

BIRD NOTES FROM ESSEX COUNTY

By GEOFFREY CARLETON

Essex County, New York, contains the high mountains of the Adirondacks, including Mt. Marcy and most of the peaks above 4,000 feet. The area is mainly in the Canadian Zone, with a belt of Transition Zone along the west side of Lake Champlain. In the Canadian Zone coniferous forest predominates, and many warblers, seen at lower elevations and farther south in the State as migrants, are here nesting species. Certain other essentially boreal birds regularly breed in New York in this county and the adjacent areas.

Although useful data is contained in A. A. Saunders' *Summer Birds of the Northern Adirondack Mts.* (Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., v. 5, No. 3, Syracuse Univ. 1929), the most recent comprehensive account of the bird life of Essex County must still be sought in Eaton's *Birds of New York* (1910-1914). For an area of such special interest an up-to-date county list would seem to be long overdue. Meanwhile the appended records are submitted, as they involve species not listed from the county by Eaton or help to clarify the status of other species.

The Adirondack Mountains appear to lack the great "waves" of transients that characterize migration around New York City and many other parts of the State. Flocks of perching birds, especially warblers, are composed mostly of summer resident species, so one can rarely determine the dates when the more northern-breeding individuals depart in the spring or arrive in the fall. Some of the breeding species appear surprisingly early, often before the leaves are fully out. A good spring coverage requires visits to many breeding sites located during previous summers. Many interesting Essex County records are obtained fortuitously, such as by discovery of birds along a roadside from a car; fewer by working concentration areas.

I have no records of perching birds occurring here as casual transients that have overshot more southerly breeding ranges. Such rarities as do appear are generally breeders or possible breeders: Rough-winged Swallow, Louisiana Water-thrush, Towhee, Cardinal (?), and, formerly, Orchard Oriole. Certain open country birds barely reach the county: Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, and Loggerhead Shrike (formerly bred). I do not know of any Essex County record of the Connecticut Warbler.

The following records are based on sight observations of the author unless otherwise credited. An asterisk indicates a species not reported from Essex County by Eaton. The English names are those adopted by *Audubon Field Notes* for the species in an inclusive sense.

**Red-necked Grebe.* Essex, May 6, 1935.

**American Egret.* 3, Bulwagga Bay, Aug. 9, 1947; several reports by residents along Lake Champlain in August in recent years.

**Least Bittern.* Apparently breeds at Ticonderoga. Latest Aug. 29, 1935.

**Green-winged Teal.* Ticonderoga, Aug. 20, 1946.

**Ring-necked Duck.* Lewis, Oct. 25, 1937; 80, Lewis, Oct. 22, 1946.

**Ruddy Duck.* Female, Elizabethtown, Aug. 6, 1938.

**Turkey Vulture*. High Lands, Sept. 26, 1932 (R. Thew and H. Finney). The bird was reported swooping at a live calf, and when collected had some hair in its claws. The specimen was seen by the author in Gordon's store, Keeseville.

**Golden Eagle*. New Russia, Sept. 12, 1933 (C. H. Rogers).

Peregrine Falcon. Giant Range from April 12, 1935 to Sept. 23, 1935.

**Florida Gallinule*. Apparently breeds at Ticonderoga. May 10, 1936 to Oct. 14, 1935.

Solitary Sandpiper. Ticonderoga, Oct. 14, 1935.

Sanderling. Port Henry, Aug. 24, 1949.

**Baird's Sandpiper*. 2 carefully studied, Essex, Oct. 29, 1937.

**Iceland Gull*. Willsboro, Nov. 3, 1937.

Mourning Dove. Rare summer resident at Willsboro (A. G. Paine); seen there by the author Oct. 9, 1933.

Whip-poor-will. Elizabethtown, Sept. 22, 1936.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Hurricane, May 13, 1936.

Rough-winged Swallow. Rare transient; may breed. Ticonderoga, April 30, 1935 and July 10, 1932. Essex, May 31, 1935. A pair at Elizabethtown in June, 1941.

Purple Martin. Breeds at Westport, Essex and Willsboro. Essex, April 15, 1936 (Mrs. S. A. Powell) to Westport, Aug. 18, 1947 (Mrs. D. Floyd).

Winter Wren. Elizabethtown, Dec. 10, 1937.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren*. Willsboro, April 30, 1891 (in coll. A. G. Paine). In summer at North Elba (A. A. Saunders), earliest there May 8, 1936 (Carleton). Westport, 2 singing in a dry alfalfa field in June. Street Road, June (locality since destroyed).

