

FIELD NOTES
JULY 1, 1962 – JUNE 30, 1963
Compiled by James K. Meritt

A cool and dry summer was followed by a generally cool and dry autumn. Our only tropical storm of the season, Hurricane Daisy, passed northward well off the coast in early October and had no ornithological effects. The fall migration of landbirds along the New Jersey coast seemed to be one of the best in recent years. Fortunately several of the major flights occurred on weekends when a larger number of observers could be afield. An unusually large number of western rarities were reported, a fact attributable principally to Operation Recovery banding activities at Island Beach and Cape May Point. Details on several of these records are presented in the general notes section of this issue.

The winter season was marked by little snow and prolonged periods of cold weather. In the Philadelphia area the average temperatures for the months of December, January, and February equalled the lows set in 1903-4 and 1917-18. It was a poor winter for feeding stations. The severe weather undoubtedly drove a number of expected stragglers south, and the lack of snow also had a negative effect. Then, too, it appears for a while as though northern finches would be almost completely absent, but late in the winter a few Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins put in a belated appearance. Perhaps the two outstanding feeding station birds were a Painted Bunting and a Green-tailed Towhee. Both were in New Jersey, and both were apparently third state records.

Large numbers of Woodcocks were observed on the various local Christmas Counts. A number of observers commented on a scarcity of white-winged gulls

at the shore, but for at least the second winter in a row a number of these birds was seen along the Delaware River above Trenton. Another major note of the season was the wintering flock of Common Eiders at Holgate.

The spring migration of shorebirds was excellent throughout the area, certainly one of the major positive features of the migration as a whole. The landbird migration was a bit late, with the major flights occurring on May 10-12, May 19, and May 31. There was still a notable northward movement in early June. The spring season was again marked by a record local concentration of Cattle Egrets, this time in northern Delaware. However, reports of individual birds away from main areas of concentration appeared to be no greater than in 1962.

A summary of some of the principal area records of interest is presented below. July through December dates pertain to 1962, while January through June dates pertain to 1963.

RED-THROATED LOON, *Gavia stellata*. Cape May Point, N.J., March 17 (700), April 15 (2000) (Brady).

RED-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps grisegena*. Penn Manor, Pa., November 4 (1) (Reynolds, Sehl, Sterner); Barnegat Light, N.J., December 3 (10) (Lester); Holgate, N.J., January 26 (2) (Askins); Washington's Crossing, Pa. March 2-3 (3) (Brady, Carrick); Brigantine Island, N.J., March 9 (2) (Askins); Trenton, N.J., April 7 (2) (Bloor).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, *Puffinus lherminieri*. Barnegat Light, N.J., September 15 (1) (Russell).

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*. Princeton, N.J., July 15 (1) (Olson); Woodstown, N.J., July 28 (86) (Hitchner); Glasgow, Del., August 6 (52) (Schwalbe); Salem County, N.J., mid-August (380) (fide W. R. Middleton); St. George's, Del., October 13 (150) (Brooks); Delaware City, Del., March 24 (1) (Lesser); St. George's, Del., May 11 (500) (Prest); Lawrenceville, N.J., May 13 (24) (Johnson).

WHITE IBIS, *Eudocimus albus*. Little Creek, Del., August 9-17 (1, first state record) (Lesser, Springer); Cape May, N.J., September 21 (1) (Livingston).

WHISTLING SWAN, *Cygnus columbianus*. Woodland Beach, Del., October 27 (6) (Lesser); Hawk Mt., Pa., November 11 (25) (Drinkwater); Penn Manor, Pa., November 22 (11) (Bloor); Little Creek, Del., March 10 (2) (D.V.O.C. field trip); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., March 17 (11) (Meritt); Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., March 19 (5) (E. Poole).

BRANT, *Branta bernicla*. Brigantine Refuge, N.J., October 20-26 (max. 75,000) (Hardy).

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens*. Little Creek, Del., November 17 (7) (Lesser).

