

singing birds were noted in typical mature beech and maple habitat on a lower slope at about 1200 feet. Both records are area firsts. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard at Mohonk Lake on the Shawangunks July 18 (Dan Smiley). On July 28 Mrs. Wm. Grierson watched a Blue Jay eat a small snake (probably DeKay's) near her home at Mt. Kisco, Westchester. A Carolina Wren was found far up in the wooded valley below Peekamoose Mt. in the Catskills on Aug 18 (Hough, Smiley). Mr. Irving Kennedy discovered a Mockingbird near New City, Rockland on May 31 and a few days later Mrs. F. Steffens and E. Treacy found its nest in an ornamental shrub. The nest contained an egg and two young. Over in Sparrowbush, Orange County, another Mocker was seen on June 24 (Hammond).

On June 15 and 16 Fred Hough and Dan Smiley returned to the haunts of the Bickell's Thrush in the higher Catskills for another visit. This time it was on Balsam Cap Mt. (about 3850 ft.) The Thrush was seen and heard and another note on its status in the Catskills was made. Martha Earl reports the loss of seven first broods in the nesting Bluebirds about her home area in Blooming Grove, Orange Co. This occurred about a week after the gypsy moth spraying took place and she wonders if it was not responsible for the death of the broods. No deaths were noted in the adult birds and the second broods were successful in all cases.

Vireos — Warblers: Black-poll Warblers were still singing on Peekamoose Mt. in the Catskills on Aug 18 (Hough, Smiley). Henry and Ilse Dunbar found a fair mid-summer population of Mourning Warblers near the Bellayre ski slopes in the Catskills.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Orchard Oriole returned to its nesting site near Stone Ridge, Ulster for the fifth straight year but no nesting took place. The birds disappeared in early June and were not seen again (Hough). Wandering summer Grackles were more prevalent in many areas of Ulster.

Andrew and Bertha McWaters of Westchester discovered a Blue Grosbeak on June 15 near Glenford in Ulster County, while visiting relatives there. It was watched several times that day and the McWaters feel there is no doubt about the observation as being that of this southern species. A pair of Purple Finches were found nesting in Katonah, Westchester (Mrs. Wm. Grierson) and another pair was seen again this year near Stone Ridge, Ulster but no nesting evidence was found (Hough). In May a nest of the Junco was found on the second floor steel work of the Lake Mohonk mountain house in Ulster Co. (Dan Smiley).

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Spring advanced into summer with a long continued dry spell broken by only one early July rain which penetrated the parched powdery earth to only an inch or two. The 1957 spring and early summer was marked by perhaps the worst series of woods fires in the history of eastern Long Island, with hundreds of acres blackened in many areas of the pitch-pine, scrub-oak barrens. The loss of young Prairie Warblers, Northern Yellow-throats and Towhees, not to mention several species of smaller mammals must have run high.

The dry nesting season was presumably beneficial to sea bird colonies especially in the Jones Beach, Oak Beach area where some 200 Herring Gulls, over 300 Common Terns and over 35 Black Skimmers were banded (M. Levine, A. Penberthy, D. Warren). Early June was again highlighted by an enormous flight of Shearwaters. Normally Sooty Shearwaters are the species involved; this year there was an infiltration of Greater also (R. Grant).

Among nesting Herons, Yellow-crowned appears on two eastern Long Island locations, with two well-fledged young at Riverhead, June 22 (D. Puleston, G. Raynor). Estimated numbers were fewer in the large Jones Beach colony of American and Snowy Egrets, Yellow-crowned and Black-

crowned Night Herons from last year and nests more scattered. No little Blue Herons were seen. The duck population remained favorable again this summer at The Raunt (Jamaica Bay Sanctuary) with Shoveller again nesting. Young Common Terns and Skimmers were banded up to the end of this period (Aug 15) at which time Black Terns were becoming more numerous. Shore-bird migration was well in progress, and following a few cool nights Olive-sided Flycatcher and Red-breasted Nuthatch led the vanguard of small land birds at Massapequa.

