

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

uncommonly in the heron rookeries of Cape May County in southern New Jersey. At present, that is the northernmost known breeding locality for that species in this country.

The southbound shorebird migration was, of course, well underway by August 15. Of especial note among this group were the Avocet and Hudsonian Godwit on Long Island, the Baird's Sandpiper in Region 5, and the Wilson's Phalarope in Region 3. A Gull-billed Tern was an unusual summer visitor to Long Island.

The northward post-breeding wandering of white herons was apparently even lighter than that of last summer. This would appear to be true in spite of good nesting results at known rookeries to the south of us.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

Weather conditions throughout the period were about normal. Pleasant weather with moderate temperatures and intermittent rainfall was generally the rule. At Buffalo precipitation and temperature averaged only slightly above normal. However, southern tier areas received the heaviest amount of rainfall in 25 years during mid June and this trend tended to continue into early July. A severe wind-storm on June 24 caused widespread damage.

In general, the nesting season was a successful one, although passerine birds, particularly flycatchers, thrushes, some warblers and some sparrows appeared to be nesting later than usual, perhaps a result of locally adverse weather conditions. Few late spring migrants were reported in early June. The first noticeable autumn movement of passerines occurred during the last four days of the period. Water levels at many inland ponds and lakes remained relatively high, thus exposing little shoreline or mudflats for shorebirds, or feeding areas for migrant dabbling ducks.

The first known Goshawk nest since 1908 and the first known nesting of the White-throated Sparrow were the outstanding records of the period in this region. A July Cape May Warbler and a nest involving a female "Brewster's" Warbler were also noteworthy.

Loons — Ducks: An interesting inland summer record was that of a Horned Grebe on a small stream in Allegany State Park Jul 4 (Beal). Another in nuptial plumage with an injured wing occurred Aug 12 in the gorge at Niagara Falls (Schaffner, Brownstein). Great Blue Herons nested successfully in a least four inland locations. A new heronry containing about ten nests was located near Portville, Cattaraugus County (Eaton). The heronry at Ten Mile Hollow near Vandalia was also occupied this year (Eaton). Young were leaving about nine active nests in early July at a heronry near Attica Center, Wyoming County, apparently a previously unreported site (Rosche). Near Hamlet, Chautauqua County, there were about 32 nests in a heronry that has been active for at least 10 years (Rew). Noticeable increases in abundance began to occur in early August, juveniles comprising about 75% of the individuals observed. Likewise, Green Herons increased in early August, a maximum of 17 being counted Aug 13 in Wyoming County (Rosche). Reports of Common Egrets were few. Single individuals were seen at Delaware Park, Buffalo on Jun 13 (Knox) and Aug 8 and 10 (Filor). One was observed at Oak Orchard Refuge Jul 24 (Schaffner, Brownstein), one occurred Aug 9 at Prendergast Point, Chautauqua Lake (Rappole, Bohall) and two were known to have been near Clymer in late July (Webster et al). Several Black-crowned Night Herons were reported, but this species continues to remain scarce, especially in the immediate vicinity of Buffalo. One Least Bittern Jun 13 at East Eden Pond was the only report (Bourne). After being somewhat more infrequent than usual during the spring and early summer, American Bitterns appeared in good numbers in favorable habitats in late July. When considering the Mallard and Wood Duck as nesting species in this region, one cannot overlook the importance of small ponds and wildlife marshes that have been constructed in many areas. This appeared to be especially true this year,