

VIREOS — WARBLERS: All four local vireos have been common this year, with the Blue-headed Vireo reported only from the Adirondack portion of the region. Red-eyed, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos have been reported continually. At least 16 species of Warblers have been reported as breeding birds. Worm-eating Warblers still nest at Indian Ladder (near Altamont, Albany Co.) but there appears to be only one pair. Pine Warblers and Prairie Warblers were present in the pine barren in considerable numbers. A conservative estimate might be a dozen pairs of the former and at least twice that many of the latter. A pair of Prairie Warblers were seen attending a large Cowbird on June 28.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The Evening Grosbeak population of the Adirondacks seems to increase yearly. Adults and young were seen in early July at the home of Mrs. Emma Rogers at North River (Warren Co.). Red Crossbills were seen near Warrensburg (Warren Co.) on July 24 by Esly Hallenbeck. A Slate-colored Junco, apparently a breeding bird, was seen at Thacher Park on July 19 by Mabel French.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

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June and July were hot, without approaching any records, and extremely dry. Water levels were lower than they have been for many years, yet the number of late-summer reports of Herons, Duck, and Rails would indicate no disaster for the marsh nesting birds.

HAWKS — OWLS: Broad-winged Hawks were unusually numerous during the summer, judging by reports. On May 30, one was seen in the Lomontville area of Ulster County, where the species nests. It was carrying a partly decapitated young Screech Owl, which it dropped upon seeing a party of the John Burroughs Natural History Society. On June 22, a Broad-wing was seen carrying a snake at Bedford Hills (Jack Romanowicz). And on July 1, John C. Orth of the Bear Mountain Trail-side Museum found a nest containing three young on the Long Mt. Road. This is believed to be Orange County's first definite nesting record. Also in the Bear Mountain area, an American Egret appeared at Iona Island on June 29 (Orth).

Great Black-backed Gulls summered in the Tappan Zee, off Nyack, in unprecedented numbers, probably more than 20 birds.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The John Burroughs Natural History Society has been conducting a series of studies in the Slide Mountain area that are worthy of emulation by other groups. Parties covered specified areas repeatedly during the nesting season, piecing together a comprehensive picture of local breeding. A trip on Wittenberg Mountain and in Woodland Valley on June 9-10 (Henry Dunbar, Ilse Dunbar, Fred Hough) found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 2,600-foot elevation, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at the 2,800-3,600-foot levels, and Red-breasted Nuthatch in the same area. Golden-crowned Kinglets were also found near the summit (3,792 feet), as well as Bicknell's (Gray-cheeked) Thrush, Purple Finch, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated Sparrow. Farther down the slopes, the Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes prevailed, along with Mourning Warbler.

At Stone Ridge, Fred Hough heard the Alder Flycatcher on June 30 and July 15. Brown Creepers again nested near Leibhardt, Ulster County (Hough). Bank Swallows rebuilt their community in sand banks at Napanoch, where excavating operations forced them out last year (Hough).

A partial albino Flicker attracted attention in Bedford Hills (George Hasseltine). The Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported in the July issue from Rockland County were seen feeding young in the nest on June 14 and were last seen June 18 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper). Hermit Thrushes appear to be nesting in the Bear Mountain Park in Rockland and Orange Counties. Richard Roche recorded the species eight times during July at Lake Kanawauke, Island Pond, and Pine Swamp, and John Orth found it once at Lake Nawahunta.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blackburnian Warblers were seen frequently at Lake Stahahe and Lake Cohasset, Bear Mountain Park, during June and July (Roche, Orth). The species nests regularly in the higher lands of this area. The Hooded Warbler is still nesting at Lomontville, Ulster County (Henry and Ilse Dunbar).

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