Loons — Ducks: The phenomenal number of 15 Common Loons and four Red-throated Loons were counted June 1 from Mecox to Moriches Inlet (P. Buckley, R. Clermont, N. Smith). On the same day these observers estimated in this area 500 Sooty Shearwaters; and on June 9 some 300 Sooty and 200 Greater Shearwaters were noted from Moriches to Shinnecock Inlets (R. Grant, Q. Kramer, Miss A. and Mrs. R. E. Chamberlain); a third large assembly of 160 Greater and 185 Sooty were seen at Westhampton, June 8, all flying westward (E. Whelen, Brooklyn Bird Club).

Other pelagic records: 12 Cory's Shearwaters and 100 Wilson's Petrels, Montauk, July 23 (Puleston). A Glossy Ibis was seen flying along Meadowbrook Causeway, Aug 5 (Penberthy). Breeding Gadwell at Jones Beach apparently had poor survival of young; two broods of Shovelers hatched at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary; early Green-winged Teal appeared at Jones Beach, with two July 27 (Elliott, Rose) and several at Jamaica Bay, Aug 4 (Levine, Penberthy).

Hawks — Owls: Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks were observed in the North port area and Broad-winged Hawks were on territory from Apr 22 (E. Mudge). Bob-white appears well populated in the farming country; few Rail and Gallinule records. There were good counts of shore-birds around Jamaica Bay with five Stilt Sandpiper, July 4, one Willet and one Hudsonian Curlew, July 20 and a Ruff from July 4 to 20 (N. Smith). Two Upland Plover were seen at Sagaponack, July 14 (Buckley, Clermont, Smith) and on July 21 (Puleston). Maximum Hudsonian Curlew, Mecox, Aug 4, 16 in a flock (Puleston); also a flock of nine, July 14 at Moriches (Clermont, Smith). There were several June Jaeger reports. A Cabot's Tern was collected June 30 at Mecox and is now in the American Museum of Natural History (Buckley, C. McKeever); there were also several Royal Tern reports. Black Terns put in an appearance at Moriches with an increase to six on July 27 (Puleston), three at Jones Beach same date (Elliott, Rose). Cuckoos were rather uncommon; a Barn Owl was found nesting at Fire Island Lighthouse (J. Bull).

Swifts — Shrikes: Whip-poorwills were reported as nesting in Mastic (J. T. Nichols). A Nighthawk was seen hawking over New Rochelle in early June. Least Flycatcher was present in the Oyster Bay region, where nesting; first Olive-sided Flycatcher, Massapequa, Aug 13 (Elliott). Purple Martins nested again in Seaford; early Red-breasted Nuthatch reported in Massapequa, Aug 13. Another Mockingbird was reported this year as probably nesting on western Long Island. The Veery has been pushed further eastward with advancing population. Three young of the Cedar Waxwing were reported at Manorville June 29 (Puleston); no Shrikes have been reported to date.

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-throated Vireo was heard singing June 8 at Smithtown, about ten miles eastward of regular nesting range (J. T. Nichols). Land development has probably eliminated the Black-throated Green Warbler from the West Hills area where summering birds were previously found for some 15 years. A slight movement of Yellow Warblers was noted in early August and Redstarts on Aug 11. Louisiana Water-thrush was present at Mill Neck during breeding season, and Chat at Massapequa and Mastic.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks probably nested again this year at Babylon, but left a daisy field at Massapequa in early June for no apparent reason, as they did last year. An Orchard Oriole was heard at Brookhaven, June 12 and on July 5 and 9 (Puleston). Scarlet Tanagers appeared on the down-grade this summer; Cardinals fairly numerous; several Indigo Buntings singing near Brookhaven during breeding season. House Finches were about normal; two British Goldfinch records since spring; American Goldfinch very plentiful. No Henslow's Sparrows reported; Vesper Sparrow scarce; Swamp Sparrow numbers gradually declining, but Field Sparrow still maintaining usual numbers.

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