

Two young were fledged. Several pairs of Cerulean Warblers were found about Cruger's Island, Dutchess County, during the summer, most of which were exhibiting complete nesting evidence (RTWBC). Ceruleans were also found across the Hudson in the Black Creek locality of Ulster County, but no one was able to run down a nest. A single male appeared at the Dunbars' residence in Lomontville on Jun 2, but it didn't linger long.

In the ecology of the Northern Yellowthroat, Fred Hough and Dan Smiley have determined its habitat to extend and exist in Canadian flora and faunal situations in Ulster County. Such evidence was seen in a pair found nesting in the Balsam zone on Balsam Lake Mountain 3,700 feet in the Catskills.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The House Sparrow, pest that he is, is showing some signs of paying for his keep in this country. In some localities these sparrows have been observed holding a fair check on emerging Japanese beetles. The Orchard Oriole nested at Red Oaks Mill, near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, in a site that had been used previously (W. Clare, Jr.). Indigo Buntings and Goldfinches were considered on the off side. The Towhee was found on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain and may well have nested there since it was seen in June and August (F. Hough, D. Smiley).

The Henslow's Sparrow was reported in Ulster County but not elsewhere in the region. A Swamp Sparrow was singing lustily in the Mud Pond area atop the Shawangunks, Ulster County, on Jul 17 and was probably nesting at that site.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The summer period was comfortably cool with the official thermometer remaining under 90 degrees Fahren. There was sufficient rain to encourage good vegetation tracts, but no flooded breeding areas resulting from storms with strong northeast winds occurred to the detriment of water birds, breeding rails, Sharp-tailed, and Seaside Sparrows.

Grassy tracts grew luxuriantly with tremendous crops of the Panicums, especially switch-grass (*Panicum birgatum*), *Agrostis*, and *Digitaria*. This speaks well of coming seed crops for migrating and wintering sparrows.

Prodigious flocks of both Grackles and Starlings flying nightly into the tall groves of trees indicated a highly successful season for these aggressive species. The former I hold largely responsible for the elimination by nest-robbing of the attractive little British Goldfinch on Long Island, now unrecorded for the last few years. Likewise, among the less desirable water birds, a great increase has been noticed in breeding Herring Gulls, now known in over a half-dozen colonies from Jamaica Bay eastward to and including Gardiner's Island. In practically all of these colonies one or two pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls, sometimes more, have been reported. With this increase comes a diminishment of the more desirable terns and skimmers, both on eastern and extreme western Long Island, if near these colonies.

Nesting Egrets were reported in several locations. The ever-spreading Cattle Egret was again reported, but apparently not as a breeder. Among the land birds the Hermit Thrush was again scarce in the pine barrens. Pine, Prairie, and Black-throated Green Warblers were up in numbers from the all-time low of 1959 (Puleston). Bluebirds were practically non-existent on Long Island. Cardinals were on the increase, and for the first time in recent years the Tufted Titmouse nested.

Loons — Ducks: An immature Gannet was seen at Short Beach on Jul 16 (P. Post, E. Restivo). The first Double-crested Cormorant was at Shinnecock on Jul 24 (G. Raynor), and six were at South Oyster Bay Aug 15 (J. Elliott). Common and Snowy Egrets bred again at Jones Beach south of the Sanctuary pond. At Jamaica Bay there were 25 pairs of Common and 90 pairs of Snowy Egrets on Jul 16; also noted was a pair of Little Blue Herons, with one young being banded (Post, Restivo). The Little Blue Heron seemed slightly up in numbers elsewhere with several seen on the Moriches flats and six or seven at Jones Beach in early August. On Jun 10 there were two nests of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Northport (E. Mudge). A Louisiana Heron was at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary on Aug 6 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Two Cattle Egrets were reported on Plum Island for about two weeks in June, and

there was one in Mecox, Georgia area, in late spring (R. Latham). There were practically no Glossy Ibis records, nor did the Wood Ibis appear this year. The white heron count at the East Moriches roost on Aug 7 was 37 Common Egrets and 103 Snowy Egrets or similarly-sized immature Little Blue Herons (G. Raynor).

Among nesting ducks manager Herbert Johnson reported at the Jamaica Bay Sanctuary seven young Gadwall, two broods of Shovelers, and one brood of Blue-winged Teal, with five young seen. Over 50 Ruddy Ducks, including young and old, were present at the end of the nesting season. Among migrants at Jamaica Bay were six Green-winged Teal seen on Aug 6.

Gadwall summered at Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond. An early August Wood Duck was seen at Manorville (G. Raynor), and a Common Goldeneye was observed at Moriches Inlet on Jul 28 (Pembleton, Good). Four Red-breasted Mergansers were counted on a survey of Jamaica Bay Islands on Jul 16 (Post, Restivo).

