Georgia-Pacific mudflats on Plattsburgh Bay.

To reach this site in northeast Clinton County, travel south out of the Village of Rouses Point about two miles to Point Au Fer Road. This road runs along King's Bay Wildlife Management Area. About one-tenth mile further south on Route 9B a dirt road enters King's Bay Campsite, a privately owned trailer park. Ask for permission to enter and follow the road down to King's Bay. Here there is a narrow strip of shoreline about three-tenths of a mile long where shorebirds stop and feed. The proximity to King's Bay Wildlife Management Area perhaps helps shorebirds find this narrow strip of habitat. Suitable feeding habitat is uncovered along the shoreline only as the lake level approaches 95.5 feet above sea level. During the spring migration the lake level is above 96 feet in most years. Only as summer approaches does the lake level recede sufficiently to expose mudflats ideal for feeding. The best months for shorebird abundance and diversity are September and October.

Between the access road to the trailer park and the edge of the lake there are two distinct vegetational zones. Nearest the road is a zone of tall (1-3 feet) vegetation about 75 feet wide made up of lamb's quarters, smartweed, green amaranth, ragweed, cocklebur, some sedge and a few small clumps of cattails and spike rush. This band of vegetation helps buffer any disturbance from the adjacent trailer park. The zone closest to the shoreline is about 75-90 feet wide in September and October. Vegetation here is less than about 4-5 inches in height and is patchy in distribution. A prostrate form of lamb's quarters is most common, interspersed with patches of short grass, some smartweed, beggar-ticks and moss. Part of this zone is covered with aquatic vegetation that has been washed ashore. As the lake level recedes, many different types of habitat are available for feeding: mudflats, small pools of water, sandy areas, shoreline covered by aquatic vegetation,
shoreline covered by various types of herbaceous vegetation, and tall vege-
tation for cover. The diversity of feeding habitats probably explains the diver-
sity of shorebirds found here.

Since 1979 I have observed twenty-one species of shorebirds at this site. The most common visitors are: Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellow-
legs, Dunlin, Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe and Pectoral Sandpiper. Less common are: Spotted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot, Solitary Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone. Others observed only rarely are: American Woodcock, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Sanderling and Western Sandpiper. This site rivals or surpasses all other areas in Region 7 for diversity of shorebirds in the fall.

Mark Gretch, P.O. Box 748, Champlain, N.Y. 12919
EDITORIAL

This issue of *The Kingbird* begins what I hope will be a gradual, but continual change in the format of the Regional reports. I have asked each of the Regional editors to try to make about half of their report a narrative overview of the significant events of the season, to include the significant ornithological records that defined those events in that narrative, and not to repeat those records in the half of the report that lists individual records of species. I also have asked the editors to provide a brief explanation as to why each record appears in *The Kingbird* and threatened to remove any records of dubious significance. I have been most gratified by the response which you will see in the Regional reports which follow.

I have imposed these changes to make the Regional reports easier to read and to comprehend. Readers and contributors, especially, should note that a side effect of them will be that fewer credited individual records can appear in Regional reports. The over thirty years of records which have been published in *The Kingbird* give a good overview of New York’s avifauna, one from which we can make solid statements about ongoing and future changes in it. The new format should make it easier to record these changes and to highlight new discoveries. This new format does not mean that your Regional editors need fewer reports from those who contribute your observations. Indeed, just the opposite is true. A narrative summary requires synthesis of even more data than are required just to produce a simple listing. To those who submit records, keep up the good work. To those who do not, your Regional editor would be pleased to hear from you.

A few changes in style also appear in this issue. Almost all periods after abbreviations are gone; the result is more consistent, cleaner, and used by other journals. Some long time abbreviations have changed. Each month now is abbreviated to its first three letters and each county in New York to its first four letters. A series of additional standard abbreviations will be used in every Regional report, and conflicting local abbreviations are forbidden. The standard abbreviations used in this issue appear after the Seasonal Highlights. Just as the changes in format should make the introduction to each Regional report more readable, these changes will make the lists of records more mechanical. As most of these records are only refinements to our present base of knowledge, I hope this change also will prove acceptable. We will continue to publish individual records, because an essential core are the harbingers of changes now too insignificant to be recognized.
These revisions are new to all of us. If you find these changes displeasing, then I accept the blame. I ask you to judge their effects carefully and patiently, and I welcome your constructive criticisms and suggestions.

A purely administrative issue that arose with this issue is the "floating boundary" between Regions 9 and 10, which came about through an informal agreement between Regional editors to resolve confusion over the actual boundary. For several years the map has not correctly reflected the division of reports which have appeared in these two Regional reports. As a similar problem also may exist between Regions 1 and 2, the Executive Council of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has established a committee to review and fix the Regional boundaries. In this issue, some reports which originally were submitted to and included in the Region 9 report have been moved to Region 10 to make the provenance of reports agree with the map. In the course of making this transfer, a few of those records have disappeared; this is entirely my responsibility. Readers should note that many records, notably those from Rye, which have appeared in recent Region 9 reports also should be adjusted similarly.

The Editor
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Once again we find such terms as lackluster and dull used to describe the fall migration. Peterson's "The most significant migratory movement of the season was lepidopteran, — —" was appropriate in most regions, if only they too would have had the butterflies to watch. After five years of the same lament, one begins to wonder if there ever were times when the fall passage approached expectations. Again, much of the blame can be laid to the fact that there were few weather systems to produce the sharp changes which lead to groundings of migrant birds. For most of the state, September and October were relatively dry and warm, and November was moderate in temperature but wet and gloomy. Typically, the first frost dates were a bit late and there was little snowfall through season’s end. The weather event of the season was Hurricane Gloria. It brought great birding to Region 10, and had little impact elsewhere in the state except for bringing heavy rain on 27-28 Sep. The very local nature of this storm’s effects on birds shows in that, even in neighboring Region 9, the only notable fallout was a single Northern Fulmar.

Generally speaking, for most regions and across most avian families, the story for this fall was of good variety but poor numbers. These poor numbers are reflected in notes of low TV tower kills where they have been monitored in Regions 1 and 3, and in low banding totals from Regions 1 and 4. The single major exception to this story was the avian aftermath of Hurricane Gloria’s passage over eastern Long Island.

The greater part of the Region 10 report is devoted to this Event of the Season, so I will not go to great lengths here, but strongly urge your study of that report. It was interesting that few sea birds were blown in aside from a few storm-petrels, a frigatebird, and a multitude of terns of several species. One of the more fascinating occurrences was the large number of grounded and exhausted land birds on the eastern end of Long Island after the storm, leading to such state high counts as 150 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 2000-3000 American Redstarts, and 3000+ Cape May Warblers. Of added interest is the note that a large proportion of these warblers were adults. This suggested that the storm had intercepted and pushed back part of a large movement of warblers from over the ocean, the route taken by the adults as opposed to the coastal route typically followed by the young of the year.

Numbers reported for the regular flights are dominated by the general feeling of scarcity noted above. However, there are highlights of interest
in each. Among the loons and grebes, we find a new state high count for Common Loon in Region 2 and the synchronous arrival of Red-necked Grebe in Regions 1, 2, and 3. The waterfowl produced good counts of Canada Goose, but most other species, and particularly many puddle ducks, were way down. A good illustration is the contrast this fall in the table of peak waterfowl counts from Montezuma NWR in Region 3 with those published in the previous two fall summaries. Numbers for Mallard, Black Duck, and Pintail are down by factors approaching 10. In contrast high counts for Wood Duck came from Region 5 and for Hooded Merganser from Region 3.

The fall hawk flights were termed good overall. Major counts are summarized in Regions 4, 9, and 10, with a few other notes from Regions 2 and 5. There is widespread feeling that Sharp-shinned Hawk and both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers were good. Bald Eagles seemed to be holding steady over the past several years. Rough-legged Hawks arrived as early as 1 Sep in Region 3 and had appeared in most regions by the season's end, though in low numbers. Region 10 provides an interesting contrast, where one hawk watch reports all-time low numbers, especially for American Kestrel, while the second tallied an all-time high, with American Kestrel up 33% to a new high.

Shorebird highlights include: good variety in most regions, a first Buff-breasted Sandpiper for Clinton Co. in Region 7, and a new high count of 125 American Oystercatchers in Region 10. The gull scene was uninspiring. The high points were Laughing Gulls inland in Regions 1 and 5 and a Regional high count for Little Gull, a Common Black-headed Gull, and a record high count of 1000 Great Black-backed Gulls in Region 6. The annual watch for Snowy Owls was very unrewarding, as the only records were single birds in Regions 5 and 9.

