

five, including a Golden Plover (rare in this area) (Komorowski).

About 150 non-breeding Herring Gulls summered near Ferry Point Park. Laughing Gulls are evident throughout the summer on the lower Hudson and Long Island Sound, though not known to nest around New York City; by September 10 their number had increased to 150 at Ferry Point Park. Common and Least Terns were noted there on September 3.

A flock of about 50 Mourning Doves on September 3 at Ferry Point Park was large for this area.

SWIFTS - SHRIKES:

The usual breeding Swifts, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, Corvids, Wrens, Catbirds, Thrashers and Thrushes were found in the area. Tree Swallows, though present in early June at Jerome Reservoir failed to breed (Brigham). Black-capped Chickadees did not nest this season in Bronx or Van Cortlandt Park or at Grassy Sprain.

Interesting Migrants: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher August 23 at Bronx Park (Komorowski); Migrant Shrike (rare hereabouts) August 24 at Ferry Point Park (Komorowski), September at Van Cortlandt Park (Karlin, Glasser); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, August 9, 22, 27 and 28 at Central Park (Mrs. Messing).

VIREOS - WARBLERS:

Of the Vireos the Red-eyed bred commonly, and the White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Warbling locally, in this area. Yellow and Blue-winged Warblers, Redstart, Yellow-throat and Ovenbird still nest in the large parks of the Bronx. At Grassy Sprain in Westchester County, all of these species as well as the Black and White, Worm-eating, Chestnut-sided and Hooded Warblers and the Louisiana Water-thrush are regular breeders. The warbler migration was about average, without extraordinary waves. Species, such as Bay-breasted, Cape May and Tennessee, which are uncommon to rare in the spring, were seen in the city parks, as is usual, much more frequently and in larger numbers during September. The best Warbler flight in Central Park was on September 18, but there were good to moderate movements on September 8 and 27, with Connecticut Warbler on both days (Mrs. Messing).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS:

Breeding of Icterids, Scarlet Tanager and the Finch tribe seemed normal for the area. The Bobolink, no longer breeding near the city, appeared at Van Cortlandt Park on September 1 and 2 in numbers between 200 - 300 (Komorowski); by September 27, Juncos were noted there (Komorowski). September 30 brought to Central Park Rusty Blackbirds and many Sparrows, including Lincoln's, and on October 10 there was another moderate movement (Carleton).

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REGION 8 - LONG ISLAND

Reports came through of a successful 1951 breeding season on Western Long Island, but along the South Shore at Moriches and Shinnecock the Tern and Skimmer colonies have reportedly been continually harassed by

weasels for several years. These have decimated the young and discouraged breeding to such a degree that Inlet Island, near Moriches Inlet, formerly containing the largest Tern colony in New York state is now deserted. The Shinnecock colony, formerly harboring 2,000 to 3,000 Common Terns, this year had only 500 present along with one pair of Roseate Terns, 60 Black Skimmers and 77 Herring Gulls. On July 7 more than half of the young of these nesting species had been killed (R. Wilcox).

The weather was very favorable for land birds and many successful broods were raised. White-breasted Nuthatches at Speonk had two young able to fly on June 16. A Hummingbird's nest at Manorville, had eggs up to August 15 and young leaving the nest August 27 and several other late nests were reported. Northern Water-thrush, generally considered one of the first northern migrants, was noticeably late this year and where normally appearing in late July, the first report came of one on August 7.

Shorebirds came early and an abundance was reported at Lawrence, July 4, among which were 17 Greater Yellow-legs, 14 Lesser Yellow-legs, and 110 Dowitchers!

LOONS — DUCKS: One Red-throated and four Common Loons were reported at Jones Beach, September 2. Several Sooty Shearwaters were seen in mid-June, same location, and a Cory's at Montauk, August 27. On July 31 an Audubon's Shearwater was found fresh dead on the Northern State Parkway in the Dix Hills (E. Costich) and another, by the same observer at Cedar Beach, was found partly buried in the sand on September 4 and presumably dead for about a month. There appears to be only two other Long Island records for this accidental visitor, both at the same season.

