

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Ken Chambers listed a Bobolink at Lake Kanawauke on July 26 (his number of dates from that spot stems from his living there through the summer as curator of a regional trailside museum). Baltimore Orioles were abundant at the end of August. Scarlet Tanagers tended to trickle through.

Purple Finch may have bred at Tallman Mountain Park, Piermont; a male in song was recorded June 8 and June 14, and a female was also seen in early June. Slate-colored Juncos moved south early; we have Sept. 21 dates from Scarsdale and White Plains (Mrs. H. E. Dickinson) and Rockland County.

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REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

Dry weather prevailed in late spring and early summer resulting in successful nesting of both water and land birds. Later in the summer rains refreshed the vegetation and increased the insect crop causing good feeding conditions for young land birds. Two pairs of Red-eyed Vireos at Massapequa were still feeding young on September 8; one male sang at intervals while satisfying the hunger calls of two well fledged juveniles and the husky pleas of a nearly-grown Cowbird which insisted on its share of insects from its foster parents. Distribution of the Cardinal and House Finch showed nesting of both species in several new locations — the former now breeding in Southampton and the House Finch eastward to Bay Shore.

Loons — Ducks:

There was an apparent scarcity of breeding Pied-billed Grebes. A White Pelican showed up at Mill Neck in mid-June and was there until the end of September. There were again one or two records of Snowy Egret nesting, but no report of the American Egret breeding yet. In the Jones Beach colony there were 100 Black-crown Night Herons; Yellow-crowned Night Herons were almost unrecorded. Some good Black and Mallard Duck broods were noted, mostly among ferals. On June 29 there were 40 adult Gadwall and 90 young at Jones Beach. A Black Duck at Gilgo had her nest with four eggs, April 12; 100 were present on Jones Beach pond, June 29; a Wood Duck female had five young on June 15 at Manhasset.

Hawks — Owls:

Red-shouldered Hawk was observed breeding at Manhasset and the West Hills; Osprey was reported at Orient, March 22 on its nesting ground. Several broods of Bob-white were seen at Massapequa. Clapper Rail bred rather commonly in the Oak Beach area. A nest of this species was found with nine eggs at Mill Neck, July 13. There is some decrease in nesting areas due to building which affects the Woodcock and Upland Plover; the latter still persists in one or two locations on Hempstead Plains: Westbury, mid-June, four adults (Elliott). Skimmer and Tern colonies regularly occupied on western Long Island. Ten pairs of Herring Gulls nested at Cap Tree Island; 100 Common Terns on a grassy island off Copaque, on the Great South Bay; and six pairs (estimated) of Roseate Terns were seen carrying food to a nearby colony off Fire Island Inlet (H. Darrow). The Mourning Dove appears to be increasing in numbers during the past several years. There were fewer reports of Black-billed Cuckoo than of Yellow-billed, especially at Mastic (J. T. Nichols). Practically no Owl records came in, aside from the usual Barn Owl reports.

Swifts — Shrikes:

A male Red-headed Woodpecker at nest hole in the Tackapausha Preserve at Seaford was present daily during May and into June 15, but no female was seen and apparently this rare bird on Long Island did not breed (E. Morgan). Three pairs of Phoebe's bred at Manhasset; Least Flycatcher was common on the Woodbury-Syosset and Oyster Bay uplands. Carolina Wren showed no increase as to breeding on western Long Island, but goodly numbers breed in eastern Suffolk county, one record coming from Southampton. A male Mockingbird was observed singing at Merrick from May into July, but no female was seen and the bird probably did not breed. Hermit Thrush colonies continue successfully at Coram and Selden, but Nighthawks, formerly seen there in summer, have not appeared in the last two years. Although classed as rare breeding birds on the outer beaches, both Blue Jay and Chickadee were observed summering and apparently bred at Sunken Forest on Fire Island Beach.

Vireos — Warblers:

Warbling Vireo was more wide-spread, with three records coming from very unusual locations: Sheepshead Bay, Idlewild and Babylon. The bird normally nests along the north shore on western Long Island. The Yellow-throated Vireo was regular at Oyster Bay and in other areas westward. The Black-throated Green Warbler nested again at West Hills. Pine Warblers and Black and White Warblers were feeding full grown young at Selden, July 6. Louisiana Water-Thrush was comparatively uncommon; the Yellow-breasted Chat was noted as breeding in four areas, and the Redstart at Sunken Forest, Fire Island.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

The Red-winged Blackbird was noted breeding in upland tracts, practically waterless; Grackle was seen carrying nesting material at Seaford, April 7. Orchard Oriole was present at Oyster Bay, and an adult male lingered at Seaford into the first half of June. Cardinal was increasing rapidly over western Long Island where in one or two locations two or three broods have been observed. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, rare here, is regarded as a regular breeding bird at Sea Cliff and there were two other singing locations in June. The Vesper Sparrow has disappeared largely through central western Long Island due to building. Burning on the nesting grounds eliminated Short-billed Marsh Wren, Bobolink and Henslow's Sparrow at Massapequa this summer.

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REGION 9 — CENTRAL NEW YORK

The summer season has been generally dry and hot and insects abundant. Gallinaceous and other types of birds seemed to have fared well during the breeding season.

At Montezuma Wildlife Refuge there was a good flight of shore birds during the last half of August and they were still present in numbers during late September. The lowered water table in the marsh area for the purpose of removing carp and probably partially due also to thruway operations and dry weather provided excellent feeding and foraging areas for the various species of shore birds. Certain species were present in abundant numbers, others in relatively small numbers.

Loons — Ducks:

Five hundred Great Blue Herons at Montezuma Sept. 19-24 (Wilson, Andrews, Munfords); at Montezuma 33 American Egrets August 17 (Ward), 7 on Oct. 1 (Scheider and Evans). Flock of Canada Geese Sept. 25 over Syracuse (Scheider). At Montezuma 25 Shoveller Ducks on Sept. 7 (Wards). In fall census conducted by the **Eaton Bird Club** on Sept. 28 a total of 101 species were observed. Little Blue Heron was observed but practically no diving ducks such as Scaups, Canvas-back, Redheads had arrived on Seneca or Cayuga Lakes from their breeding grounds. Four early Green-winged Teal Sept. 14 at Montezuma.

Hawks — Owls:

Bald Eagle nested again at Montezuma. Duck Hawk first report Sept. 14, subsequent reports Sept. 21, 27, two Sept. 28, one Oct. 1. No large Hawk concentrations were reported in this region this fall.

Shore bird records were phenomenal. Just a few of the more unusual records follow:

Golden Plover, 10 on Sept. 1 Montezuma (Gambrells), 19 on Sept. 14 Montezuma (Scheider, Cate, Woolf), 2 on Sept. 20 Montezuma (Minor), 80 on Oct. 1 Montezuma (Scheider, Evans). Ruddy Turnstone recorded at greater frequency this year than in past years at both Montezuma and Oneida Lake. Few Greater Yellow-legs but Lesser Yellow-legs recorded from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 in numbers up to 70 individuals at Montezuma. 15 Baird's Sandpiper, Sept. 1, Montezuma (Gambrells and Wards), 3 at Montezuma on Sept. 14 and 2 on Sept. 21, Sylvan Beach (Minor, Scheider). Hudsonian Curlew at Montezuma Aug. 31 (McKinney). Red-backed Sandpiper at Sylvan Beach Sept. 28 and Oct. 1 (Hilemans).