Bright spots in the generally dismal passerine picture include: a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Region 5; Bohemian Waxwings in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, & 7, including a record early arrival in New York from Region 3; a scattering of Northern Shrikes arriving in October and November in six regions; a lone Loggerhead Shrike report from Region 10; good counts of warblers in Region 10 and also in Region 9; a late Yellow Warbler in Region 2; Yellow-throated Warblers in Region 10 and one very late in Region 3; Connecticut Warblers in five regions; a sparrow contrast, with Region 4 reporting excellent banding numbers and Region 9 good counts for several species, while Region 5 noted their scarcity; and, finally!, a winter finch season with all species except Hoary Redpoll reported and all regions except 7 and 10 noting the prospects of a good finch winter.

As with any season, a few of the species notes fail to fit the major flight pattern. Among those for this season, we have: more evidence
of the large change in the Double-crested Cormorant population since John Bull’s *Birds of New York State* in 1974 with new high inland counts of 325 in Region 5 and 400-500 in Region 7. Both of these contrasting with complaints of relatively low numbers in nearby Region 6; late inland “Glossy” Ibis in Regions 2, 3, and 5; an October boat trip to an historical nesting site along Lake Champlain in Region 7 that found both Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon present; a roost of 10,000+ American Crow in Region 9; Common Raven from five regions; note of both House Finch and House Sparrow increasing at one location in Region 6; and three record late observations of birds feeding fledglings – E. Wood-Pewee in Region 9, House Wren in Region 3, and Ovenbird in Region 7.

Typical of most seasons, the Regional Editors’ commentaries contain many fascinating items aside from species’ data. A sampling to spur you to search for your own follows. From Region 1 we have a call for more education of the general public about raptors, as too many hawks still are being shot. This was echoed in notes from Region 6 of an Osprey found shot and from Region 7’s discussion of another Osprey shot and a Golden Eagle and a Barred Owl caught in leghold traps. In Region 5 a Common Raven’s croaks led a ranger to an illegal deer kill, and eventually led to an arrest and conviction. In Region 6 birders could not dissuade neighbors from cutting a pine because of its “worm problem,” though the problem was only a sapsucker’s workings. Region 7 reminds us to search for collared Canada Geese (Spring soon will be in full swing and you too can join the search when you read this), tells of a Pileated Woodpecker feeding on dogwood berries, and we cheer on a Northern Goshawk taking cats for dinner on Crown Point.

In spite of the lack of cooperative weather and the lament over poor numbers, the list of rarities is long again this season. The best of each region include: Region 1 – Laughing Gull and Brewer’s Blackbird; Region 2 – Great Cormorant and Marbled Godwit; Region 3 – Yellow-throated Warbler and Dickcissel; Region 4 – Snowy Egret, “Audubon’s” Warbler, and Golden Eagle; Region 5 – Glossy Ibis and Long-tailed Jaeger; Region 6 – Yellow Rail and Com. Black-headed Gull; Region 7 – Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Orange-crowned Warbler; Region 9 – Northern Fulmar, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Skimmer, Western Kingbird, and Brewer’s Blackbird; and Region 10 – Eared Grebe, Leach’s Storm-Petrel, frigatebird, Sandhill Crane, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Burrowing Owl, Say’s Phoebe, Western Tanager, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. A very difficult choice this season, the B.O.T.S. Award goes to Region 9’s Swainson’s Hawk, a second regional record and the first fall record for the state in this century.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580
The summer drought, broken briefly in the last week of August, continued through September and October. Buffalo recorded the least amount (1.2 inches) of rainfall for September in 21 years, and temperatures reached the 80's on nine days. Lake Erie actually warmed again to 71 degrees on the 7th. Hurricane Gloria hardly affected us, leaving a few clouds and light showers in her wake. Most of the month was clear and sunny, not conducive to concentrating migrants.

October was warm and remained dry. The first killing frost at Amity Lake occurred on the night of the second and third but not until 28 October at Buffalo International Airport. Lowest readings for the month were on 29 October: 25 at Buffalo, 13 at Jamestown and 16 at Amity Lake. The streams and ponds remained very low and the soil generally very dry.

November, however, got the streams, ponds and reservoirs back to more normal levels but it took record rainfall to do it. This was the wettest November ever recorded at Buffalo (records since 1871) with 9.75 inches. Only three days in the month lacked less than a trace of precipitation. Temperatures averaged less than two degrees above normal at 42. There were two principal reasons for all this precipitation. Hurricane Juan dropped most of the rain during the first part of November. The constant rain in the second half was the result of a front stalled from Texas to the maritimes, bringing up moisture from the Gulf to mix with cold air brought down from the north by a depressed jet stream.

The mild September and October gave us very late departure dates, but no one record late, for many neotropical migrants. There were light kills at TV towers south of Buffalo monitored by Arthur Clark. At Farmersville Station Don Clark banded very few vireos and warblers, continuing to document very poor fall flights through the area. The lack of any great number of low pressure disturbances during September and October probably allowed migrants to overfly the area.

We know of no great numbers of hawks migrating through our Region in the fall but they do move through and they do winter. The most notable hawk to report was an unbanded female (by measurements) Peregrine Falcon which apparently struck a high line during a stoop near Swain and injured ligaments in
its elbow joint. It was still being treated for infection in late December by a veterinarian in Jamestown (fide Mary Forness). No bones were broken and it carried no shot. A Northern Goshawk was found, recently shot in the woods near Obi; both of its tarsi and wings had been removed. The carcass was given to DEC. An immature Red-tailed Hawk was found dead inside the city limits of Olean in October, apparently shot. We still have plenty of work to educate people, particularly in these wilder portions of the State.

November, with its rainy weather, appeared to stall duck migration. Record numbers of some species, such as Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Mergansers, were seen on lakes of the Southern Tier counties. Joe Thill of Kenmore summarized the status of gulls on the Niagara River during the period. Bonaparte's were down in numbers during September compared to last year. No Glaucous Gulls had appeared by the end of November, and only two Iceland, two Lesser Black-backed and a few Little Gulls were found. No Sabine's Gulls had been seen but a Franklin's Gull frequented South Park the entire season.

The fruit crop was practically nonexistent across most of the Southern Tier counties, almost the exact opposite of last year when there was a great abundance of almost all seed crops. Box Elder and Black-berried Elder produced well but the winter finches, chipmunks and mice cleaned them out early. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers in early October but by the end of November they appeared to have left many areas, far from feeders with sunflower seeds.

Rarities included Peregrine Falcon (above), Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bohemian Waxwing, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Bob Sundell has written that the deadline for information to be included in his Birds of Chautauqua County has been set at 31 December 1985. He is including some records from western Cattaraugus County.


**HAWKS-ALCIDs:** Osprey: last Amity L, Alle, 28 Oct, late. Bald Eagle: singles Iroquois NWR 2 (imm). 10 (ad), 28 (imm), 29 (imm) Sep; two ad Iroquois NWR 11, 12, 24, 27


Ten Mile Rd., Allegany, N.Y. 14706
Traditional patterns for the Region were not the fare this year. September was characterized by warm temperatures and somewhat average precipitation. The average temperature was 63.8°F, about 1.6°F higher than normal. Precipitation was a scant 0.17" below normal at 2.49". The first and last thirds of the month were dominated by near normal temperatures and precipitation in the form of light rain or drizzle. At other times strong southerly breezes brought above average temperatures and below average rainfall. October echoed these contrasts. By month's end, the average temperature and total precipitation were only slightly below normal at 51° and 2.34" respectively. Yet, there were twelve days during the months with above average high temperatures. November can be described in a single word—wet. The temperature was 0.8° above normal at 41.4°, but precipitation was a whopping 4.34" above normal at 6.99". A period of twelve straight days of rain were recorded. A total of 7.6" of snow fell and we experienced only 19% sunshine.