COMMON TEAL, *Anas crecca*. Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., November 11 (1) (Keller), November 25 (2-4) (fide Askins), March 9 (1) (Spitalny); Little Creek, Del., March 10 (1) (Scheider), March 31 (1) (Russell).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON, *Mareca penelope*. Bombay Hook Refuge, Del., October 28-November 6 (1) (Askins, Hitchner, Kline, Spitalny); Cape May, N.J., November 18 (1) (Kunkle), December 1 (1) (Sawyer); Allentown, Pa., March 9 (1) (Heintzelman); Little Creek, Del., March 9 (1) (Scheider); Penn Manor, Pa., March 24 (1) (Reynolds).

REDHEAD, *Aythya americana*. Penn Manor, Pa., October 28 (6) (Sehl); Trenton, N.J., November 17-22 (1) (Bloor); Manahawkin, N.J., February 9 (1) (Bloor, Meritt, Russell); New Hope, Pa., February 23 (5) (Bloor, Meritt); Bombay Hook Refuge, Del., February 23 (2) (Brooks); Penn Manor, Pa.,

March 3 (12) (Reynolds, Stern, Sterner); Allentown, Pa., March 10 (8) (Heintzelman); Little Creek, Del., March 24–May 23 (1) (many observers).
HARLEQUIN DUCK, *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Barnegat Light, N.J., January 5–March 16 (max. 3 on latter date) (several observers); Ocean City, Md., December 28 (1) (Schwalbe).
COMMON EIDER, *Somateria mollissima*. Barnegat Light, N.J., December 2 (3) (Bodine); Holgate, N.J., December 24 (5), May 7 (1 subadult male) (Sawyer) (seen throughout winter by many observers – max. 15); Ocean City, Md., February 3 (1) (Long, Russell, Sawyer); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., March 31 (1) (Leeds).
KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis*. Barnegat Light, N.J., November 17 (1) (Askins, Spitalny), November 23 (1 male) (Hall); Holgate, N.J., January 19 (1) (Russell, Sawyer).
GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentilis*. Morris Arboretum, Phila., Pa., October 8 (1) (Russell); Hawk Mt., Pa., October 13 (1) (Spitalny), November 6 (3) (Meritt); Bake Oven Knob, Pa., November 23 (3) (Heintzelman).
BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Buteo platypterus*. Ocean City, Md., February 3 (1) (Russell).
GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos*. Cape May, N.J., October 6 (1) (Russell); Hawk Mt., Pa., October 14 (1) (Spitalny), October 17 (2) (Stern); November 6 (3) (Meritt); Titusville, N.J., November 17-19 (1) (Bloor, Rogers); Bombay Hook Refuge, Del., January 14 (1) (Hardy).
KING RAIL, *Rallus elegans*. Princeton, N.J., December 15 (2) (Bloor).
VIRGINIA RAIL, *Rallus limicola*. Princeton, N.J., December 15 (3), December 29 (10) (Bloor); Barnegat Light, N.J., January 1 (1) (Carrick).
SORA, *Porzana carolina*. Princeton, N.J., December 15 (1) (Bloor).
YELLOW RAIL, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., March 27 (1) (Russell).
PURPLE GALLINULE, *Porphyryla martinica*. Atlantic City, N.J., April 27 (1 picked up injured and taken to Brigantine Refuge) (fide Welch).
WILSON'S PLOVER, *Charadrius wilsonia*. Holgate, N.J., June 1, 13 (1) (Sawyer).
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica*. Little Creek, Del., September 15 (2), September 20 (12) (Lesser); Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., September 30 (1) (Russell); Stone Harbor, N.J., October 17 (3) (Way); Green Lane Reservoir, Pa., October 21 (4) (P. Street); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., October 30–November 10 (1) (Hardy); Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., April 20 (1) (D'Aoun); Bombay Hook Refuge, Del., April 27 (1) (Price); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., May 10 (1) (Meritt, Russell).
KNOT, *Calidris canutus*. Barnegat Light, N.J., February 9-10 (1) (Bloor, Meritt, W. Middleton, Russell).
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, *Erolia fuscicollis*. Little Creek, Del., October 5 (40), June 12 (34) (Lesser).
CURLEW SANDPIPER, *Erolia ferruginea*. Brigantine Refuge, N.J., May 14-22 (max. 3) (many observers).
STILT SANDPIPER, *Micropalama himantopus*. Little Creek, Del., May 10 (1) (D. Cutler).
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, *Tryngites subruficollis*. Corson's Inlet, N.J., August 19 (1) (Kemnitzer); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., August 22 (2) (Chamberlain, Hardy).

