

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, a pair of Baltimore Orioles, a pair of Orchard Orioles, and a pair of Grackles all nested amicably in the same elm tree — an interesting community (Hough). Cardinals nested near Kripplebush for the first known time (Hough).

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REGION 10 — LONG ISLAND

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The 1954 nesting season was successful through June, July, because of continued good weather and a lack of early summer rains. A drastic drought parched the land by late July at which time, however, practically all first broods were on the wing. As an example Yellow Warblers were in the fledgling stage June 12. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported nesting at Jones Beach, Oyster Bay and Sands Point; Least Bitterns and Florida Gallinules at Lawrence; Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were recorded from western Long Island and Red-tailed from central Suffolk county. Several species of vagrant ducks were seen in mid-summer; Gulls, Terns and Skimmers had breeding success on the beach. Both Piping Plovers and Least Terns were recorded from the North Shore.

Hairy Woodpeckers were seen breeding in woods north of Babylon and well distributed over the North Shore, but there were no reports of the Red-headed Woodpecker. The Phoebe was found nesting on Shelter Island and the Least Flycatcher in several locations from Woodbury to Manhasset. A widespread use of nesting boxes has resulted in a substantial increase of Tree Swallows with gratifying numbers of this species seen hawking for insects over eastern Nassau county and parts of Suffolk county to Montauk. Nesting areas of the Cardinal now include Southampton and a half dozen intermediate places to the Rockaways. Recent reports indicate that the House Finch has broadened its range to the extent of scattered pairs or small colonies being found at East Hampton and in the vicinity of Montauk, although last year the extreme eastern boundry was at Shinnecock.

LOONS — DUCKS: Turning to the non-breeders, early summer Loons were very scarce; the White Pelican present at Mill Neck for about a year and a half left early last winter, but an individual was seen around the end of May at East Moriches and as records are extremely rare of this species, there is a possibility it may be the same bird. Some 200 Cory's Shearwaters were noted 10 miles south of the Rockaways, July 22 and four Sooty Shearwaters were seen close off-shore at Jones Beach, August 2. There appears to be no record of the Cattle Egret, which fed daily on earthworms at a turkey farm in East Moriches, May 17-27, after the latter date. Heron breeding colonies were well attended, but some Crow predation was noted among Night Herons. Six pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested at Sands Point this year (M. J. Wing). Numerous broods of young Black Ducks were seen during the summer; Gadwall nested at Jones Beach, with 20 reported in June. A Ring-necked Duck was seen at Babylon, July 4-July 17, and a male Ruddy Duck on the same pond through July. Eight or nine Ruddy Ducks were also present at Mecox for a large part of the summer, but there was no evidence of nesting (G. Raynor).

HAWKS — OWLS: The Broad-winged Hawk nested eastward on the south shore to Oakdale; Red-tailed Hawk was seen daily at Upton. The Cooper's Hawk's nesting ground, occupied for about five years in Massapequa, has been lost to a development project. Florida Gallinule bred at Lawrence and nine pairs of Clapper Rails were seen at Lattingtown; two nests were also found at Baldwin and a calling bird at New Suffolk. A King Rail was reported daily at Lawrence and in the same vicinity two Least Bitterns. Upland Plover bred again at Westbury and young Piping Plover were found at Bayville. On the south shore about 100 pairs of Herring Gulls

nested on Captree Island; an estimated 250 Common Terns and 100 Black Skimmers bred at Jones Beach. Least Tern colonies were noted at Short Beach, Jamaica Bay and at Bayville. Non-breeding Black Terns were seen along the South Shore on several occasions in May and again in July and August. The Mourning Dove is apparently increasing; there was a fair abundance of both Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos through the season. Regarding Owls: one favorite territory for the Short-eared at Massapequa has been filled; there has been no report of Long-eared Owls, but a pair of Screech Owls, one gray and one red were found nesting at Massapequa (H. Darrow).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Two attractively marked white eggs of a Whip-poor-will were found on dead oak leaves May 20 at Mastic; no reports of nesting Nighthawks in the New York region to date. Both Swifts and Swallows appeared in reduced numbers on western Long Island, but were more abundant around Suffolk farms. The Purple Martin in recent years has become wide-spread with gratifying numbers in eastern Nassau and over parts of Suffolk to Montauk. Practically all the Bank and Rough-winged Swallow records come from the north shore. The Alder Flycatcher was reported nesting in Van Cortlandt Park. In spite of two mild winters favoring the Carolina Wren, it has not yet staged a comeback on western Long Island, but favorable reports come from Southampton and North Sea. The Short-billed Marsh Wren's nesting grounds at Massapequa are now built upon and no other reports have come in of this species, or of its associate the Henslow's Sparrow. Apparently vagrant Short-billed Marsh Wrens appear in south shore marshes quite regularly in mid-summer but subsequent investigation has never revealed nesting.

Large numbers of Hermit Thrushes were found colonizing in woods in central Suffolk county. The Veery was fairly common in damper woodlands westward, but the Bluebird seems less common in eastern Suffolk than formerly. Cedar Waxwings were found in increased numbers this year.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were back in their old haunts along the North Shore from Manhasset to Oyster Bay. A late Worm-eating Warbler was seen at Noyack, May 31, but was not reported breeding. A male Parula Warbler was seen and occupied territory in the magnificent pinetum of the Bayard Cutting Arboretum at Great River from mid-June to July 4, but a diligent search revealed no nest. At least two Black-throated Green Warblers were observed in the Manhasset area for several weeks, although they were strangely absent from the West Hills where they were listed yearly for a decade. Pine Warblers were recorded eastward from Babylon, the Louisiana Water-Thrush from Mill Neck and Mt. Sinai and the Yellow-breasted Chat at Hempstead Lake Park.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: There were no nesting records of Bobolinks, or of the Orchard Oriole, although Bobolinks were seen in a daisy field into early June at Massapequa. The Cardinal occupies a larger tract now on eastern Long Island being quite plentiful at North Sea (Mrs. W. Walter). A nest with young Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was found in Manhasset, June 25; the decline of European Goldfinch at Massapequa still continues, but two were seen on Welfare Island, August 2-5 (H. and V. Bauer, P. Buckley). Eight or ten pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows were found at Valley Stream (their western limit on the island) and large numbers were noted at Montauk. A thorough search of the grasslands at Nepeague, near Montauk, produced no Henslow's Sparrows. Several favorable areas in eastern Nassau county harboring Vesper Sparrows last year have been constricted or built upon leaving this species almost restricted as a breeder to Suffolk county. The marshes around Baldwin and Oceanside still contain several breeding pairs of both Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows with eggs and young found there in June, July.

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