The weather may have been dismal, but the birding fared very well. The frontal systems brought with them some very good birding conditions. As is always the case, there was a great deal of variation in the fall migration. The bulk of the waterfowl migration was later than normal. The expected species arrived on time, but numbers were not at traditional levels until late in the season. The same seemed to be true for most loons and grebes. Southwest winds produced some days when raptors moved along the lakeshore in a reverse migration of sorts. Accipiters were highly noticeable, with a smattering of buteos included. The shorebird migration was rather typical. The mudflats at Shore Acres were especially productive. The passerine migration was mixed. There were very few, if any, mass movements reported. Most expected species were found, yet numbers appeared to be low. Large numbers of finches were noted along the lakeshore during late October and November. Goldfinches, siskins and redpolls moved in large mixed flocks, and fields with abundant seed crops attracted large numbers of these birds. The possibility of a "finch winter" was heralded by the arrival of Pine Grosbeak, both crossbills and good numbers of Common Redpolls. Evening Grosbeaks also were found in good numbers.

A few species warrant special mention. The bird of the season was the third Regional record of Great Cormorant. Other rarities were: Glossy Ibis, King Eider, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull and Bohemian Waxwing. There were numerous sightings of all three accipiters and of falcons, including both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. The lake watch from Hamlin Beach once again produced many jaegers. Gull concentrations were minimal with few unusual reports. A N. Saw-whet Owl banded in October suggests that there probably are more of these birds around in the fall than we regularly observe. Once again, no Sedge Wrens were reported; this has become a hard-to-find species. An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported quite late this season.

Contributors: Martin and Betty Baker, Ron and Kay Ballard, Nancy Boudrie, Jeff

Abbreviations: BB-Braddock Bay, DE-Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent Lake Ontario waters, HB-Hamlin Beach, IB-Irondequoit Bay, SA-Shore Acres, Hamlin, WL-West Lakeshore.


After a rather tame summer, the first days of September were more tropical than temperate – just in time for returning to school, work, etc. Even though temperatures approached the nineties and the humidity was high, very little rain fell in the southern part of our Region. Ithaca had close to two inches of rain on 9 Sep but Elmira and Watkins Glen only had small amounts. The mean temperature for the remainder of September and October was close to normal
with occasional lows and highs. Precipitation varied but for the most part we had dry conditions. Some hunters reported that their favorite American Woodcock haunts were too dry to attract the birds. Lack of rainy weather did make things more secure for migrants. Only 17 birds were killed by collisions with the Hawley Hill television tower in Elmira.

November was another story. Occasionally an unfamiliar object would appear in our sky and it wasn't Halley's Comet. It was the sun, which managed to shine only during eleven percent of the daylight hours. Precipitation, mostly rain, was close to six inches in Elmira, which was twice the normal amount. Thanksgiving was the first day when snow, sleet and freezing rain made driving an adventure.

Conflicting comments were received on the quality of the migration but the negatives outnumbered the positives. There were 211 species observed during the period, which is a good count. However, the number of individuals was down. Most of the common raptors and shorebirds were seen. Elmira was blessed with Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare for them but only a one-eyebrow-raiser for Ithaca. Thrushes, except for E. Bluebirds and Am. Robins, have been low all year and continued their scarcity this fall. Yellow-bellied, Alder, Willow and Least Flycatchers were all missed. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found in excellent numbers.

The numbers of warblers were considered very low in the Ithaca area, no doubt partly because we didn't have the storms to slow the birds down. In Elmira many passerines and herons were heard flying overhead on the night of 21 Sep. The next morning twelve species of warblers were observed, mostly Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped. Included in one wave were three tail-wagging Palm Warblers in one low bush. Cape May Warblers were everywhere for the remainder of September and early October, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen through November.

Indications of a great irruption year occurred early. A few Evening Grosbeaks were observed first in early September and larger numbers were seen in October. An amazingly early Rough-legged Hawk was spotted at the Tompkins Co. Airport on 1 Sep. This is the earliest fall record for Region 3. All common winter finches were seen, but in low numbers. Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches came to feeders earlier than usual. In contrast, small flocks of Am. Robins were still lingering, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a feeder in late November, and a Wilson's Warbler was spotted in mid-November.

As suspected, some of our dabbling ducks were observed in greatly decreased numbers. A peak number of 26,000 Mallards at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge compared to 400,000 in the fall of 1984 is a shocking decrease. This number is the lowest since 1978. Other decreases were noted in Am. Black and N. Pintail numbers. If the quality of water in the Elmira area is to be measured by its use by Green-backed Herons, we could be in trouble. Even with the Chemung River flowing close by and various ponds scattered nearby, two of these birds chose a ground level bird bath to do their cleaning. Our insects must be tainted as well, for an adult House Wren was seen feeding suet to three fledglings in early September.
After being shut out of rarities in the summer season, our Region had its fair share. Species noted were Glossy Ibis, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-throated Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Dickcissel. This is the second consecutive year that a Yellow-throated Warbler has been seen in the Ithaca area during late November-early December. In addition to these rarities, some uncommon species seen were Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper and White-eyed Vireo.

Finally, a special thanks to Nancy Dorwart and Robert McKinney for answering my plea for more reports from Steuben County.

Contributors: Jack Brubaker, Dick Clements, Nancy Dorwart, Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, Herb and Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch, Anne Marocchini, Robert McKinney, Dorothy McIlroy, Joan Scrocarelli, Mary Welles.

Abbreviations: band-banded at Penn Yan by M. Lerch; CayL-Cayuga Lake; MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk-Park; QC-Queen Catherine Marsh.


Maximum waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by refuge personnel.

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BOHEMIAN WAXWING: two Long Pt Pk 29 Oct (NYSARC); one Aurora 2 Nov (K. David).


WINTER, 1986

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Jay G. Lehman

Regional weather until 10 Sep was dominated by a strong Carolina high causing southwest breezes and summer-like conditions with daytime temperatures in the 70’s to 80’s and nighttime temperatures in the 60’s at Binghamton. On 10 Sep a strong high pressure system from the northwest created autumn-like conditions, reversing wind direction, dropping daytime temperatures into the 50’s to 60’s and causing a record low of 37°F at Binghamton for 11 Sep. By 17 Sep the high had moved through and summer-like conditions returned. This continued until the remnants of hurricane Gloria moved through from 24 to 27 Sep followed by a high on 27 to 30 Sep. The 0.9 inches of rainfall at Binghamton in Sep before Gloria was below average, but 4.8 inches fell after Gloria. The skies literally opened on 27 Sep as nearly a monthly allotment of 3.5 inches fell!

October weather patterns were indistinctive. Perhaps Gloria left the weather gods confused. Highs and lows were relatively weak and moved rapidly through with no lasting patterns. The month was relatively mild with an average temperature of 50°F, almost a full degree above normal.

November weather was distinctive – in a word, gloomy. Although November is known for its lack of sunshine in these parts, the clouds and rain this November seemed excessive. With at most a handful of days with significant sunshine, Regional residents despaired of seeing the sun until 1986. With the clouds came
relatively warm temperatures until about 20 Nov when a cooling trend began. By month's end daytime temperatures were in the 30's consistently. November's rainfall was 4.47 inches, 1.63 inches above normal.

The mild early September conditions probably contributed to holding the Snowy Egret, an excellent record for this Region, in place until mid-month. Two high pressure frontal systems on 28 Sep and 12 Oct conveniently came on weekends so that the first and maximum movements of Canada Geese could be seen by observers. Although October was mild with few frontal induced movements, the low waterfowl species list is probably due to lack of observers in the field. In Chenango Co Don Windsor suggested assigning an observer to each small lake to document the small numbers of different species that appear on each lake during migration. Despite the lack of strong sustained October cold fronts, there was a good hawk flight with eleven species reported, including two Golden Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon. A new potential hawk watch was found on Ames Road, Cortland Co, where Bill Toner recorded eighty raptors of six species migrating on 20 Oct. A low mouse-vole population, however, suggests that wintering hawk populations may be low. Unfortunately, there were no hurricane driven vagrant species reported.