MARbled GODWIT, *Limosa fedoa*. Little Creek, Del., October 5 (1) (Lesser); Tincum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., November 4 (1) (Carrick).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, *Limosa haemastica*. Holgate, N.J., July 1 (2) (Rosche), July 15 (1) (D.V.O.C. field trip); Brigantine Refuge, N.J.; September 23 (1) (Russell), October 9 (1) (Sexauer); Little Creek, Del., September 28 (10), October 4 (1) (Lesser); Bombay Hook Refuge, Del., October 21 (3) (W. Street).

RUFF, *Philomachus pugnax*. Brigantine Refuge, N.J., July 7 (1) (Rosche); Little Creek, Del., August 4-27 (Lesser, Sawyer); Tincum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., September 6 (1) (Spitalny), May 4-5 (2 separate birds) (Askins); Little Creek, Del., May 11 (1) (Lesser); Bombay Hook Refuge, Del., May 11-12 (1) (many observers).

AMERICAN AVOCET, *Recurvirostra americana*. Little Creek, Del., July 3–August 14 (1) (Lesser); Taylor's Bridge, Del., September 10-13 (8) (Lesser); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., September 29 (5) (Russell), October 9 (5) (Sexauer), November 15 (11) (Hardy); Woodland Beach, Del., November 12 (6) (Florio).

BLACK-NECKED STILT, *Himantopus mexicanus*. Little Creek, Del., July 31 (last 1962 date) (1) (Lesser), April 26 (1) (Choate, Kronschnabel, Sehl).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE, *Steganopus tricolor*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., July 29 (1) (E. Poole); Little Creek, Del., August 19-21 (max. 3) (Lesser), September 12 (8) (Dyke, Lesser); Canton, N.J., August 26 (2) (Kunkle); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., September 17 (1) (Hardy); Tuckerton, N.J., October 6 (1) (Grosscup); Little Creek, Del., May 12 (1) (D. Cutler); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., May 25 (1) (Welch).

NORTHERN PHALAROPE, *Lobipes lobatus*. Eastwick, Phila., Pa., July 19 (1) (Meritt); Thorofare, N.J., August 18 (1) (Sexauer); Little Creek, Del., September 12 (2) (Dyke, Lesser); Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., September 25 (1) (E. Poole); Island Beach, N.J., September 29 (1) (J. Miller); Ocean City, Md., May 12 (1) (several observers); Newark, Del., June 1-4 (1) (Brooks).

GLAUCOUS GULL, *Larus hyperboreus*. Yardley, Pa., February 17-23 (max. 3) (Abraitys, Brady, Frohling); Ocean City, Md., May 12 (1) (D. Cutler, Russell).

ICELAND GULL, *Larus leucopterus*. Ocean City, Md., December 31 (1) (Hitchner, Spitalny); Yardley, Pa., January 6–February 23 (max. 12) (many observers); Tincum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., March 9 (1) (Spitalny).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus ridibundus*. Barnegat Light, N.J., January 19 (1) (Russell, Sawyer); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., May 11 (1) (Abraitys).

BONAPARTE'S GULL, *Larus philadelphia*. Moore Beach, N.J., July 1 (1) (Kunkle); Brigantine Refuge, July 2 (1) (Choate); Little Creek, Del., July 10–August 4 (1) (Lesser); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., May 25 (1) (Elliott).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla*. Cape May, N.J., December 30 (12) (Xmas Count); Island Beach, N.J., January 26 (1) (Askins); Barnegat Light, N.J., February 3 (1) (Drinkwater).

FORSTER'S TERN, *Sterna forsteri*. Barnegat Light, N.J., November 11 (54) (Harty).

ROSEATE TERN, *Sterna dougallii*. Ten miles off Cape May, N.J., June 9 (2) (D.V.O.C. field trip).

