

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF NESTING SEASON MAY-JULY 1953

The nesting season produced many interesting regional "first-nesting" records — the American Egret on Long Island (Fishers Island), the Eastern Turkey (Allegheny State Park, Cattaraugus Co.), the Eastern Mockingbird near Batavia (Genesee Co.), the Common Tern south end of Cayuga Lake (Tompkins Co.) and first Ulster Co. records of Purple Martin and Orchard Oriole.

In the unusual "nesting-sites" department, a Killdeer raised three young on top of an office building in downtown Buffalo and a House Wren near Stone Ridge, Ulster Co., chose an abandoned Baltimore Oriole's nest.

From Long Island we got the only report of the unusually wet May affecting the nesting of birds. Here the Least Tern had a poor nesting season.

Wood Ducks were reported as having successful nesting seasons on Grand Island (Niagara River), in the Binghamton area and at Mill Neck (Long Island). Several Ruddy Ducks, one Gadwall and one Redhead were seen with broods at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge (Seneca Co.). Coots were reported nesting near Binghamton and in Rockland Co.

Along the Ontario Lake Plain and from the Finger Lakes-Susquehanna River "corridor" reports of carolinian flavor continue. Five Tufted Titmice were seen at Ithaca and Barn Owls were reported as more plentiful.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers were found nesting near Batavia and in the Binghamton area. One was found dead on Long Point, Seneca Lake (Yates Co.) and two were seen near Rochester. Carolina Wrens further emphasize the trend. One was reported at Lewiston (Niagara Co.), two were banded at Etna (Tompkins Co.), two were reported from Sodus Bay (Monroe Co.) and two from the Binghamton area. In the Lower Hudson region it was seen east of the Hudson near Lake Waccabua.

The Blue-winged Warbler was seen feeding young near Rochester, and Dickcissels were again reported from central New York (Interlaken).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EARLY FALL MIGRATION AUG-SEPT.

Good shore bird flights, poor hawk concentrations and normal to good small passerine passage characterized the early fall migration.

The unusually dry summer lowered the water table to help produce a fine show of sandpipers. Regions in central and western New York report good flights and rarities. A *Willet* and *Hudsonian Goodwits* (Shore Acres, Monroe Co.), and an immature *Avocet* at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge (Seneca Co.) were unusual.

Hawks moved across the State in unspectacular numbers. September 12 marked the first real passage of the *Osprey* near Rochester, Olean and the

Lower Hudson. An immature *Goshawk* was seen August 21 near Logan (Schuyler Co.) and one adult and two immature *Golden Eagles* south of Ithaca Oct. 13.

Early fall wanderers were seen in the Lower Hudson area but elsewhere in the State the small passerine birds showed up about on schedule. The first good wave of warblers in the western part of the State occurred from Sept. 20 to Sept. 26. Blackpolls, Tennessees and Cape May Warblers were seen in good numbers. In the same period (Sept. 21) many warblers were killed by flying into the Empire State Building, Bay-breasted Warblers predominating. White-throated Sparrows started south across the State about Sept. 20.

On the heavily forested Allegheny Plateau hemlocks, sugar maple, white ash and yellow birch have produced fine seed crops. Winter field trips to areas where these trees predominate should be productive. Beechnuts, wild black cherries and acorns — often staple fall foods — were lacking from the dietary and many species shifted to fruits of sugar maple and cucumber (*Magnolia acuminata*), where these were available.

