

listening for the feeding call of the male, I located the nest in a small hole five feet from the top of a dead tree trunk perhaps thirty feet high. When the tree was lightly tapped, the female would poke her head out of the hole.

But where was the pitch that was supposed to be daubed on the rim of the nesthole? Not a speck could be seen at first, but on May 21, eleven days after the nest had been located, the first pitch was in place. By June 7 the entire rim of the nesthole had been daubed with pitch so plentifully that it was dripping down the old tree trunk.

I can vouch for the fact that young Red-breasted Nuthatches are hungry individuals indeed. In one hour on that date (9:00 — 10:00 AM) the parent birds together made 97 trips with food for their young.

The nesting site was surrounded by old apple trees, white pines, Norway spruces, maples, a few red cedars, and was at an elevation of 450 feet.)Editor's note — A similar nesting was also reported from Red Rock during the spring of 1960 by Mrs. Myra Smilow. Red rock is located in Columbia County about ten miles south of Nassau. Insofar as is known by local observers, these constitute the first area breeding records for the Red-breasted Nuthatch). — Beatrice Shineman, Nassau.

Mockingbird Nesting in Onondaga County: During the second week of June, 1960, a singing Mockingbird was noticed near the Harry Yeiser home on Broad Road, on the outskirts of Syracuse. A second bird soon appeared, and about this time the male ceased singing.

On July 2 Mr. Yeiser observed one of the birds going in and out of the spruce trees on his property, and on investigation he located a nest with several young. On July 3 there were four rather well-feathered young. The four young birds successfully left the nest sometime later, and the entire family group disappeared shortly thereafter. The nest, young, and adult feeding the young were all duly photographed.

Area records for the nesting of the Mockingbird are limited. There was a report from the Geneva area a few years ago, and Professor Guthrie of Keuka College reported an active nest near Branchport earlier this year.

I wish to thank Mrs. N. P. McGowan for bringing the significance of this particular nesting record to my attention. — Benjamin P. Burt, 109 Haffenden Road, Syracuse 10.

Hawk Owl in Oneida County: On March 16, 1960, while coming in from the Oneida County Airport (Whitesboro), I observed a Hawk Owl perched in a tree less than forty feet from the road. Although it was overcast, the day was bright and the light very good.

The bird was roughly crow-size, and it had the longest tail I have seen on an owl. It perched on the branch, more like a hawk. The breast was heavily barred and the face marks enunciated, as Peterson notes, with "sideburns".

I returned about two hours later, but the bird had flown away. I also searched again the following day, but with no success. — Winston W. Brockner, 63 Ardmore Place, Buffalo 13.

Tufted Titmouse Nesting on Long Island: A couple of decades ago the Tufted Titmouse was regarded as a very rare visitor on Long Island. According to Allan D. Cruickshank, **Birds Around New York City** (1942), less than four yearly reports normally came from the area, the bird being a rare possibility at any time of year. Several years ago one wintered at the border of Massapequa and Seaford in the Tackepausha Preserve. It was a familiar sight, popular with visitors, and the bird was frequently photographed. Since then the Tufted Titmouse has been reported from time to time on the north shore of western Long Island.

Becoming Titmouse conscious, Long Island ornithologists have reported several recurring or lingering brds during the past year.

In **Audubon Field Notes** (Vol. 14, No. 3, June, 1960) Charles K. Nichols, after noting the northward ranging of the Tufted Titmouse with two reported in Franklin County in northern Massachusetts and several others farther south in the Connecticut River Valley, remarks "the species is extending its range on Long Island; two were seen at the Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary at Oyster Bay on March 19, a first record for the locality (J. Callaghan)".

These birds apparently remained, and in June they were reported to Mr. Callaghan. The birds were back in the sanctuary in dense deciduous woods and again were observed and reported to this writer by Donald Richter of Rockville Centre who at that time saw adults feeding fledgling young which were just about able to fly. This was in late June.

Strangely enough, in this, the first year of an authentic nesting of the Tufted Titmouse on Long Island, comes a second report of a breeding pair feeding three or four young. These were found in early July in an attractive area of pine barrens at Brentwood about ten miles east of Oyster Bay by John Mayer of So. Ozone Park and George Rose of Garden City. — John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15

JAMES K. MERITT

The summer period was comfortably cool. In New York City, for example, the temperature did not once reach 90°, something of a rarity there. Rainfall varied greatly by month and by locality. There were no tropical storms, but in the western and central part of the state localized cloudbursts and windstorms were reported. In spite of the damage that these setbacks caused there the summer of 1960 produced a generally successful nesting season for most species.

Bluebirds, unfortunately, were not among this majority, although breeding pairs were reported to perhaps the degree expected in view of the birds' scarcity during the spring. It is undoubtedly true that the Bluebird will remain a "disaster species" for some years to come. The situation this summer was encouraging only in that it could have been bleaker.

Goshawks were reported as nesters in Regions 1 and 4, and this species was also observed in Region 7, where it is more to be expected. The Goshawk's smaller cousins, the Sharp-shin and the Cooper's, were almost universally scarce during the period, as indeed were most all the hawks. Reports of nesting Turkeys in the central and western part of the state indicated some success in the long battle to bring this species back to at least some semblance of its former status. Nesting Mockingbirds were reported more frequently than before. Waterfowl in general had a very good breeding season.

As a general rule, summer birding lacks the spectacular features that heighten interest in other seasons. The nesting species are sedentary, and this is a characteristic rapidly acquired by many observers as the warm weather arrives. In actuality, summer provides the ideal opportunity to learn a great deal about habits and habitats. Surveys such as the one conducted in the unique Tug Hill Plateau area south of Watertown add considerably to our ornithological knowledge. Many other such surveys are needed on a continuing basis in other parts of the state.

The Cattle Egret expansion continued, as this summer the bird was reported from Region 2 for the first time. Other reports came from Regions 3, 5, and 10. The Cattle Egret has now been observed at one time or another in at least eight of the ten reporting regions. This bird's days as a non-breeder in New York State seem limited; Cattle Egrets now nest regularly and not