ROYAL TERN, *Thalasseus maximus*. Island Beach, N.J., October 21 (200) (Abraitys, Frohling); Barnegat Light, N.J., November 24 (3) (Harty, Reynard).

CASPIAN TERN, *Hydroprogne caspia*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., May 9 (4) (E. Poole).

BLACK GUILLEMOT, *Cepphus grylle*. Brigantine Refuge, N.J., September 16 (1) (Leeds); Stone Harbor, N.J., December 19 (1) (Kunkle), January 6 (1) (Mebus).

SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea scandiaca*. Loveladies, N.J., December 8 (1) (Devlin); Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., December 23 (1) (D. Cutler).

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus*. Cape May, N.J., October 13-14 (3) (C.M.P.O.R.); Mullica Hill, N.J., December 1 (2) (Batezel); Princeton, N.J., January 12 (1) (Bloor); Bridgeport, N.J., January 13 (1) (Hitchner); Thorofare, N.J., January 20 (8) (D.V.O.C. field trip); Moorestown, N.J., wintering (6) (Reynard).

SAW-WHET OWL, *Aegolius acadica*. Cape May, N.J., October 14 (1) (C.M.P.O.R.); Island Beach, N.J., October 13–November 3 (8) (I.B.O.R.); Devon, Pa., October 27 (1) (Crawford); Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., December 1 (1) (Askins); Bridgeport, N.J., January 15 (7) (Manners).

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, *Picoides arcticus*. Fairton, N.J., October 9-11 (1) (Myatt); Media, Pa., December 15-26 (1) (Pyatt); Trexler-town, Pa., wintering (1) (Heintzelman).

WESTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus verticalis*. Tuckerton, N.J., October 6 (3) (Grosscup); Cape May, N.J., September 29 (2) (Russell), October 6 (1) (Russell), October 14 (5) (D.V.O.C. field trip), November 3 (6) (Livingston), November 11 (4) (Brady); Island Beach, N.J., October 16, 25, 27 (1 each day) (I.B.O.R.); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., December 1 (1) (Tingue).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, *Nuttallornis borealis*. Bake Oven Knob, Pa., September 15 (1) (Heintzelman); Island Beach, N.J., September 16, 20 (1 each day) (I.B.O.R.); Cape May, N.J., September 30 (1) (Russell); Reading, Pa., May 10 (1) (E. Poole); Rancocas Woods, N.J., May 12 (1) (Harty); Bowman's Hill, Pa., May 16-17 (1) (Grosscup).

BOREAL CHICKADEE, *Parus hudsonicus*. Christmans, Pa., November 17 (3) (Russell); Princeton, N.J., December 2–January 19 (1 at neighboring feeders) (Fox, Smythe).

BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes bewickii*. Cape May, N.J., October 13 (1 banded and photographed) (Benedict).

CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Chestnut Hill, Pa., March 17 (actively building nest), April 12 (incubating at least 5 eggs) (Bond).

NORTHERN SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor*. Heislerville, N.J., December 9–January 20 (1) (Kunkle).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, *Vireo flavifrons*. Norristown, Pa., November 19 (1) (R. J. Middleton).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*. Philadelphia, Pa., March 30 (1) (Russell).

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER, *Vermivora lawrencei*. Washington's Crossing, Pa., September 9 (1 banded) (Fluck).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, *Vermivora celata*. Island Beach, N.J., September 30–October 14 (6) (I.B.O.R.); Barnegat Light, N.J., January 19 (1) (Russell, Sawyer); Wilmington, Del. (1 at feeder for much of winter) (Brooks).

NASHVILLE WARBLER, *Vermivora ruficapilla*. Princeton, N.J., December 15 (1) (Rogers).

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, *Vermivora virginiae*. Island Beach, N.J., October 6 (1 banded and photographed) (Richardson).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, *Dendroica nigrescens*. Island Beach, N.J., September 29 (1 banded) (J. Miller).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, *Dendroica virens*. Manahawkin, N.J., June 12 (5 singing males) (Abraitys).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, *Dendroica dominica*. Princeton, N.J., September 16 (1) (Parker); Carpenter's Woods, Pa., May 5 (1) (Askins).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*. Germantown, Pa., October 31 (1) (J. Cadbury); Island Beach, N.J., November 2 (Mears); Norristown, Pa., June 8 (1) (R. J. Middleton).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, *Icteria virens*. Island Beach, N.J., November 2 (1) (Dickerson); Goshen, N.J., November 12 (1) (Potter); Germantown, Pa., December 16 (1 dead) (J. Cadbury).

