

Wellesley, Massachusetts, Aug 25, 1955; Wareham, Massachusetts, June 25, 1956; Athol, Massachusetts, Aug 4, 1955; Natchitoches, Louisiana, May 5, 1956. Four birds banded June 24, 1956: recoveries: Verdun, Quebec, Sept 23, 1956; Rochester, New York, October 21, 1956; Montreal, Quebec, Aug 6, 1956; Montreal, Quebec, July 22, 1956.

RING-BILLED GULL. Banded June 11, 1955, recovery: Durzea, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1956.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Banded June 11, 1955, recovery: Bilwas-karma, Nicaragua. — Thomas A. Lesperance, Keeseville.

North Country bird notes — In the past 20 years, I have averaged more than one trip a year between Nyack and Canton, in St. Lawrence County. Thus I have come to know the North Country rather well — but as a tourist, not a birder. My birding has been casual, wayside observation. Even so, this summer's trip confirmed a few interesting points noted in earlier years:

1. The Upland Sandpiper seems to be increasing in abundance in a triangle bounded roughly by a Lowville-Watertown-Antwerp line. Up to three years ago, I had never seen this bird along the way. Then I saw two near Evans Mills; the next year, I saw two again in the same general area. On last June 27, one was flying across Route 12 just south of Lowville and another was perched on a wire south of Antwerp; on July 2, a bird was seen again near Lowville, perched on a stump. If so many Upland Sandpipers can be seen from a fast-moving car passing through the area, how many might a real search reveal?

2. The Black Tern may frequent the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, but I have never seen it there until this summer, when I saw two ranging over a small marsh on the "officially closed" portion of Route 37-B between Massena and Waddington. My only previous St. Lawrence Valley terns had been on the Canadian side upriver from Prescott.

3. The tail of Hurricane Audrey, which lashed the Canton area for 36 hours on June 29-30, had more effect on birdlife than I have ever seen in several hurricanes at Nyack. Wind velocity was on the moderate side — for a hurricane — but several huge trees and many branches were brought down. Being in the nesting season, this storm could be expected, I suppose, to cause more disturbance to birds than more severe storms in the autumn. In any event, three Warbling Vireos that sang near the house in Canton on June 28 were silent or absent thereafter. Sidewalks were dotted with nests, many of them from this year but none with eggs. A day or two after the storm, an abnormal number of young birds were around the lawns, especially Flickers, Robins and Grackles. At least two Robins appeared a few days too young to be thrown on their own devices, and at Ogdensburg, I did see a nestful of naked young robins that had been thrown to the sidewalk.

According to the newspapers, Hurricane Audrey was revitalized in northern New York when it struck a strong low-pressure area. I saw wind velocity figures that indicated an acceleration from 40-50 mph. winds at Syracuse to above 80 mph. at Plattsburgh. — Robert F. Deed, 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack.

The Red-headed Woodpecker in northern New York — There is considerable evidence that the Red Headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is increasing as a summer resident in northern New York. Prior to 1951 I saw this species on only one occasion, despite the fact that I travel extensively in the area and have done so since 1935. Beginning in 1951 the Red-headed Woodpecker has been noted fairly regularly, particularly in Jefferson County. It arrives in May and is not usually seen after September. A number of nesting sites have been located, most of them in Jefferson County, but there is at least one near Lowville in Lewis County, and one was discovered in 1955 near Gouverneur in St. Lawrence County. North of Watertown, in the general vicinity of Perch Lake, there are probably at least four nesting sites.

In northern New York the preferred habitat of this species consists of open groves in dry upland areas. Mature trees, such as elm, maple, and basswood with dead stubs situated in old pasture land constitute a typical nesting site.

The Red-headed Woodpecker is relatively common in parts of western New York,