

# Rare bird sighted in the Meadows

A Black-Necked Stilt, a bird rarely seen in the Meadowlands, was spotted at Harrier Meadow in North Arlington on Tuesday morning, June 9. Local bird watchers have caught several more glimpses of the bird since then on bird-watching walks arranged by the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC).

The bird likely came up north from Florida, according to NJMC Natural Resources Field Specialist Michael Newhouse. They are occasionally seen in places such as Brigantine, Cape May and Jamaica Bay, but there are only a handful of recorded sightings in the Meadowlands.

"This is a rare bird for this area and it is a treat to see it in the Meadowlands," said Newhouse. "Hopefully it will stay around for a while so people get a chance to see it, but then it moves on and returns to its normal range." Newhouse said stilts are "colonial nesters," meaning they tend to breed with several others nearby, so it is likely the bird is on its own heading south to its normal breeding range.

Harrier Meadow is located in North Arlington off of Schuyler Avenue and Disposal Road. NJMC officials recommend any bird-watchers bring bug spray.

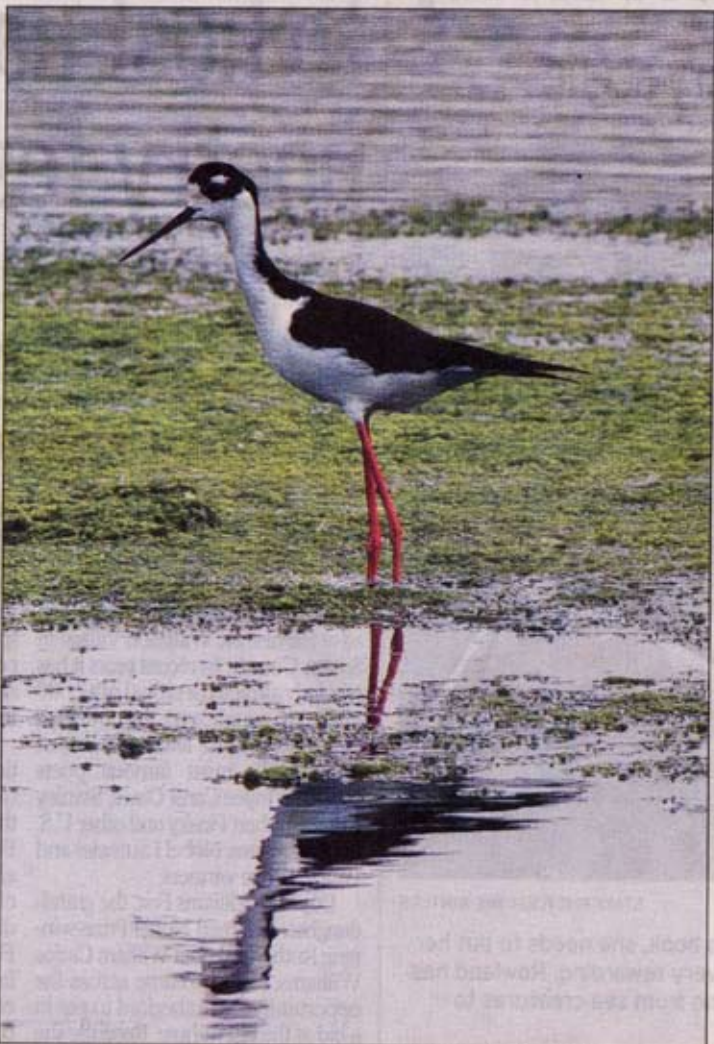


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Black-Necked Stilt