

1956, when two nests were discovered. There are indications, however, that sporadic breeding may have occurred in the intervening years. Cruickshank reported in "Birds Around New York City" (1942, p. 336), that a pair was suspected of nesting at Montauk during the Summer of 1934. In 1955 Mrs. Brown of Easthampton, informed Leroy Wilcox of Speonk that a bird she believed to be a Mockingbird was nesting in her garden. On May 20 the writers in company with Wilcox and C. McKeever visited the site, but the nest, which was situated about three feet from the ground in a small but dense blue spruce, had been disturbed by a cat. Neither the adults nor the contents of the nest could be found. Mr. Wilcox collected the nest, which had the appearance of having been built by this species, but in view of the lack of positive identification, this cannot be considered a positive nesting record.

During the Summer of 1956 McKeever regularly observed a single Mockingbird on the outer beach just west of the inlet to Mecox Bay near Watermill, but no mate or evidence of nesting was seen. On July 22 the bird was seen by the writers, and on July 28 the writers in company with Paul Stoutenburgh of Cutchogue noticed two adult birds in the same vicinity. As we watched, one of them flew into a 15-20 foot scrub pine, one of a clump of several close to a small beach house, where it was joined by the second bird. Upon investigating, we found the nest about seven feet from the ground, well out near the end of a horizontal branch. It contained two nearly fledged young. After a quick look we left the nest undisturbed. Both parents remained nearby, scolding in great distress until our departure. The find was reported to Wilcox, who visited the site a few days later. He found that the young had left the nest, but succeeded in locating and photographing them.

The other nest discovered this year was located on western Long Island near Rockaway by John Bull and is being reported separately. In view on the increasing number of occurrences of this species during recent winters, it appears probable that additional nests will be discovered from time to time, and it is not impossible that the species may reestablish itself as a permanent resident after an absence of over a century.—Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven; Gilbert S. Raynor, Manorville, Long Island.

REGIONAL REPORTS

THE WINTER SEASON — DECEMBER 1956 THROUGH MARCH 1957

1956, which must certainly have established a record for continuing low temperatures, finally gave us respite with an Indian Summer which lingered well into December. This period was terminated during late December and January by periods of poor weather and intense cold. Temperatures well below zero were recorded, and even on Long Island birders found Great South Bay frozen during the waterfowl count period. Any birder who took the field during the winter noticed the striking effect this weather had on populations. He found: (1) very few winter finches and allies like Red-breasted Nuthatches, and (2) a number of semi-hardy birds who waited too long and never did migrate, their instinct failing them when the cold weather did strike. Dr. Gunn of Toronto indicates that the finches remained in the far north. This would make the two effects of the lingering autumn the same: neither group moved south. Spring was more usual than it appeared. Sunny days did not provide enough warmth to make the migration start early.

The Three-toed Woodpecker invasion produced in Region 1, 3 birds; 2,

12; 3, 1; 4, 2; 5, 6; 6, 2; 7, usual here; 8, 1; 9, 1; and 10, 1. In Region 2 an American Three-toed was also found. As almost all birds were found stripping bark from dead or dying elm trees, it will be interesting to note a possible continued correlation with the advance of the Dutch elm disease.

Perhaps the best comment on the winter finches was Mrs. Fitzgerald's record of a single Evening Grosbeak all winter — she banded over 1000 last winter. It was again not a Snowy Owl year, but there were a few scattered reports. Eiders appeared on Lake Ontario in unusual numbers.

Winter records included: many Mourning Doves, Mockingbirds (Region 6, 9, 10), Thrashers (2, 8), fewer Robins than last winter, Bluebirds (2), good numbers of Shrikes, a March 15 Wilson's Warbler (4), a half dozen Chats (9, 10), a Kentucky Warbler (9), a Pine Warbler (8), many Icterids, a Baltimore Oriole (9), December Western Tanagers (3, 10), Towhees (3, 9), and a Spotted Towhee (10), Vesper Sparrows (9), and Chipping Sparrows (2, 10). GRR

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

A very warm December was followed by a very cold January. Thus we find a spate of December records of both water and land birds which normally should not be present; while the extremely severe weather of January quickly brought winter birding back to normal. February and March gave us better than average weather. March in particular was so sunny it gave the impression that it was also warm. Humans felt that spring had come, but many of the early bird migrants, forced to spend the nights as well as the days out-of-doors were not fooled, and not only did not arrive early, but in some instances were actually late. Others, notably Swans, Pectoral Sandpipers and Robins arrived very early.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebes were seen up to Jan 13 in the gorge, up to Jan 8 on the Allegany River; migrants appeared Mar 10. A single Pied-billed Grebe was also observed in the gorge Jan 1, the first migrant arriving Mar 30 (Jamestown, Elderkin). Four Whistling Swans were seen Dec 4 at Bemus Point (Parker). Mealy and Parker found two at the east end of Lake Chautauqua Feb 22 and three there the next day. By Mar 12-14 groups of swans were reported from all portions of our area. First record of Canada Goose also came from L. Chautauqua, where two were seen by Elderkin Feb 24. By Mar 10 over 1000 were in the Wolcottsville-Shelby area (Wright, Brockners). By the 22nd their numbers were estimated at 28,000. From the 14th to the 31st a single Snow Goose was also noted there. A male Gadwall wintered in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo. Both teals arrived early but their numbers were disappointing. A European Widgeon was noted Mar 24 at Clarence (Brockners) and was still there at period's end. Baldpate was last noted Dec 13 and first Mar 10. Shovellers arrived rather early, Wood Duck on time. Canvasbacks wintered on the Niagara in normal thousands. A hybrid American-Barrow's Golden-eye was found dead in the gorge in March (Muma, rep. Baillie). A Harlequin Duck was first seen Mar 10 at the Falls (North) and remained at least until the 16th. King Eider records were more numerous than ever before, all from the Niagara River. All three scoters were present in small numbers through December at Niagara Falls. No less than 200 Ruddy Ducks were reported from L. Chautauqua Mar 30 (Elderkin). Hooded Mergansers arrived on time (Mar 12, Vandalia, Coleman) and in very good numbers.