Wood Thrush. Elizabethtown, April 30, 1936 (Mrs. W. H. Hubbard).

Loggerhead Shrike. Willsboro, April 14 and 21, 1888 (in coll. A. G. Paine); Aug. 2, 1950 (P. N. Jackson). Crown Point, May 10, 1936. North Elba, July 1925 and Aug. 9, 1926 (A. A. Saunders).

Philadelphia Vireo. Heart Lake, July 7, 1932 and July 6, 1933.

Black and White Warbler. Elizabethtown, Sept. 27, 1932.

Tennessee Warbler. Found breeding by A. A. Saunders. Mt. Hurricane, at 2000 feet elevation, a singing male July 10, 1930 (Laidlaw Williams and Carleton). Rare spring, common fall transient at Elizabethtown: May 12, 1936; Aug. 19, 1932 to Sept. 29, 1932.

Nashville Warbler. Elizabethtown, May 4, 1936. Street Road, Oct. 24, 1937.

Cape May Warbler. Willsboro, May 8, 1887 (in coll. A. G. Paine), Elizabethtown, Aug. 20, 1932. One breeding record, July 14, 1947, North Elba (Carleton, H. H. Poor and O. K. Scott, Auk, 65 (4):607, 1948).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Elizabethtown, Oct. 25, 1937.

Blackburnian Warbler. Elizabethtown, May 4, 1936; Sept. 27, 1931.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Elizabethtown, Sept. 26, 1932.

Bay-breasted Warbler. Breeds at Keene Valley, earliest arrival May 13, 1936. Common transient at Elizabethtown, June 1, 1935; Aug. 31, 1933 to Sept. 28, 1933.

Black-poll Warbler. Common transient at Elizabethtown, June 4, 1926; Aug. 28, 1932 to Oct. 11, 1932.

Palm Warbler. Casual transient. Elizabethtown, May 20, 1935 (Western Palm Warbler); Oct. 14, 1932 (Yellow Palm Warbler).

**Louisiana Water-Thrush*. Probably breeds at Ticonderoga (seen June 6, 1941). Definitely breeds at Port Henry: parent and young seen June 1941; nest and five eggs seen June 13, 1947. This may well be the northernmost breeding of this species anywhere.

Mourning Warbler. Breeds as high as 3900 feet. May 24, 1936 (North Elba) to Aug. 30, 1935 (Schroon River, C. H. Rogers).

Common Yellow-throat. Elizabethtown, Oct. 10, 1932.

Orchard Oriole. The writer has seen an adult male that had been collected by George Williams at Crown Point in the 1890s. I know of no records since Eaton's time.

Rusty Blackbird. Newcomb, June 26, 1932. Transient at Elizabethtown, May 21, 1935. Elk Lake, early July, 1944, pair regularly on territory, presumably breeding (J. L. Bull, E. Eisenmann, H. H. Poor, C. H. Rogers).

**Cardinal*. The author received reports of males at Wadhams, summer of 1933, and at Crown Point, summer of 1935. These are interesting in the light of recent northern records in *Audubon Field Notes*.

**Pine Grosbeak*. Uncommon but regular winter visitant. Specimens in collection of A. G. Paine at Willsboro bear dates Dec. 17, 1889 to March 15, 1890.

White-crowned Sparrow. North Elba, May 26, 1935. Wadhams, Dec. 6, 1937, an adult near a barnyard bare of snow.

Lapland Longspur. Willsboro, Nov. 6, 1887 (in coll. A. G. Paine).

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ED. NOTE:—Although this article is not in any sense definite as to be all inclusive, it should stimulate publication of more Essex County records and for other counties of New York State.—E.E.

THE BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN NEW YORK — ADDENDA

By KENNETH C. PARKES

In my article on the status of Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) in New York (*Kingbird* I, 3:54-56, 1951), I overlooked two published records of this species. They are as follows:

A specimen was collected at Addison Island in the St. Lawrence River off the village of Waddington on December 19, 1943 (*Kutz, Auk* 66. 80-81, 1949).

A pair was reported seen by A. M. Decker at Sodus Bay on February 21, 1949. This record was published in the Ontario-Western New York Region report in *Audubon Field Notes* 3: 168, 1949.

My information concerning the present status of Barrow's Goldeneye on eastern Long Island was derived from hearsay, and apparently was not accurate. I am reliably informed that the species is by no means as regularly reported as I implied in the last paragraph of my article.