

peckers present than New York State had during this invasion, but I feel sure that Massachusetts has more trained observers per square mile than we have.

On the other hand, the Christmas Count shows only one Massachusetts bird, whereas New York State had a total of eight, five from Rochester, and one each from Buffalo, Schenectady and Syracuse. Also one American Three-toed Woodpecker was reported from Rochester, so it looks as if we held up our end there.

My thanks are extended to the many regional editors who supplied me with the interesting data without which this article could not have been written and especially to Fred Hall for the loan of his excellent film showing closeups of the Arctic Woodpecker.

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- (1) Eaton, E. H., *Birds of New York*, Vol. II, p. 145.
 - (2) Forbush, E. H., *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Vol. II, p. 271-273.
 - (3) Van Tyne, Josselyn, *Auk* 1926, p. 469-474.
 - (4) Brewster, William, *Bull. Nuttall Ornithological Club*, 1883, p. 122.
 - (5) Gunn, William, *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. II, No. 1 (Feb. 1957), p. 24.
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BREEDING HAWKS ON EASTERN LONG ISLAND

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This paper incorporates notes on seven species of breeding hawks on eastern Long Island, New York, as recorded by the writer.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: There are five local nesting records in over 50 years for this abundant transient and frequent winter visitant. Nesting localities are Montauk, North Haven, Riverhead, Southold and Orient. All five nesting sites have been in dissimilar habitats. At Montauk they nested in the center of a large dry woods, the nest 30 feet up in the main crotch of an oak. At North Haven they built in a dry pasture with scattered cedars, the nest 12 feet up in the main crotch of a red cedar. At Riverhead the habitat was in a dark white cedar swamp: the nest was 20 feet up in the center crotch of a white cedar. This was a very dark site, the sun being shut out at all times. At Southold they selected the border of a sand-dune facing Long Island Sound. The nest was 15 feet up in the main crotch of a pitch pine. At Orient the nest was built 25 feet up in the main crotch of a tall cedar at the edge of a salt marsh. In the localities quoted, only the one in the cedar swamp at Riverhead had been occupied before, where an old nest of the previous year was found in an adjoining tree. All of the others were the first nesting records for those stations.

Cooper's Hawk: This is a more general breeding hawk on eastern Long Island than the sharp-shin, although it is restricted to single breeding pairs in any location. It is partial to tracts of dry woods, but also nests in swamps. The nest is usually in a center crotch, normally 15 to 20 feet up, and has been recorded up to 60 feet high. Most of the nests the writer has examined have been in old Crow's nests, which have been enlarged by twigs and trash

and lined with loose bark on which the eggs are deposited. The first eggs are laid here about April 15, at the time Crows are laying. Nesting localities are Orient, East Marion, Greenport, Southold, Cutchogue, Mattituck, Riverhead, Northwest, Three Mile Harbor, Noyack, Montauk, Shelter Island and Gardiner's Island. This species is a much less common transient and winter visitant than the Sharp-shin; the spring flight is earlier than the smaller species, and the nesting season is a month earlier.

