

to nest at Mohonk Lake this summer (Dan Smiley). The Cliff Swallows left their site on the Ashokan Reservoir gatehouse Jul 15 (Al Feldman). Bluebirds were reported as down in most counties. Chandler Young saw a Loggerhead Shrike near Kerhonkson, Ulster County, on Aug 10.

Vireos — Warblers: A Blackpoll Warbler was also seen by Chandler Young in the Naponach area, Ulster County, on Jun 20 and is a very late date. The Kentucky Warbler comes into the spotlight again — with two widely separated occurrences in our region. The first record comes from Rockland County, with the discovery of a male being made at Pearl River by Emily Paulson on Jun 4 and again a few days later by Bob Deed et al. in an area near Congers. Although checked by many, no mate or nesting evidence was found. The other record of this beautiful warbler came from up in Ulster County near Brunswick in the Wallkill Valley east of the Shawangunks. Here on Jun 24 Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Young discovered a male singing frequently but again no nesting evidence was found. Both records indicate that there is a good chance that this species does nest spottedly in the Hudson Valley. Records of many years ago list it as a nesting species in the extreme lower Hudson Valley, and undoubtedly the modern force of birders would extend this range up the Hudson if a concerted effort could be made in this direction. Hooded Warblers seemed more abundant about Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, this summer (D. Smiley).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A male Orchard Oriole was seen and heard several times near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, during June and early July but no nesting record was actually made. It is believed (F. H.) that this bird is the offspring of the former nesting pair and was probably nesting in some nearby territory. The song was noted as being different from that of the male of the old pair. A White-throated Sparrow was observed on a few occasions during July at the Spillway area of the Ashokan Reservoir (Henry & Ilse Dunbar).

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The summer was one of mixed productivity with fairly successful breeding of Mallards and Black Ducks, Herring Gulls, Common and Least Terns and less successful breeding for egrets and herons.

Tragically few of the smaller nesting land birds were reported from Central and Eastern Long Island with 40 to 90 percent reduction noted by one observer. Birds largely affected were wrens, vireos, and warblers. Especially hard hit was the Pine Warbler, with several active Suffolk County observers recording not a single individual of this usually fairly common pine barrens species. Diminishment showed in Black and White and Prairie Warblers, Redstarts, and Red-eyed Vireos. Also down in numbers were Phoebes, House Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, White-eyed Vireos, and Field Sparrows. Not in the memory of this writer has such tragedy struck our woodlands or has the pleasure of listening to bird song been denied to such a scale to even the keenest listener. June woodlands on Long Island bore the silence of a late August insofar as the above species were concerned — a tragedy presumably caused by the intensive aerial spraying of woodlands in the spring of 1957 to kill the Gypsy Moth.

Besides the deteriorated small land bird situation, prolonged cold and rain caused great mortality to Purple Martin colonies in May. This condition

bettered later with the appearance of new arrivals in early June, but the 1958 crop was light.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons left early and comparatively no mid-June or summering birds were seen. No nesting record of Pied-billed Grebe came in. Twenty-five Cory's Shearwaters and 18 Wilson's Petrels were seen thirty miles south of Jones Inlet on Jul 21 (E. Mudge).

The heron colonies at Jones Beach (down this year) contained an estimated 100 pairs of Snowy Egrets, 200 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons, and 30 pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons around Jun 22 (D. Guthrie). On Jul 18 on the western end of the Sanctuary, one individual each of the Common Egret and Little Blue Heron were reported feeding young (J. Bull). Black-crowned Night Herons at Riverhead had an unsuccessful year, with predators (presumably Grackles) punching small holes in the eggs (R. Wilcox). At Jamaica Bay several Snowy Egrets were reported during the nesting season (J. Mayer). Mute Swans had fairly good success with as many as seven half-grown cygnets in a brood seen on the South Shore. Three one-third grown Canada Geese were at Mill Neck Jul 2 (J. Elliott). There were very few Gadwall at Jones Beach this year. A pair of Ruddy Ducks at Jamaica Bay had four young. Unlike 1957, no Shovelers were reported nesting. A Wood Duck was seen Jul 23 at Northport (Mudge). A drake Blue-winged Teal was seen at Wantagh Jun 15, and a Ruddy Duck was at Babylon in mid-June (Elliott). There were three Surf Scoters in the ocean off Gilgo in late July (Guthrie).

Hawks — Owls: There were few reports of buteos. An immature Bald Eagle was reported at Riverhead on Jul 9 (Latham). There was practically no nesting success for Ospreys at Orient, and nesting was also poor on Gardiner's Island (Latham, Wilcox). Presumably non-breeding Osprey were seen at Mill Neck Jul 6 and 12. There were no worthwhile falcon reports to the end of the period.

