

are reported from Nyack Sept. 23 (Hopper) and Lake Kitchawan, Town of Lewisboro, Oct. 7 (Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Weeks).

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REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

The large Common Terns and Black Skimmers reportedly were successful in weathering early summer downpours, but these apparently affected the Least Tern on western Long Island. On eastern Long Island the spread of the Herring Gull has caused a great diminution in the nesting populations of Terns and Skimmers by usurping their nesting grounds. An increase in Wood Ducks was reported at Mill Neck and 40 Gadwall pairs summered at Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond. Strays of summering Brant, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were seen at Idlewild, and an Old-squaw was noted in July at Port Jefferson. As for fall migration many species of land birds lingered into late October with the long dry spell; American and Snowy Egrets had about disappeared by the middle of the month.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were very few breeding records of Pied-billed Grebe. The American Egret nested for the first time in the Long Island area this summer (Fishers Island); two pairs of Snowy Egrets bred on Jamaica Bay island and the Yellow-crowned Night Herons in several locations.

An increase of migrating Loons was noted by November 1; no Horned Grebes to date; the White Pelican, present at Mill Neck from June, 1952, was still there on September 27. A European Cormorant was seen at Shinnecock, September 26 (R. Wilcox) and a Louisiana Heron at Jones Beach, August 30 to September 3. No large flocks of Canada Geese or Brant reported; but an adult Blue Goose with two immatures and two immature Snow Geese at Bridgehampton, mid-October, suggested a hybrid family group (C. McKeever). Pintails, Baldpates and Shovelers arrived about on time; the Ring-necked Duck was noted westward to Babylon.

HAWKS — OWLS: Reports came of the Red-tailed Hawk on eastern Long Island and a scattering of nesting Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks on the western half. Records of nesting Clapper Rails came from the Sound as well as the South Shore. There is apparently a decrease of Piping Plovers at Moriches, according to Roy Wilcox, who consistently bands in this area. The Herring Gull colonies on Gardiner's and Cartwright Islands and in Shinnecock Bay are increasing in size. Terns and Skimmers are diminishing in the same area and the sandy islands around Moriches Bay, once containing prosperous colonies, are becoming overgrown.

Regarding migration, there was a poor Buteo flight, and very few flight days for Accipiters and Falcons. A half-dozen or more Soras were noted around September 4, and at least four Black Rails were flushed out of the grassy marsh near Moriches Inlet on that date. Two Florida Gallinules were present at Lawrence into late October and two Wilson's Plovers at Jones Beach, September 3 (J. Bull). A maximum of 23 Golden Plovers were seen in a flock at Orient, September 13 (R. Adelson). Goodly numbers of Hudsonian Curlew and both Godwits were recorded, also two Northern Phalaropes at Moriches Inlet, August 22. Among Gulls there is little to report, except two Bonaparte's at Moriches, September 4 (Wilcox). An early September Tern flight included fair numbers of Forster's and Black Terns and a few Roseate Terns. Around the hurricane season several Royal Terns put in an appearance at Shinnecock (about August 30) and two were still present on September 29.

The Mourning Dove has become more abundant in recent years; late nesting, Baldwin, September 28 one young in nest. Practically no Owl records; no nesting reports of Long-eared; one of Great-horned at Manorville ended in failure (G. Raynor); no Saw-whet Owl records to date this fall.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: There was one record of Nighthawk possibly nesting: Manorville, July 1. A good fall flight of this species over Long Island was noted on September 27. There were several fall records of Red-headed Woodpecker but no nesting report. Arkansas Kingbird was present on Oak Island, August 29 (Dr. and Mrs. H. Kimball); no report since. A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Idlewild, October 16 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). The Least Flycatcher was found again

breeding in the Syosset - Oyster Bay area; Purple Martin was wide-spread, and 23 Rough-winged Swallows were counted at Mill Neck, June 14 (W. Post, Jr.). Carolina Wren is again spreading westward with the mild winters. A fine colony of Hermit Thrushes was present in the Eastport - Speonk pine belt. A Mockingbird showed up again at Merrick where it was in the same location as last year, but did not breed either year. A Magpie was present at Lawrence during October. There are practically no records of Gnatcatcher and very few of Migrant Shrike.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Both the Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos occupy north short tracts from Manhasset to Oyster Bay; there was no abundance of either species during migration. The Philadelphia Vireo was reported from several locations in September on the south shore. Two reports of Black-throated Green Warbler nesting came from northern Nassau County and one from Mastic. The Chat was reported from both locations also. The fall movement of warblers continued through with such species as the Nashville, Prairie, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green, Chat and Redstart being seen toward the end of October. The Connecticut was present to October 16 at Idlewild. One or two reports of Orange-crowned and Brewster's Warbler came in from western Long Island.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Large flocks of Red-wings and Grackles were present at Seaford, Wantagh in mid-October. Records of the House Finch, formerly to Islip, now extend to Shinnecock Hills. Several records of Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel came in from the Rockaways to Oak Beach, but both Dickcissel and Lark Sparrow reports were fewer than during last fall. There were no reports of winter finches except Siskin; a flock of 70 appeared at Seaford on October 27.

The first Ipswich Sparrow was seen at Spring Creek, Jamaica Bay, October 24. There was a good flight of White-crowned Sparrows in mid-October, but very few Fox Sparrows to date.

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1953

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