WILSON'S WARBLER, *Wilsonia pusilla*. Philadelphia, Pa., May 31 (1) (Harty); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., May 31 (1) (Wing).

CANADA WARBLER, *Wilsonia canadensis*. Manahawkin, N.J., June 12 (2 singing males) (Abraitys).

BOBOLINK, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., September 6 (10,000) (Russell).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Hawk Mt., Pa., November 6 (1, first Sanctuary record) (Meritt).

SUMMER TANAGER, *Piranga rubra*. Island Beach, N.J., September 29 (1) (I.B.O.R.); Washington's Crossing, Pa., May 12 (1 banded) (Fluck); Toms River, N.J., May 19 (1) (Newbury).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*. Island Beach, N.J., November 2 (1 banded) (Mears).

BLUE GROSBEAK, *Guiraca caerulea*. Cape May, N.J., September 30 (3) (Russell); New Hope, Pa., May 10 (1) (Gantz); Churchville Reservoir, Pa., May 18 (2) (Carrick).

PAINTED BUNTING, *Passerina ciris*. Haddonfield, N.J., January 11-15 (1 at feeder, photographed) (Gibson).

DICKCISSEL, *Spiza americana*. Ocean City, N.J., September 16 (1) (Grosscup); New Hope, Pa., September 25 (1) (Hartman); Cape May, N.J., September 29 (4) (Russell), October 6 (1) (Brady); Island Beach, N.J., October 6 (5) (I.B.O.R.); Media, Pa., November 24-25 (1) (Schwalbe); Churchville, Pa., December 27-31 (1) (Thomas).

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea*. Washington's Crossing, Pa., March 2 (2) (Carrick).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, *Loxia leucoptera*. Washington's Crossing, Pa., March 17 (2) (Carrick).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Chlorura chlorura*. Whitesville, N.J., November 25—April 13 (1 at feeder, third state record; seen by many observers and photographed).

LARK BUNTING, *Calamospiza melanocorys*. Island Beach, N.J., September 7 (1) (I.B.O.R.).

LARK SPARROW, *Chondestes grammacus*. Island Beach, N.J., September 8 (1) (I.B.O.R.); Brigantine Refuge, N.J., September 22 (2) (Hurlock, E. P. Street); Cape May, N.J., September 30 (1), October 7 (2) (Russell); Lewes, Del., February 9 (1) (Ferguson).

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, *Junco hyemalis*. Island Beach, N.J., September 1 (1) (I.B.O.R.).

OREGON JUNCO, *Junco oreganus*. Woodland Beach, Del., December 23 (1, first state record) (D. Cutler, Rice); Wilmington, Del., December 28 (1) (Conway); Paoli, Pa., December 28 (1) (Crawford).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, *Spizella pallida*. Island Beach, N.J., September 29 (4) (D. Cutler), October 13 (1) (Mears); Cape May Court House, N.J., September 29 (1 singing) (Russell); Cape May, N.J., September 30 (1) (Russell), October 7 (2) (Brady), October 21 (1) (Askins, Hitchner, Spitalny); Tuckerton, N.J., October 13 (1) (D.V.O.C. field trip).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia coronata*. Cape May, N.J., October 7 (1) (J. Cadbury, Leeds).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW, *Melospiza lincolni*. Cape May, N.J., September 16 (5), September 30 (6), October 7 (4) (Russell); Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., September 24-25 (E. Poole).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR, *Calcarius lapponicus*. Barnegat Light, N.J., November 23 (3) (Spitalny); Blawenburg, N.J., December 22 (1) (Frohling); Fleetwood, Pa., December 23 (3) (E. Poole), Glenolden, Pa., December 29 (1) (D. Cutler); Princeton, N.J., February 3 (1) (Bloor, Meritt); Flemington, N.J., February 26 (7) (Abraitys).