Two late records were probably due to the mild October. An immature Yellow-billed Cuckoo was stunned when it hit a window in Norwich on a cold frosty 28 Oct morning (JL). This bird was probably following the Chenango River valley where leaf-bearing willows and milder temperatures provide late insects. However, the Swainson's Thrush on 17 Oct (ML) that was also window-stunned near Bainbridge must have had slim insect pickings in the frosty hill country. The high movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets may have been delayed somewhat by the mild weather. Otherwise, the fall migration was poor with very little warbler fallout noted. In the north Dave Messineo reported that "Warblers may have flown over, but the lowest flight along the Otselic River I've seen," and two southern banding stations also reported low counts of many warblers, including Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Com. Yellowthroat. The one bright spot was an AUDUBON'S (Yellow-rumped) Warbler window-stunned at Delhi on 11 Oct (A&FZ fide MC), identified in the hand by direct comparison with two field guides. Fortunately the bird recovered. Although warbler numbers are low, the species list is at least representative. Readers should remember to listen for warbler chip notes on fall nights with northwest breezes in order to determine when major movements are occurring. However, note that major fallbacks seem to occur with abrupt wind and weather shifts. This fall, at least, the maximum counts for several species occurred near mid-Sep when a northwest to southwest shift occurred.

On the bright side finches, especially Purple Finches and Goldfinches, and sparrows were more abundant. Record numbers of Lincoln's, Swamp, Song, and White-throated Sparrows were banded at Newark Valley. Good November numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins and a few early Redpolls suggest that this will be another good winter finch year but with a different flavor than last year's of crossbills. An exceptional flight of Evening Grosbeaks in mid-October suggests that "gros-pigs" will be stripping feeders of sunflower seeds again this winter and unlike last.
The species list of 160 is third highest in eight years and well above the eight-year average of 149. Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Short-eared Owl, and Com. Moorhen are rarities.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin, Randall and Jean Barnes, Don and Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Bruce Bozdos, W. Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burrows, Sally Carey, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Nancy Emerson, Eleanor Halley, Shirley Hartman, Art Ilse, Gail Kirch, Ken Knapp, Marge Lafayette, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, B. Mahon, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Evelyn Mead, Dave Messineo, D. O'Neill, Harriet Robison, Ted Robinson, Maurice Russell, Joe Sedlacek, John Sherwood, Ken Stalter, Bill Toner, George Wade, Anne Whitaker, Tom and Beryl Wilson, Don Windsor, Crystal Wright, Irene Wright, Alice and Fred Zimmerman.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton, End—Endwell, New Vll—Newark Valley, Norw—Norwich, OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford, Vest—Vestal, Wind—Windsor.


REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The fall 1985 migration offered few birds to observers afield in the Oneida Lake Basin Region. The weather was fine, perhaps too fine to see migratory birds. All three months averaged just above normal in temperature. The killing frost came about a week late on 22 Oct. Subsequent cold periods were few and of short duration. Precipitation was above average in all three months, but most of September's total came on just three days. The first trace of snow at Syracuse fell on 15 Nov, the latest ever, with the first significant snowfall quite late on the 28th. September days generally were clear, but only half of October was sunny and less than a fifth of November saw even a glimpse of sun – what a dreary month!

There were few strong weather systems during the height of the migration. Parties afield after the passage of Hurricane Gloria on 28 Sep found nothing
certainly attributable to that storm. Only two or three dates in September were rated as even mediocre flight days. Dorothy Crumb had only two dates with more than 100 warblers near Pompey, while F. G. Scheider had none along Lake Ontario. The last date when a variety of insectivorous birds were found was 4 Oct. Thrushes, vireos, warblers and sparrows were especially scarce. High counts for most species were single digit numbers. The maximum for Yellow-rumped Warbler was only 130 in Pompey on 11 Oct. The White-throated Sparrow maximum of 242 in Lysander 3 Oct was about half normal, and no Dark-eyed Junco counts exceeded 100.

Water bird counts were equally unimpressive. Red-throated Loon and Pied-billed Grebe were found in moderate numbers, but the other divers were scarce. The high count of Brant exceeded that of Canada Goose, but the latter were more ubiquitously and continually present. Except for a new record high of 1397 Wood Ducks at Toad Harbor near Brewerton on 4 Oct (the only count above 100), dabbling ducks were scarce everywhere. Numbers of diving and sea ducks, except for Oldsquaw and Red-breasted Merganser, were very low and arrivals were late. However, Gary Lee submitted several remarkable records from the Old Forge area, including a Red-necked Grebe, an Oldsquaw, 30 Black Scoter and four Surf Scoter on Otter Lake 26 Oct and 10-12 loons there to 11 Nov.

Neither herons nor shorebirds added much to the season. Robert L. Post watched a concentration of Great Blue Heron build to 21 birds on Otisco Lake during a rainy 12 and 13 Nov; all were gone by the 16th. This was rather late for such numbers. Of the rarer herons, only Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron were found. Shorebird numbers declined steadily from the start of the season but, of the rarer species found most falls, only Whimbrel and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were missed. November shorebird departure dates included a Killdeer present near Old Forge to the 11th, and a White-rumped and rather late Baird’s Sandpiper at Little Sodus Bay on 2 Nov and Sandy Pond on 7 Nov. Even gulls were scarce, but included three Laughing, a Franklin’s and multiple Little Gull this season.

Raptors were scarce. Only a few accipiters and Rough-legged Hawk were reported. Two hawk flights were described. Following a rainy period, Dorothy Crumb saw 30 Osprey, six N. Harrier, six accipiters of three species, 57 Broad-winged Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, three Am. Kestrel and three Merlin pass the Pompey TV towers during the last hour before sunset on 10 Sep. She saw four Turkey Vulture, four more accipiters, and 170 Broad-winged Hawk go by early the next morning. On 20 Oct F. G. Scheider and Ruth Knight watched raptor flight along the east end of Lake Ontario that included 34 Turkey Vulture (the last for the season and a new fall record maximum), an Osprey (last of the season), 20 N. Harrier (high count), two Sharp-shinned Hawk, six Cooper’s Hawk (maximum), a N. Goshawk, two Red-shouldered Hawk, 419 Red-tailed Hawk (a new fall record maximum) and two Rough-legged Hawk. Reports of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon remained encouragingly numerous. Singles of Snowy, Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl were the only unusual owls reported. The first N. Shrike was at Otisco Lake on 20 Nov, with two subsequent reports from along Lake Ontario.
It appeared to be a good, but mixed season for winter irruptive passerines. High counts of Blue Jay, 85 at Sandy Pond on 18 Sep, and of Black-capped Chickadee, 290 along Lake Ontario on 31 Oct, were not suggestive of incursions. Gary Lee found Gray Jay at Third Lake Swamp and Boreal Chickadee in Limekiln Swamp for the first time ever this fall, but no others were reported out of range. Red-breasted Nuthatch counts peaked at 11/day in September, but only scattered residents were reported afterwards. Am. Robins and waxwings were uncommon, but several Bohemian Waxwings were found in Nov. Finches foretold an interesting winter. Pine Grosbeak arrived at Old Forge on 3 Nov and at Holland Patent on 4 Nov, and were present throughout the Region with counts to 41/day by late November. Purple Finch counts peaked at just seven/day. The only crossbill reported was a male White-winged at Sandy Pond on 21 Nov. Com. Redpoll was found first at Derby Hill on 2 Oct, and counts increased to 45/day by late November. Pine Siskins were found first at Sandy Pond on 29 Sep, and the high count of 20 at Derby Hill came 31 Oct. Evening Grosbeak arrived at Clay Marsh on 30 Sep and were widespread by early Oct, with a maximum of 200 at Derby Hill on 7 Nov. This pattern of abundances is almost the reverse of last winter.

Com. Ravens were seen regularly in northern Herkimer County, where one lead ranger Gary Lee to an illegal deer kill and the eventual conviction of the culprit responsible.

Most species of special concern in the Region did poorly this season. Neither cuckoo was found. Only scattered Tufted Titmouse and N. Mockingbird, and but two Carolina Wrens, both near Syracuse, were reported. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a surprising miss this fall. Neither kinglet was common, with maxima of 130 Golden-crowned in Pompey on 21 Oct and of 43 Ruby-crowned near Fairhaven on 17 Oct. All of the grassland sparrows were scarce as in recent falls.

A total of 238 species were reported, about average. The only great rarities reported were Glossy Ibis and Long-tailed Jaeger. In addition to those mentioned above, hard-to-find species reported this fall included King Eider, Bald Eagle, Hudsonian Godwit, Western and Purple Sandpiper, all three phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster’s Tern, Sedge Wren, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Scott Harris, Gene Huggins, Ruth Knight, Jeanne Lally, Gary N. Lee, Tom Linda, Robert L. Long, Robert L. Post, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Betty Starr, Magdalena Stooks, Gary Webb.

