

Loons — Ducks: About mid-July Martha Earl began noticing the Common Egrets about central Orange County. This egret is a regular summer visitant to many parts of our region, usually appearing in July. Two pair of Canada Geese were again found nesting at Swift Pond, near Dover Plains, Dutchess County. They are considered wild birds (Dutchess County Bird Club). Several Wood Ducks brought off their broods in the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary area in Westchester during the early part of the season and were seen by Stanley Grierson.

Hawks — Owls: Through regular observation Dan Smiley reports an upswing in the local Grouse population cycle about the Mohonk Lake property in Ulster County. Apparently the Upland Plover sparingly nests about suitable sites in the Hudson Valley, probably each year. A few years ago a nesting record was made in Ulster Co., and this summer a pair with young were found near Standfordville in Dutchess County (DCBC), making a first known record. The Solitary Sandpiper was found all season about a swamp near Millbrook, Dutchess Co. (DCBC). In Dutchess and Ulster Counties the cuckoos were reported as being more numerous this year.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: In the upper parts of our region the Phoebe seems to have nested in near normal numbers. Swallows also appeared to be normal for the period. In New Paltz, Ulster Co., a pair of Purple Martins used a single apartment box in which to nest (Robert Pyle). The Tufted Titmouse continued to show signs of increase. Two Brown Creeper nesting sites were found in Dutchess Co. this year, one in Bog Hollow, near Dover Plains and the other in Shunpike, Town of Washington (DCBC). In Kingston, Ulster Co., Mr. Raymond Van Valkenburgh had a Carolina Wren nesting in an ornament on his porch. In the early part of the summer a Mockingbird was seen (F. Hough) in Staatsburg, Dutchess Co., and was reported to have stayed there most of the season. Several successful nesting reports on the Bluebird came from Dutchess Co (DCBC), and a few from Ulster County. Elsewhere there was little comment other than a noted scarcity of the bird.

Vireos — Warblers: Observers in Dutchess Co. have failed to turn up any nesting White-eyed Vireos in that area for the past several years. Both Lawrence's and Brewster's hybrids were seen in Dutchess this season (DCBC). Henry and Ilse Dunbar established records that strongly indicate nesting of the Cerulean Warbler in the Black Creek area near "Slabsides" in Ulster County. At least two were seen during June and up to early July. On Aug 4 a male Blackburnian Warbler was noted feeding young near Moores Mills in Dutchess Co. and may well have nested nearby. No previous nesting records have been made for the country (DCBC). On Aug 13 a Northern Waterthrush took to visiting the feeder of Miss Betty Odell at her home in Katonah, Westchester County. It was watched closely for several days.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Cardinal continues to be well established in all areas suitable for it. It has been an off season for the Henslow's Sparrow. The Chipping Sparrow sometimes puts its nest close to the ground. One at Kripplebush, Ulster Co., chose a field site, putting the nest in a small cedar one foot from the ground. At Lomontville, Ulster Co., Henry Dunbar saw a nest five feet from the ground in a pear tree.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Dutchess County Bird Club into the fold of reporting counties for Region 9, thus making our Hudson Valley coverage more widespread and complete. An active club in a great area should indeed bring forth many worthwhile and interesting records.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Breeding results varied on the Long Island nesting grounds, with tremendous success noted in the Jamaica Bay Sanctuary. No violent storms came during early summer to destroy gull or tern colonies, and the lack of extremely high tides aided such birds as rails, Black Ducks, and marsh-breeding sparrows. Rainfall, though, was plentiful, and this offered a good cover crop. Whereas the numerous breeding species of water birds were

successful at Jamaica Bay under the skillful protection of Caretaker Johnson, the same was not true at Jones Beach. Nesting Black Ducks and Gadwalls have been declining in numbers there in recent years, perhaps because of predators. A summer investigation by a group of observers might disclose some interesting facts in this connection.

The continual search for beach grass (*Ammophila*) to vegetate large tracts of the new ocean parkway at Gilgo and Oak Beach has opened up some areas in the dunes and provided desirable open stretches for the benefit of breeding Common Terns and skimmers. An excellent colony was to be found at Loop Causeway, and another was at Oak Beach. The Captree Herring Gull colony continued to increase in numbers.

Dennis Puleston of Brookhaven reported breeding birds to have been greatly reduced in numbers on central and eastern Long Island. This applied especially to the warblers and other insectivores. The Prairie Warbler was almost completely missing. Roy Latham's report from Orient was about equally as discouraging. Around Greenport there are usually four or more pairs of Redstarts nesting, but none could be located this summer nor could any Black and White Warblers be found. A few Prairie Warblers were scattered along the North Fork. Remarkable among the warbler group was a singing male Kentucky in a swampy spot at Mattituck early in June and another in Greenport about the same time.

Loons — Ducks: Over a dozen young of the Pied-billed Grebe were found at Jamaica Bay (Johnson). A Cory's Shearwater was seen at Moriches Jul 25 (D. Guthrie). Three pairs of Common Egrets and four pairs of Snowy Egrets bred at Jamaica Bay (Johnson). Of a total of 84 nests in a colony on Ocean Boulevard south of Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond in late June, 72 were empty (presumably from previous occupancy by Black-crowned Night Herons), some half dozen were still occupied by Black-crowns, and the rest contained 23 young of both Snowy and Common Egrets, the latter slightly more numerous (Elliott). On the edges of this colony were several Green Heron nests. The above mentioned colony was at a new location; the large bushy backstretches of Tobay, north of the pond once yielding a crop of several hundred young herons and egrets, were this year largely unoccupied.