As for nesting, an early Pied-billed Grebe had young on Oakland Lake in Alley Pond Park on April 21. The Snowy Egret bred this year in the Jones Beach Sanctuary instead of at Oak Beach. Two pairs of Yellow-crowned and 100 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons nested along with the Egrets with young in late June. The post-breeding maximum of American Egrets: 100 at Jones Beach, July 30, was about 50 percent of that of last year. Infiltrating Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were also considerably fewer than a year ago. On June 26, at Jones Beach, 52 adult Gadwalls and 45 young were counted. A maximum of 160 Blue-winged Teal were present at Watermill on September 16. An early Green-winged Teal was present at Jones Beach, July 3, and the number increased toward the end of the month. August 26 brought the first mild concentration there with the appearance of the first Shoveller and Pintail (6) and an increase to 40 Green-winged Teal.

HAWKS — OWLS: The Red-shouldered Hawk was found summering at Manhasset and in the West Hills, and Broad-winged Hawk east to Port Jefferson. Some 25 nests of the Osprey were reported at Orient. Coot had young out by June 10 in Alley Pond Park. Upland Plover bred at Hicksville, and six were found in an old tract on The Plains at Syosett and were there to August 31. Migrating Upland Plover passed over Idlewild, mid-August with a maximum of five on August 14. A count of 150 pairs of Piping Plover and 25 pairs of Spotted Sandpipers was made at Short Beach, June 16. In this section a nesting total of 350 pairs of Common Terns, 450 pairs of Least Terns, six Roseate Terns and 30 pairs of Black Skimmers was counted. Eastern Long Island nesting totals included one pair of Great Black-backed Gulls, 1,500 Herring Gulls, 100 Common Terns

on Cartwright Island. A few miles to the north on the northern end of Gardiner's Island were 200 Common Terns, two Great Black-backed Gulls and 3,000 Herring Gulls (Wilcox). A Ruff, rare summer migrant, was observed at Jones Beach, June 26 and another at Idlewild, August 24. Shorebird maximum: Idlewild, August 24, estimated 4,000 Semipalmated Plover, 350 Black-bellied Plover, 150 Turnstone, two Hudsonian Curlews, 100 Greater Yellow-legs, 40 Lesser Yellow-legs, 50 Knot, three White-rumped Sandpipers, 60 Dowitchers, 6,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, one Northern Phalarope, 800 Ring-billed Gulls, 300 Laughing Gulls, single Roseate and Forster's Terns, 200 Black Terns (Mayer). A Pomerain Jaeger was seen at Jones Beach on September 14, the only one of these pelagics reported.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Nighthawk was reported from several locations with a maximum of 38 at Speonk, August 17. 200 Chimney Swifts were observed entering the chimneys of the Eastport Church and school on August 21. Least Flycatcher was reported breeding from Syosset and Manhasset. A Mockingbird was singing daily near Freeport for five weeks in June and July, but was not observed to nest. Several Short-billed Marsh Wrens summered in Massapequa. As for the migrants: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher appeared southward August 18, Red-breasted Nuthatch, August 26. A Hermit Thrush was singing its full song (probably a breeding bird) at Heckscher on August 12. A Greenland Wheatear was observed at Little Neck, September 9 to 16 (W. and G. Schoeffel, et al). Three Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers were observed on western Long Island, August 18 to 28. A Pipit appeared at Jones Beach, September 9 and Migrant Shrike was passing through around that date.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The Warbling Vireo was observed nesting at Manhasset and slightly eastward in the Carolinian Flora on the North Shore. Black-throated Green Warbler was back again in the West Hills, where a Hooded Warbler was seen and heard singing June 16 but was not found nesting. One or two reports of Worm-eating Warbler summering on the North Shore. Among migrants there were fewer Cape May and Tennessee Warblers on western Long Island in the early fall. Bay-breasted Warbler appeared August 26. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen creeping about in a mountain ash, September 16, in Far Rockaway (J. Bull). Southern Tier county breeding Warblers — Golden-wing, Worm-eating and Hooded — went almost unreported this fall. Wilson's Warbler first showed up September 9. The Chat appeared more abundant than usual.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The Orchard Oriole is becoming increasingly scarce as a breeding bird. Cardinal reports are increasing with records coming from both the North and South Shore of Western Long Island, with young out of the nest on June 16. Indigo Bunting was present in the hill country of central Long Island and on the North Shore, and an unusual record was a male, out of its breeding range, at a Far Rockaway feeding station on July 10. The Henslow's Sparrow, regularly reported along the South Shore up to a decade ago, was not found breeding in any location this summer. Large areas of the flat farming country in central Nassau County built into housing communities has restricted the breeding range of the Vesper Sparrow.

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