Abbreviations: DH-Derby Hill, Oswe; LSB-Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Fairhaven, Cayu; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswe; NPT-northern Pompey township; SPd-Sandy Pond, Oswe; TS-town of Sterling, Cayu; SVB-Sylvan and Verona Beach, Onei; Syr-Syracuse.


REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE
KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

The weather this fall was unusually mild. September temperatures were 1-3 degrees above normal, with the maximum of 84 at Gouverneur on 20 Sep. The first local frosts came 12-14 Sep, but in many areas there was no freeze until 20 Oct. A tenth or more inches of rain fell on about seven dates in September throughout the Region, with totals 2-4 inches above normal largely the result of Hurricane Gloria on 28 Sep. October temperatures and precipitation were near normal. There were six to ten dates with measurable rain, but the absence of snowfall was unusual. According to the Regional Climate Center at Cornell, November was “drab.” Temperatures averaged about 2 degrees below normal and ranged from 11 degrees to a record-breaking high of 68 on 20 Nov. There were eight to ten dates in November with precipitation. Snow first fell in the second week and again during most of the last week of November. Total accumulations ranged from 4 inches at Canton to 8 inches in Lewis Co.

Hawks generally were scarce. Despite the prevalence of northeast winds that concentrate migrating hawks along Lake Ontario, the only Broad-winged Hawk report was three at ElDorado Beach on 10 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk was very scarce, with only a few ones and twos reported after 19 Oct. Two Golden Eagles seen migrating into New York State near Massena on 2 Nov by several experienced Canadian birders (RB, MG, RG, BP) were extraordinary. A hunter found an Osprey shot near High Falls, Town of Fine, on 19 Oct. It spent the night perched in his lean-to, and he brought it out in his canoe. The next day it was picked up by the DEC and taken to Delmar, where it died. How many other raptors, water birds and waders are needlessly and illegally shot?

There were unprecedented numbers of Little Gull. A total of ten were at ElDorado Beach between 1 Sep and 30 Oct (GAS). Because most reports were of one or two per day, several individuals must have been involved. In addition, five Little Gulls were at Moses-Saunders Dam on 27 Oct and three were there on 2 Nov (RB, fide JVR). Numbers of Bonaparte’s Gull also were high. Five to 20 per day were at ElDorado Beach to mid-Oct, with a peak of 58 on 23 Sep. Joe VanRiet counted 300 at Moses-Saunders Dam on 19 Oct and a record Regional high of 1000 on 27 Oct.

The passerine migration peaked in mid-October. No Horned Larks and just five species of vireo or warbler were reported. Lee Chamberlaine reported Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet moving through Henderson together on 6 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet also were moving in October, with a maximum of 11 at Henderson on 14 Oct.

Food crops were good. O’Shea reports large flocks of American Robins feeding on fallen cherries on 10 Nov, while Evening Grosbeaks gleaned the fruits which remained on the trees. It promises to be a banner year for Bohemian Waxwing. The first was at ElDorado Beach on 19 Nov in flock of 125 Cedar Waxwings. One to five per day were seen thereafter with a maximum of 15 on 22 Nov. There
were two reports of probable N. Shrike from the Potsdam area. After a three-year dearth, winter finches also were numerous. Purple Finch numbers generally were low. Com. Redpoll arrived at ElDorado Beach on 28 Oct, and 20 to 60 per day were seen thereafter. Pine Siskin was first reported in Henderson on 6 Oct, with a maximum of 15 on 12 Oct. Pine Grosbeak was widely reported after its arrival at ElDorado Beach on 2 Nov. The first Evening Grősbeaks arrived at ElDorado Beach on 4 Sep.

A total of 147 species was reported for the period, including 33 waterfowl, 17 raptors, 32 shorebirds and larids, and 65 pre-passerines and passerines. This compares with 150 species last year and 99 in 1984. We report two great rarities: **YELLOW RAIL** and **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL**. Two sightings of Mute Swan in St. Lawrence Co are unusual, but four swans observed in flight over the Grasse River on 23 Nov could have been Tundra Swan. A female Scarlet Tanager lingered in Potsdam from 11 to 16 Nov (JNA). Tufted Titmouse arrived at Massena, and Kelly recorded the first House Finch for Brasher Falls in Nov. Breeding of House Finch at Canton finally was confirmed by fledged young (M&EH), although the species likely has bred there for a year or so previously. Finally, the Cerwonkas were unable to dissuade their Potsdam neighbors from cutting trees in their yard which they insisted were infested by "worms"—the true culprit was a family of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Contributors: Joanne and Norbert Ackerman, Marilyn Badger, R. Bracken, Sheila and Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Betty Coots, Ken Crowell, M. Gawn, R. Gorman, John Green, Mildred and Everett Howard, Paul Kelly, Peter O'Shea, Joe VanRiet, B. Penney, Gerald Smith, Trudy Vanderbilt, Brian Watson, James Winterbottom.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** EDB—ElDorado Beach Preserve, LOnt—Lake Ontario, MSD—Moses-Saunders Dam, RMSF—Robert Moses SP, SLR—St. Lawrence R, SLU—St. Lawrence University, WI—Wellesley I., WDPd—Wiley-Dondero Ponds, WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: one or two/day after late Sep, scarce. Pied-billed Grebe: max nine WH 10 Oct (JVR). Horned Grebe: arr four RMPD 17 Oct; two-four/day thereafter. Double-crested Cormorant: two to four/day SLR and LOnt Sep-Oct is fewer than usual, last EDB 26 Oct early departure. Am. Bittern: last Canton 17 Oct (JG). Great Blue Heron: max 17 Upper and Lower Lakes WMA 9 Sep, present all sectors including Adirondacks (PO) to early Nov. Great Egret: one flying north over Point Peninsula 23 Nov (L. Gunn fide LC) extremely late and unusual for season. Mute Swan: two ad, one j Joe Indian Pd, Colton, 17 Nov and one about 10 Nov (TV). Brant: arr late Oct, max 450 Perch River 26 Oct; one or two cripples daily LOnt to late Nov, Canada Goose: arr Henderson 21 Sep; to 1000/day through mid-Nov in all sectors. Wood Duck: only two records totaling four individuals, very scarce. Green-winged Teal: max 40 EDB 1 Oct, last there 17 Oct; none reported elsewhere. Am. Black Duck: max 80 WDPd Massena 19 Oct and 50 Pillar Pt 25 Nov; at least small numbers reported from all sectors. Mallard: max 75 EDB 9 Sep; otherwise to 40/day in lowland sectors, fewer than in most recent years. N. Pintail: max 26 WH 26 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 54 EDB 9 Sep, last there 15 Oct; few reported elsewhere. N. Shoveler: two EDB 3 Sep, where infrequent; max 130 WDPd 19 Oct (JVR) and 50 Perch River 17 Nov; last four WDPd 10 Nov. Gadwall: max 200 WH 19 Oct, scarce otherwise. Am. Wigeon: max 350 WH 19 Oct; scarce away from e SLR. Canvasback: one to two/day only, no reports from traditional Nov concentration areas in the w SLR. Redhead: excellent numbers e SLR during late Oct with max 1500 WDPd 23 Oct-3 Nov (JVR). Ring-necked Duck: max 200 WDPd 3 Nov. Oldsquaw:


KLC-RD 4, Box 97, Canton, N.Y. 13617
GAS-DHBO, Sage Creek Rd., Mexico, N.Y. 13114

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Weather was exceedingly dry much of the season, producing few grounded migrants, yet exceptionally wet when rain did fall. Newcomb, for example, had 4 inches of rain overnight on 5-6 Sep. The dam at Mountain View, Franklin Co., was released early this year on 24 Sep, and Champlain beaches were exposed by lower lake levels, providing a total of 16 shorebird species. The weak passage of Hurricane Gloria the afternoon of 27 Sep was wet and windy, but produced no significant fallout, except perhaps for the Rock Doves wearing bands with the CU prefix of the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union that turned up at Crown Point and Ticonderoga in following days. Coot Hill hawk watch was visited only on 11 Oct, a clear, sunny day of W-NW winds that provided 11 birds of six species, plus 50 Canada Geese and four Common Ravens. By 9 Nov there was snow on the mountains, and on 16 Nov temperatures fell to 10°F at Newcomb, with up to 3½ inches of snow at Paradox the same day, pushing birds into
feeders. At season's end, lower elevations were dusted with snow, while higher elevations were covered with several inches.