One Sora was at Riverhead Jul 9, and the Clapper Rail was recorded at Orient (Latham). Some 25 Woodcocks were seen in a couple of hours in woodlands at Greenport around Aug 1. An Upland Sandpiper was heard flying over at Moriches on Jul 22 (J. T. Nichols), and there was one at Orient on Aug 6 (Latham). Eight were found nesting around Westbury and Garden City in June (Guthrie). J. T. and W. F. Nicols had the following shorebirds Jul 21 at Moriches: five Piping and three Black-bellied Plover, four Greater Yellowlegs, one Willet, 250 Dowitchers, and 30 Sanderling. Three Willets and two Marbled Godwits were seen near Fire Island Inlet on Aug 3 (H. Darrow), and a Willet was over a boat basin at Lindenhurst in mid-August (I. Alperin). Noted at Moriches on Aug 12 were 200 Knots, two Marbled Godwits, and ten Hudsonian Godwits (Levine, Mudge, J. Ricks). Eighteen Laughing Gulls were at Mill Neck Jul 20 (Elliott), and a Gull-billed Tern was at Fire Island on Aug 3 (Darrow). There were several reports of Roseate Terns, with three pairs feeding young at Fire Island on Jul 27 (Darrow). Black Terns appeared in mid-July with four at Jones Beach on Jul 18 (Bull). In a large colony at Oak Beach in late July there were about 600 Common Terns as well as an estimated 15 pairs of Roseate Terns.

Banding records: 400 Herring Gulls at Captree, about 500 Common Terns and 81 Skimbers at Jones Beach, and an additional 604 Common Terns on Loop Causeway (A. Penberthy, assisted by M. Levine, B. Leshay, R. Preisick, and R. Sloss).

Mourning Doves were fairly common, but cuckoos and owls were scarce.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: No records of Nighthawks came in, and there were few reports of the Whip-poor-will and Hairy Woodpecker. There was a good distribution of Crested Flycatchers, but the Phoebe was scarce. The Least Flycatcher was absent over a large area of its regular nesting grounds in the Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor areas. An unusual nesting was that of the Traill's Flycatcher at East Moriches, with two pairs presumed nesting and one nest found (R. Wilcox). On Jul 18 a Traill's Flycatcher was also observed feeding young at Jones Beach (J. Bull). Four Rough-winged Swallows were reported at Smithtown in mid-June, and six (including juveniles) were observed at Mill Neck on July 6. Tree Swallows were flocking over Seaford in early August. Purple Martins arrived at their nesting

grounds on time, but the adults suffered a terrific setback from starvation during May from cold and wet weather, especially in Suffolk County. Mortality ran high among the birds in the colonies, but June arrivals replenished some, such as at Massapequa where four new pairs replaced an earlier loss of 18 individuals. However, birds left by Aug 1 and there was no indication of successful breeding (Darrow). There were no early August Red-breasted Nuthatches such as there were last year. Carolina Wrens, absent earlier, appeared back on eastern Long Island in July. One was heard Jul 4 at Mastic (J. T. Nichols), four were at Greenport on Jul 9, and one was present at Orient from Aug 1 to 5 (Latham). No nesting record of the Short-billed Marsh Wren came in. A Mockingbird was at Garden City in late June and early July. Hermit Thrushes bred at Coram, with a nest containing three eggs being found on Jul 20 (Elliott). The Veery was singing in early July at Mill Neck. Bluebirds appear to be diminishing in numbers each year. A pair of Cedar Waxwings was seen at Greenport in June.

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireos were scarcer this summer, but a few were at Oyster Bay and two were at Mill Neck Jul 9. Also down in numbers were Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Redstart. A Parula Warbler was heard at Great River in June and one was heard singing at Mattituck on Jul 24 (Alperin). On Jun 29 an estimated ten pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats were seen at Northport (Mudge). Northern Waterthrushes appeared in migration Aug 4 at Massapequa (Darrow), and the first Canada Warbler report was there on Aug 9 (Elliott).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Grackles had a good breeding season. The Baltimore Oriole was fairly common, but the Orchard Oriole was practically unrecorded from Long Island during the summer. A pair or two of Bobolinks were seen in the breeding season on grasslands along the Great South Bay at Babylon. Cardinals continued to infiltrate eastern Suffolk County. Very few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported. Records came in of the Indigo Bunting from Woodbury and the Vesper Sparrow from Bethpage. There was a scarcity of Field Sparrows. No Henslow's Sparrows were reported, and Grasshopper Sparrows were down considerably in the large area on the Montauk downs and grasslands.

3994 Park Ave., Seaford, Long Island

1959 FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT

January 17-25, Target Date January 18