Red-tailed Hawk: Nesting records are Montauk, Northwest, Southampton, Greenport, Orient, Shelter Island and Gardiner's Island. One pair nested regularly in the Heather Woods, Montauk, until 1935. The nests were in the main crotches of large oaks from 20 to 40 feet high. They were nesting in the Northwest woods until 1944 and may still be there. In the 1920's there were three pairs between Sag Harbor and Three Mile Harbor, nesting in tall oaks and white pines. North of Southampton a pair was nesting as late as 1955. The writer saw two birds there in April, 1956; one was noted in aerial tumbling and they were probably breeding. The species has been reported by McKeever and others as nesting in the vicinity. From one to three pairs have nested on Shelter Island since the 1890's, but have been reduced to one pair in recent years. These hawks have been harried severely by the caretakers on that island. The young have been taken from the nest to raise, and the females have been shot from the nest while incubating. They nest in high oak trees on the island up to 50 or 60 feet, sometimes in high side branches. Black snakes, which are common on Shelter Island, are a common food of the Red-tails and are brought to the nests to feed the young. The Red-tail was a summer resident in the Moores Woods, Greenport, until 1910, when the female of the last nesting pair was shot at the nest. They nested there in large pin oaks in swampy woods. The last Red-tail nested in Orient about 1895 in a 25-acre cedar grove near the writer's home. This was said to have been the finest stand of red cedars on Long Island. The cedars, like the Red-tails, have long been gone from the picture. At Gardiner's Island one pair nested in the Tobacco-lot woods, and may still be there, although all hawks, except the Ospreys, were treated roughly by the gamekeepers. The Red-tails were permanent residents on Shelter and Gardiner's Islands. It is never a common transient species in recent years, but more records are taken in April than in other months at Orient. It used to be frequent in winter, but is now really rare during that season on the north fork of the island. It is an early nester: eggs were found in the nest on April 2, 1932, on Shelter Island, a month before the Ospreys were laying.

Red-shouldered Hawk: This is the rarest of the locally breeding hawks on the eastern part of the island. I have established only one record of a nest with eggs. This was at Greenport in 1926. It may have nested there on other occasions as more stray individuals of this species have been noted there in the spring than elsewhere. It probably nested in Orient prior to 1900, as did the Red-tail and the Broad-wing. This is probably true of many other localities.

Broad-winged Hawks: Nesting localities are Orient, Greenport, Calverton, Noyack, Northwest and Gardiner's Island. Nests are 15 to 40 feet up in oaks, red maple, white and pitch pines and at Greenport in tulip trees. The habitat is usually dry woods, but at Greenport and Northwest swampy

woods. Nests are lined with species of loose bark picked from trunks of standing trees. The Broad-wing starts laying early in May in this region. A nest at Nowack, near Sag Harbor, in a pitch pine tree in dry woods contained three fresh eggs on May 20. In the Noyack site were five old nests of this species within a radius of 100 feet. One cold day in April this hawk was seen swooping down after some object moving in the salt meadow grass in Orient. The hawk came up carrying a Clapper Rail, which it probably mistook for a rat or mouse. The hawk, however, ripped off the feathers and proceeded to devour the rail. On Gardiner's Island a pair of Broad-wings nested sociably with a pair of Red-tails in the Tobacco-lot wood. They did so formerly in Orient.

Marsh Hawk: This species is in quite widespread distribution over the eastern sections of Long Island. My nesting records are Orient, East Marion, Greenport, Montauk, Shelter Island and Gardiner's Island. Except at Gardiner's Island, there was only one pair in a station. All of the nests located have been in cattail marshes, except in Orient, where the nest was placed in short grasses in a wide brackish marsh. The Marsh Hawk always nests on the ground. The eggs are laid in May and early June here. In East Marion a nest was found within six feet of a black duck's nest. In 1930 there were three pairs of Marsh Hawks on Gardiner's Island, all nesting around Tobacco-lot pond. As stated above, all hawks on Gardiner's, except the Ospreys, are persecuted by the gamekeepers. The writer once saw both sexes of a pair of Marsh Hawks shot at the same time in June as they ranged over the downs hunting for meadow mice. They perhaps took Pheasant chick also; at least the gamekeepers thought so. The male of this pair was such a beautiful light-colored individual that it was brought home to mount.

Sparrow Hawk: Nesting records are Orient, Greenport, Peconic, Riverhead and Shelter Island. At Orient they nest about buildings; at Greenport, in Flicker holes; at Peconic, in bird boxes placed high in trees in woods; at Riverhead, in hollow trunks of trees. There has been no local change in the breeding status of this small species since the 1890's. It is a regular permanent resident throughout the area. It is, nevertheless, a rare breeder, as are all of the hawks except the Osprey, on the eastern half of Long Island.

Orient, Long Island

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