The most significant migratory event of the season was lepidopteran, rather than avian. From the Champlain islands to the summits of the High Peaks, Monarch Butterflies moved southward through September and October, with a few present into November and observers judging this the best flight in memory. This brightness was dimmed by raptor injuries and deaths. Open-baited leghold traps led to the death of an eagle and crippling of an owl. The adult, female GOLDEN EAGLE was found 14 Nov in a trap near Elk L., Essex Co., by hunters, and released. Still present the following day and unable to fly, the eagle was taken by N.Y. State Police to Dr. Robert Lopez in Westport, but it died 18 Nov of infection, according to the necropsy by NYS Wildlife Pathologist Ward Stone. The Barred Owl was caught in a deer hunter's set for dogs or coyotes near Elizabethtown, Essex Co., released by the trapper Thanksgiving Day, and has twice undergone surgery on a badly broken leg by Dr. Lopez and Dr. Craig Russell at Westport. An Osprey found shot and Common Raven found injured, both near Lewis, Essex Co., were transported to NYS DEC veterinarian Dr. Edward Becker in Delmar, but did not survive. On a happier note, the orphaned Great Horned Owl that was transported to the Vermont Raptor Center when its Altona nest tree was logged in May was successfully released in September near Woodstock, VT. High Peaks Audubon has formed a task force committee that includes the DEC, local vets, and area wildlife rehabilitators to study bird rehabilitation in the Region, with attention to facilities and funding, and special emphasis upon raptors.

A cliff site along L Champlain north of Westport with a long and lively history of Bald Eagles, plus a site-attached pair of Peregrine Falcons in 1984, was visited by the DEC in June, who saw two adult falcons, but no sign of a nest. On 31 Oct, representatives of the DEC and Adirondack Conservancy who visited the site in the Audubon boat reported two immature Bald Eagles and a group of four to five Peregrine Falcons. This year the peregrine eyrie near Wilmington produced two young, that near Keene Valley three young.

The wild food crop was extremely poor, except for good production of eastern hemlock cones and perhaps of weed seeds. The prospect of a starvation winter didn't discourage Arctic arrivals. After the first Rough-legged Hawk appeared in northern Clinton Co. 10 Nov, there were numerous reports from the plains of Franklin Co. and lake corridor of Essex Co. The 45 Bohemian Waxwings at L Alice 2 Nov. provided a new early arrival date for NYS (MG). Then the Bohemian invasion began: 25 at Tupper L on 15 Nov (AV); 110 at L ALice on 17 Nov was the highest count; one at Tupper L on 19 Nov, six there on 21 Nov (CD), and a few there 26 Nov., and 35 along Teboville Rd., Franklin Co. on 22 Nov (JT), with only a few Cedar Waxwings seen. An early N. Shrike arrived at Owl's Head 21 Oct (JT), followed by sightings at L Alice, Tupper L, and Westport. The first three Snow Buntings appeared on the outskirts of L Placid on 26 Oct (PT) with small flocks of up to 17 birds subsequently at the Four Brothers Islands, Chilson, n. Clinton Co, Paul Smiths, Hogansburg, Moriah, Newcomb, Wadhams, and Westport. Pine Grosbeaks were at Hogansburg by 1 Nov (HW) and increased to
25 at L Alice by 24 Nov, with reports from all four counties. They were seen feeding on buckthorn, flowering crab, highbush cranberry, honeysuckle, mountain ash, sumac, and tamarack. Three Com. Redpolls arrived on Island D of the Four Brothers on 27 Oct (TM,JP) and Bryant’s Siding, Franklin Co., had the highest count of 200 on 17 Nov, with other reports from Essex and Franklin Counties.

Six yellow-collared Canada Geese were among the flock at L Alice this fall. One goose, No. J47P, has been observed four times since April 1984, appearing 24 Oct last year, returning 20 Oct this year, and still present on 17 Nov. A Tennessee Warbler netted on Crown Point Peninsula 15 May, 1985, had been banded 16 Sep, 1984, near Hutton, Maryland, in the Allegheny Mountains. On 18 Oct a male Evening Grosbeak was retrapped near Elizabethtown at the same station where it had been banded on 14 Nov, 1980.

The *Birds of Clinton County, New York, Supplement* by Mark Gretch is a much-needed continuation of Philip Warren’s 1979 compilation, containing a county map showing all Atlas blocks, additions to the annotated list, and a table of extreme dates and breeding status. Cost is $1.50. Copies of Phil Warren’s *Birds of Clinton County* also are available, and both can be purchased together for just $4.00. Make checks payable to Northern Adirondack Audubon Society and send orders to: Mark Gretch, P.O. Box 748, Champlain, NY 12919. On 22 Sep, Gretch noted the first Clinton Co. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** at King’s Bay Campsite, bringing the county list to 264 species.

Another regional rarity was the **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** reported without details from Tupper L on 7 Sep (CD). Perhaps the most notable miss of the season was Broad-winged Hawk, not mentioned by any observer, but undoubtedly present. Other birds not mentioned, but surely somewhere within the four northeastern counties were Ring-necked Pheasant, Spruce Grouse, E. Screech-Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Tufted Titmouse, N. Mockingbird, and a number of other possibilities. In spite of the misses, observers are commended for putting together a seasonal list of some 150 species, up from 130 in both 1983 and 1984.


CORRIGENDUM: Gray-cheeked Thrush Moriah 22 Apr 1984 should be 22 May (GC). Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, N.Y. 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

There is no Region 8 report because we have no Editor for Region 8.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Basically this was a rather lackluster season in almost every way. There were no great weather changes with the exception of Hurricane Gloria and even that was a bust as far as winds and rain were concerned. Thankfully there was little damage reported, but with one or two exceptions no exotic birds were present either. Reservoir supplies were raised only slightly, and were it not for a few
good rains in November the long drought would still be with us. Mean temperatures for September and October were slightly above normal, but November was slightly below normal. September was a bit wetter than usual but October was quite dry, with less than half the rain that could be expected. November, on the other hand, approached twice its average precipitation. 16 Nov produced a trace of snow at higher elevations but there had been no real freeze in lower areas by the end of the period. Food supplies continue to be good, with excellent fruit, seed and acorn crops throughout the Region.

The only exotic to appear after Hurricane Gloria was a Northern Fulmar, but Piermont Pier had more Forster’s Terns than usual. The Fulmar was found “spread eagle” in the middle of busy Route 120 in the Village of Chappaqua by Sue Cassone on 30 Sep, three days after the passage of Gloria. The bird had an injured leg. It was taken to a rehabilitation center in Stony Point, where it was identified and photographed (EDT, NYSARC). On 16 Oct it was transferred to another rehabilitation center in Surf City, NJ, for further treatment and release. A check in early December found the bird in good condition but not yet released.

Canada and Snow Geese made a better than usual showing throughout the Region. Snow Geese were reported from all hawk watches after mid-October. The most unusual report was 175 blue morphs over Monroe on 7 Oct (JY). Huge movements of Canada Geese were reported after mid-September and wintering populations are exceptionally high. Black Scoter, always unusual here, made a good showing on local lakes and the Hudson River. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon were seen in better than usual numbers, perhaps an indication of a successful hacking season in the Northeast. At least seven Bald Eagles—one tagged and two untagged adults, two subadults, and two immatures—that summered at Rio-Mongaup Reservoir, Sullivan Co., remained there all season. Several singles were reported away from the hawk watches as well. Peregrine Falcon continues its slow increase, and several were seen away from hawk watches. One was observed regularly each evening by commuters driving over (and often nearly off) the Tappan Zee Bridge until the shortening days prevented their seeing it. Wild Turkeys are reported everywhere in the Region despite both spring and fall hunting seasons. One was killed crossing the Taconic Parkway in September. Northern Bobwhite continues to persist, but is reported only once or twice a year now. Warren Sod Farm on Pine Island was visited almost daily and had a good variety of shorebirds, although not the numbers of most years.

Resident owls were up in numbers, while flycatchers were down. Horned Larks arrived in good numbers and indications are for a large winter population. Swallows were scarce compared to most years, but kinglets and Brown creepers were up. Most regular species of warbler were well reported, especially in Dutchess Co. The only waves reported came 17-18 and 23 Sep and 2 Oct. Again this year Stony Kill Environmental Center in Dutchess Co. was a mecca for sparrows during October. Good numbers of Song, Savannah, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrow were reported, and even the elusive Lincoln’s Sparrow and Dickcissel were there. Most species of blackbird were down. The huge flocks usually reported were missed this year except in Dutchess Co., where Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles numbered in the low thousands. Pur-
ple Finch, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak all were moving past the hawk watches on the high ridges by early October, and even Common Redpolls were reported that month. It looks like we might be in for a good winter finch year for the first time in the last five or more years.