There was no report this year of the Wood Ibis which turned up so spectacularly last year, but the Glossy Ibis appeared in greatest abundance ever with a maximum of 11 on Jul 12 at Loop Causeway, South Freeport (E. Levine, A. Penberthy). At Jamaica Bay four or five were present daily for several weeks, and at Moriches Bay one was seen on Aug 12.

Among the more unusual species of nesting ducks at Jamaica Bay were the Blue-winged Teal (at least one brood seen), the Shoveler (a brood of 11 seen at about ten days old), and the Ruddy Duck (Johnson). Over 50 young of the latter were seen. Caretaker Johnson also mentioned seeing two young of the Canada Goose, a feral bird in this region. Seen at Jones Beach on Jun 29 were three pairs of Blue-winged Teal, six Shovelers (four of them males), and a good population of Gadwall. Forty adult Gadwalls and four broods with six or eight young in each were present there on Jul 5 (D. Guthrie).

Hawks — Owls: With several nesting records of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks came more abundant reports of Broad-wings, especially from the north shore of central Long Island. Spectacular news of the shooting of an "immature Golden Eagle" which had been "threatening" the young swans and ducks on a north shore estate at Lloyd Harbor on Jul 27 was relegated more or less to the commonplace when the bird was correctly identified, after newspaper publicity, as a Bald Eagle by Eugene Mudge of Northport.

A Yellow Rail was reported at Jamaica Bay on Jun 5, and the bird was flushed again by men mowing reeds on Jun 7 (Johnson). At least three broods of Common Gallinules were seen, and the population of young Coot was estimated at 50.

Latham reported an early flight of Woodcock in early July at Greenport. This continued throughout the month, and he noted some nesting there also. The Whimbrel was observed at Jamaica Bay on Jul 12 (Peter Post), and the first Willet appeared there on Jul 4 (Bull). In early July 175 Dowitchers put in an appearance, also at Jamaica Bay. One adult and one young Upland Plover were noted near Roosevelt Field on Jun 20 (Guthrie). On Meadow Island, off Loop Causeway, a Curlew Sandpiper was observed Aug 8, and seven Stilt Sandpipers were there the following day (Levine, Ward). A lone Wilson's Phalarope was at Jamaica Bay on Jul 18 (I. Alperia, Levine). There were no jaeger or rare gull reports.

The Herring Gull colony at Captree continued to increase with an estimated 800 adults and 600 young, of which 277 were banded by A. Penberthy and E. Levine. A total of 711 Common Terns were banded at Loop Causeway and Jones Beach by the same observers. In this Loop Causeway area it was estimated that there were 900 breeding pairs and 1500 young, but at Jones Beach a decline in the colony size was noted. Twenty-eight Black Skimmers were also banded on the Loop Causeway, and a fair-sized flock of young skimmers had moved into the Jamaica Bay area by the end of the period. An increase of cuckoos on Long Island over last year was noted.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: An Acadian Flycatcher was found in swampy woods at Greenport on Jul 18 and 25 (Latham), and one was calling constantly at Yaphank on Jun 7 (Puleston). The latter observer also reported a Traill's Flycatcher calling consistently at Moriches on Jun 22. A probable spring-migrating Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at the Davis Wildlife Refuge, Staten Island, on Jun 4 (Mrs. M. Weingartner). A Cliff Swallow was reported at Jamaica Bay Aug 11; 20 pairs of Bank Swallows were found at Northport in mid-June (Mudge). Mockingbirds nested at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary and raised two broods of three young each (Johnson). Nesting Hermit Thrushes continued to be rare with only one-third of the numbers of ten years ago in the Riverhead area (Latham). None could be found at Coram or Selden where they were fairly common up to a few years ago (Elliot). Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and House Wrens continued to be comparatively scarce, and there were no breeding records of the Short-billed Marsh Wren. The Wood Thrush was scarce on eastern Long Island, and very few records of the Bluebird were turned in.

Vireos — Sparrows: Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were practically absent from their old haunts in the Oyster Bay - Syosset area. Black and White Warblers, Prairie Warblers, and American Redstarts were down in numbers. Four or more pairs of Redstarts nested at Greenport a few years ago and two or three pairs of Black and White Warblers were formerly found there, but no breeding birds of either species could be located there this summer (Latham). A late Blackburnian passed through West Hills on Jun 13 (Elliott, Ward). Yellow Warblers appeared fairly plentiful. There was a late Parula Warbler in song at Brookhaven on Jun 18 (Puleston). Encouraging was the report of Yellow-breasted Chats in Northport in mid-June with six "singing" in a tract of about 200 acres (Mudge). The first report of the returning Northern Waterthrush was at Far Rockaway on Jul 29 (Bull).

Four Bobolinks were found on nesting grounds at Babylon on Jun 20 (Baldwin Bird Club), and an Orchard Oriole was singing at Brookhaven that same day (Puleston) — the only record in summer this year. Two young Cardinals were found at Freeport in early summer (Alperin); a Rose-breasted Grosbeak Juvenile was observed in very early August at Massapequa, although the species has not been known to breed in that area. Several Indigo Buntings summered at West Hills.

The House Finch continued to be plentiful, but no European Goldfinches were reported. Grasshopper Sparrows continued to be scarce in Nassau County, but a pair was at Garden City on Jun 20 and one was reported at Hicksville about the same time (Guthrie, Mayer, Rose). Two pairs of Vesper Sparrows, one individual carrying food, were noted at Calverton on Jun 3 (Puleston). A Lark Bunting was reported at Jamaica Bay Jun 6 and seen by numerous observers. A pair of Chipping Sparrows nested at Orient in a low privet hedge, and the nest was completely made up of fine rootlets. There was no hair which was almost a necessity in the nest lining of this bird years ago when horses were in more general use.

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