Birds of special interest for the period were: Northern Fulmar, Greater White-fronted Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Black Skimmer, Snowy Owl, Western Kingbird, Northern Shrike, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird.


Abbreviations: BSHW-Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, Mt. Kisco; HMHW-Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, Nyack; MPHW-Mount Peter Hawk Watch, Warwick; WSF-Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island; WBC-Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess Co.


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<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>9/10-11/15</td>
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[Table of bird counts and observations]

**Hook Mt, Nyack**
- **Turkey Vulture**: 9
- **Osprey**: 14
- **Bald Eagle**: 1
- **Northern Harrier**: 28
- **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 257
- **Cooper's Hawk**: 19
- **Northern Goshawk**: 1
- **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 19
- **Broad-winged Hawk**: 518
- **Red-tailed Hawk**: 29
- **Rough-legged Hawk**: None
- **Golden Eagle**: 1
- **American Kestrel**: 27
- **Merlin**: 7
- **Peregrine Falcon**: 2

**Butler Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco**
- **Turkey Vulture**: 210
- **Osprey**: 333
- **Bald Eagle**: 8
- **Northern Harrier**: 248
- **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: *3377*
- **Cooper's Hawk**: *140*
- **Northern Goshawk**: *27*
- **Red-shouldered Hawk**: *188*
- **Broad-winged Hawk**: 10091
- **Red-tailed Hawk**: 431
- **Rough-legged Hawk**: *3*
- **Golden Eagle**: 1
- **American Kestrel**: *620*
- **Merlin**: *32*
- **Peregrine Falcon**: *12*

* = new record


**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Rockland L to 23 Oct, unusual considering their rarity all summer. E. Screech-Owl: reported back in S. Nyack in Sep after years of absence. SNOWY OWL: one Bloomingburg, Sull, 8 Nov (E. Hultslander), only report. Barred Owl: one at the parking lot in Bashakill 7 Sep; two answered Screech Owl tapes this period, one in Warwick and the other in Dutc. Short-eared Owl: one 11 Nov at WSF was later found dead (no details); one MC 23 Oct. N. Saw-whet Owl: one N. Saugerties 26 Oct, two on 20 Nov (AB). Whip-poor-will: at least two near Earl Res, Highland Mills, from 14 May thru mid-Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 75 passed BSHW.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: none! E. Wood-Pewee: ad feeding young in Dutc as late as 17 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three Dutc first week of WINTER, 1986


Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

**REGION 10 – MARINE**

**JOSEPH A. DICOSTANZO**

It was a mild, dry fall until November when the weather cooled off and became wetter. In September the temperature was at or above normal on 22 days. Three days of 90+° F from the 4th to the 6th were some of the hottest days of the year. The month’s average of 70.5° was 2.2° above normal. Most of September was dry until Hurricane Gloria brought 3.13 inches of rain on the 27th on its pass through the Region. This put the total for the month at 4.75 in., 1.09 in. above
normal. October continued the pattern with temperatures at or above normal on 20 days. This produced an average of 59.5° for the month, 1.8° above normal. October’s meager rainfall of 1.30 in. was 2.11 in. below normal. In November temperatures mostly hovered around normal with an average of 47.2°, 0.2° below normal. The rains finally returned to the Region with a total of 7.95 in. in November, 3.81 in. above normal. (All weather data from New York City.)

The birding event of the season was without a doubt Hurricane Gloria. Called one of the major storms of the century by meteorologists, Gloria roared up the Atlantic coast on 27 Sep. Winds up to 130 mph were measured when Gloria dealt Cape Hatteras a glancing blow on the 26th. By the time it hit Long Island at noon at the west end of Fire Island, its winds had diminished to about 90 mph with gusts to 100 mph. Because Gloria arrived at low tide, damage along the beaches was small but the high winds knocked down thousands of trees throughout the Region. Eastern Long Island was hardest hit. Damage might have been even greater except for the fact that Gloria crossed Long Island very rapidly at a speed of 40 mph. Birding in the afternoon of the 27th after Gloria passed and on the days that followed was often frustrating because of the crazy quilt pattern of road and bridge openings and closings due to downed trees, power lines and the sometimes unfathomable whims of the authorities.

The birds brought by Gloria to the Region were a varied lot. There were scattered reports of Wilson’s Storm-Petrels and one Leach’s. A frigatebird was photographed over South Beach, Staten Island, by Dorene Morese and Phil Kearney as the eye of the storm hit Fire Island. While almost certainly a Magnificent Frigatebird, at the time of this writing the photos have apparently not yet been examined critically. Immediately after the storm on the 27th, birders found an Am. Avocet, small groups of Whimbrels and two Marbled Godwits at the West End of Jones Beach. The following day Arthur Morris counted sixty Western Sandpipers at Mecox Bay. One Red-necked Phalarope was at Point Lookout on the 27th and Bob Laskowski found a dead Red Phalarope at Timber Point the same day.

Gloria brought quite a variety of terns to Long Island. At least three Gull-billed Terns were at Mecox Bay on the 28th. Caspian and Royal Terns were widespread after the storm, with some lingering in the Region for weeks. Arthur Morris and I counted 12 Caspians at Mecox on the 28th and Ken and Sue Feustel found ten at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The last lingerers reported were two at Shinnecock 27 Oct. There were an estimated 20 Royals at Mecox on the 28th and 40 at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The latest report was of one at the West End, Jones Beach, on 5 Nov. Small numbers of Sandwich Terns also were widespread. Paul Buckley estimated at least 20 between Democrat Point and Montauk on the 28th. Paul found a “portlandica” ARCTIC TERN at Democrat Point on 28 Sep. The storm also brought good numbers of Forster’s Terns to Long Island. There were 120+ at Mecox on the 28th and 70 at Fire Island inlet on the 29th. The only tropical terns reported were an immature BRIDLED TERN at Mecox and two SOOTY TERNs at Montauk found by Tony Lauro on the afternoon of the 27th. Rounding out the Larids were 200+ Black Skimmers at Mecox on the 28th.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the bird fallout from Gloria was the
large number of land birds that the hurricane brought, particularly to Jones Beach. Birders arriving at the West End as soon as the causeways were opened in the midafternoon found the ground carpeted with thousands of passerines. Overhead, hundreds of Chimney Swifts were flying west into the wind. We watched warblers attempting to cross the bay and dropping into the water, apparently no longer able to fight the wind, only to be picked up by Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls taking advantage of an easy meal. The predominant species was Cape May Warbler. Al Wollin estimated 3000 or more Cape Mays on the West End, a number that seems very credible from my own observations. Al also estimated 150 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 1000-2000 Am. Redstarts and 2000-3000 Boblinks. A very surprising aspect of the warblers was that the majority of them appeared to be adults. Ornithologists believe that the adults of many warbler species migrate south over the Atlantic Ocean while the young birds move along the coast. Perhaps these birds were caught over the ocean by Gloria and carried back northward to Long Island. Other hurricane records in the rest of the report are marked simply – Gloria.

Arthur Morris continued his shorebird survey at JBWR. Continuing the trend established in August, most species were found in below average numbers. He also found that many species departed early. An exception was Semipalmated Sandpiper; peak numbers were up 20%. Another exception was Am. Oystercatcher, which lingered late in unprecedented numbers. For much of September, Arthur found about 20 species on any given day, but on 30 Sep he recorded 27 species. On that day several birders were treated to the sight of Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped and Baird’s Sandpipers all in one binocular field. Diversity declined to about 15 species per day in October and to less than ten in November.

Reports were received from two coastal hawk watches. Arthur and Hannah Richard summarized the eighth year of the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station. The station was operated for 34 days from 17 Sep to 24 Oct, three days longer than last year. They banded only 89 hawks, well below their seven year average of 247. The difference was due solely to the small numbers of Am. Kestrels banded, only 34, well below their average 198. Other species, 41 Sharp-shins, one Cooper’s, one N. Harrier, one Peregrine and 11 Merlins were about normal. The Richard’s total of 811 hawks seen was their all time low, once again caused by record low numbers of Am. Kestrels. Other species were seen in average numbers. Drew Pankol’s report on the fourth year of the Fire Island Hawk Watch provided some interesting contrasts. This year the watch was kept on 36 days from 11 Sep to 27 Oct, seven days more than last year and over a longer period. This is somewhat longer than in 1983, their longest previous coverage. Their total of 4377 hawks was the highest yet. They counted 1615 Am. Kestrels, up from a high of 1204 in 1982. Other species numbers included (previous high and year in parentheses): Sharp-shinned-1282 (676–’84); N. Harrier-239 (151–’84); Osprey-167 (108–’84); Merlin-1027 (497–’83). A total of 40 Peregrines was down from last year’s high of 53.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Leach’s Storm-Petrel, frigatebird, Sandhill Crane, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Burrowing Owl, Say’s Phoebe, Western Tanager, Yellow-headed Blackbird.
Abbreviations: JBch-Jones Beach; WEJB-West End, Jones Beach; NYC-New York City; LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; CRSP-Connetquot River State Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park.


PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: BURROWING OWL: Shinnecock from approx. 17 Oct-23 Oct, seen by birder on 21 Oct and reported by duck hunter to have been present for five or six days (S. Elliott). N. Saw-whet Owl: JBch 17 Oct (AW); JBWR 24 Nov, only reports.


TANAGERS-WEAVERS: W. TANAGER: WEJB 9 Oct (R. Villani), no details received
but observer is familiar with species. Blue Grosbeak: total of five reported 2 Sep-20 Oct. Dickcissel: JBch 8 Sep; Jones 28 Sep, only two reports. Vesper Sparrow: JBch 28 Sep (AW), only report. Lark Sparrow: three JBch 28 Sep (AW) ties state record max, but not Gloria related as two there 26 Sep (QCBC). White-crowned Sparrow: many reports mid-Oct, above average. Lapland Longspur: very few reports, two Southampton 9 Nov; two JBch 13 Nov; one Bay P 20 Nov. Snow Bunting: max 60 Great Kills, SI 3 Nov (T. Preston), other small flocks. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Seatuck 12 Sep (Seatuck staff). White-winged Crossbill: Great Kills P, SI 23 Nov (AM), only report. Com. Redpoll: scattered reports of small numbers, three JBch 17 Nov; six Caumsett SP 24 Nov. Pine Siskin: max 40 JBch 26 Oct (AM); other scattered reports. Evening Grosbeak: max 40 JBch 26 Oct (AM); other scattered reports.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.,
Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

(Editor's Note: This report of Summer, 1985 arrived too late to be included in the preceding issue of The Kingbird.)

Overall, it was a cool summer with average rainfall in the Region. Temperatures were normal or below on 21 days in June putting the month's average at 68.6° F, 2.8° below normal. June's total rainfall of 4.41 inches was 1.18 above normal. The weather moderated a little in July but the pattern remained the same. Normal or below temperatures on 18 days kept the month's average at 76.2°, 0.5° below normal. July's total rainfall of 4.41 in. was 0.64 above normal. Temperatures in August remained at or below normal on 18 days. However, 90° + readings on the 14th and 15th helped raise the month's average to 75.4°, exactly normal. August was drier than the previous two months with 2.58 in. of rain, 1.45 below normal. (All weather data are from New York City.)

The summer reporting period really covers three seasons: late-spring migration, breeding season and early-fall migration. June sees the end of the spring migration with flycatchers often at their peak numbers in early to mid-June. Late migrant warblers continue to pass through as evidenced by Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers at Great Gull Island 8 June. A Kentucky Warbler found by Tony Lauro at Hecksher the same day is harder to characterize because it could be breeding here at the northern limits of its range. Early July saw the beginning of the fall shorebird migration, particularly at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Shorebird numbers swelled there through August producing New York State's first record of Rufous-necked Stint. Cool fronts on 21 and 31 Aug brought the first significant numbers of fall migrant passerines to the Region.

Among Long Island breeders the Osprey continues its comeback. Mike Scheibel
reports 170 young in 129 active nests, with the most western nest now at Mill Neck. Marilyn England found 13 female N. Harriers on nests between Tobay and Captree. Peregrine Falcons again nested on the Throgs Neck Bridge in New York City. Jon Greenlaw reports that Black Rails continue at their Oak Beach Marsh breeding outpost. Am. Oystercatchers are thriving. Brooke Lauro found 65 pairs between the Meadowbrook and Robert Moses Causeways. Eric Salzman reports that Cerulean Warblers are maintaining their recently established toehold on LI at Sag Harbor. A pair of Hooded Warblers with two young found at Shu Swamp in June by Barbara Spencer was the second nesting record for Long Island.

Don Riepe reported on the breeding of several species at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Mute Swans bred for the second time; the first record was last year. The Laughing Gull colony established there in 1979 has increased to an estimated 2400 pairs. The refuge's nest box program for Com. Barn-Owls was once again a success with 26 young banded this summer. Boat-tailed Grackle was added to the New York State list of breeding birds in 1981. A female seen carrying food at the refuge on 15 Jul provided evidence that the species continues to breed there.

John Zarudsky reported on the breeding of a number of colonial waterbirds in the Town of Hempstead. Among waders he reported the following counts of nesting individuals: five Tricolored, 18 Little Blue and 23 Green-backed Herons, 266 Black-crowned and 23 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 174 Snowy, 96 Great and 10 Cattle Egrets and 343 Glossy Ibis. He estimated a total of 34 pairs of nesting Am. Oystercatchers. Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns were seen frequenting the marshes and were thought to be breeding but no nests were found. An estimated 945 pairs of Com. Terns were nesting in the same marshes. Ten to twenty pairs of Least Terns, recently declared an endangered species, were found nesting at Silver Point on Atlantic Beach and another 52 pairs were at Cedar Creek Park.

Arthur Morris conducted the fifth year of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge shorebird survey, started by Tom Davis in 1981. He found that numbers of birds were late in arriving this fall and total numbers of birds were well down from the averages of the previous three years. Red Knots numbers were down and Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderlings, Least Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were all "way down." One species that ran counter to this trend was northbound White-rumped Sandpipers in early June, with 21 on 1 Jun. A count of 2291 Semipalmated Sandpipers 3 Aug was a new maximum for the species. Numbers of all species combined peaked in mid to late Aug, with 25 species recorded 18 Aug and 4053 birds on 22 Aug.

On 31 Aug Arthur Morris found a molting eclipse-plumaged male Eurasian Wigeon at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This species now is being seen there regularly throughout the year, sometimes in pairs. Is breeding a far-fetched possibility? After all, the Region's first breeding record of Am. Wigeon came from there in 1961. With a little luck Region 10 could add a new species to North America's list of breeding birds within the next couple of years.

Rarities: Magnificent Frigatebird, White Ibis, Bar-tailed Godwit, Rufous-necked Stint, California Gull.
Abbreviations: WEJB-West End, Jones Beach; NYC-New York City; GGI-Great Gull Island; LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; CRSP-Connetquot River State Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park.


LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two evidently summered at Moriches Bay (JR). Wilson's Storm-Petrel: higher than normal numbers in eastern LI Sound in Jun (M Male). Double-crested Cormorant: recently established colonies continue at South Brother I, NYC, and at Gardiner's and Fisher's I (fide RP). MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: female flying east over GGI 3 Jun (JD, E Carrington). Least Bittern: birds seen regularly at JBWR during Aug were the only reports. WHITE IBIS: im Cold Spring Harbor 13 Aug (R Laskowski), very rare. Hooded Merganser: fledgling JBWR 10 Jul (DR), the species is not known to breed in the Region.


FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: a few scattered reports til mid-Jun. Willow Flycatcher: GGI 9 Jun (JD, R Young), first record for locality. Red-breasted Nuthatch: GGI 26 Jun-4 Jul (T Male), normally very uncommon at this time; good numbers throughout Region in late Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Golden-winged Warbler: Prospect P 13 Aug (NYRBA), very rare on LI in the fall. Prairie Warbler: reported "down on LI" (PB). Worm-eating Warbler: Buck's Hollow, SI 22 Jun (AM), unusual there at that date.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Lark Sparrow: arr JBWR 28 Aug (S Deifik, I Pulver). Grasshopper Sparrow: one report Mitchell Field 9 Jun (SD), has declined sharply in Region in recent years.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H., Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024
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For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

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Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7
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