Hawks — Owls: Two broods of Broad-winged Hawks and one of Red-tailed Hawks were banded on eastern Long Island (Puleston). The two species of Accipiter hawks are now extremely rare, even on eastern Long Island. An Osprey was seen flying over Great South Bay at West Islip on Jul 4, apparently a non-breeding bird (I. Alperin). There were very few records of any of the rails.

The Purple Gallinule reported at Hewlett in mid-May remained there until at least Jun 4 (R. Sloss). A Common Gallinule was seen at Lawrence on Jul 3 (Post, Kallman). An estimated 50 Coot and two broods of Common Gullinules were observed at Jamaica Bay (Johnson). The American Oystercatcher nested on a sandy island at Moriches Bay and produced three young (D. Puleston) which were banded by LeRoy Wilcox. A second pair was seen at Shinnecock about mid-August (Puleston).

Among the shorebirds, there were three Whimbrels at Point Lookout on Jul 31 (Norse, Buckley, Post). On Jul 8 there was an early large flock of 300 Dowitchers and one Solitary Sandpiper (Post, Restivo). Two Solitary Sandpipers were at Manorville on Aug 6 (G. Raynor). Other early birds were three Stilt Sandpipers and four Hudsonian Godwits on Jul 9 at Moriches. A maximum of six Hudsonian Godwits was seen at Moriches on Aug 7 (Puleston). On Jul 16 there was a female Northern Phalarope in breeding plumage at Jamaica Bay (Post, Restivo).

Two Avocets were reported, one at Orient on Aug 5 (Latham), and one daily at Jamaica Bay from Aug 6 to 14. Two great Black-backed Gulls and 75 pairs of Herring Gulls made up the Fire Island State Park gull colony, while at Jamaica Bay there were three pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls (most southerly nesting record to date in the East) and several hundred pairs of Herring Gulls.

Among the large population of Common Terns in the Oak Beach tern colony, about one out of ten was estimated to be a Roseate. The Roseate was also reported nesting on Meadow Island and at Fire Island Inlet. The only terns found nesting in the entire Jamaica Bay area was a small colony near the west pond in the sanctuary (Post, Restivo).

A Gull-billed Tern was seen circling and heard calling at Lake Success on Jul 6 (Mayer). An early Caspian Tern was at Fire Island Inlet on Jul 10 (I. Alperin). Two Royal Terns were at Mecox on Jul 24, and there was one at Shinnecock on Jul 30 (Raynor). Black Terns were scarce.

Both cuckoos appeared to be on the increase. The Yellow-billed was feeding young at Woodbury in early July. One Short-eared Owl was seen at Jamaica Bay on Jul 16. Screech Owls were scarce. One at Manorville on Aug 6 was Raynor's only 1960 record.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Single Nighthawks were at Manorville on Jul 29 and Aug 6 (Raynor). Two Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in West Islip, and later several juvenile birds were observed. Hairy Woodpeckers were seen in the Syosset area. The Kingbird was fairly common, with nesting records at Syosset. At Manorville Phoebe had only one brood instead of two as usual (Raynor). Wood Pewees were fairly common, but Least Flycatchers were scarce on Long Island. There was an early Olive-sided Flycatcher at Inwood on Aug 5 (Norse) and at Orient on Aug 9 ("earliest ever here" — Latham). The Tree Swallow had poor nesting results at Manorville. Purple Martins there raised large broods early and left early (Raynor).

Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches seemed to be on the upgrade after low numbers the past several years. The Tufted Titmouse nested at Oyster Bay and in Brentwood. Latham reported only about one-third the nesting House Wrens

on the north fork; also down was his Carolina Wren count, with one at Orient and two or three at Greenport. Further west the Carolina Wren has appeared occasionally to the Oyster Bay — Mill Neck area. Several Mockingbird records have come in. The Hermit Thrush was again scarce in the pines barrens. None could be found at Coram where they were known rather commonly for many years (Queens County Bird Club, Elliott). Latham reported only one at Riverhead. On the other hand the Veery is extending its range on Long Island, with a new nesting discovered in the Yaphank woods (Raynor). The only Bluebird report was of an individual at Yaphank; this time there were none in Raynor's boxes at Manorville.

Vireos — Warblers: White-eyed Vireos were seen at several locations. The Yellow-throated Vireo was at Cold Spring Harbor, but it was scarce in the Oyster Bay area. At Millers Place on Jun 18 a pair of Warbling Vireos had a nest with young in a maple overhanging the road (Puleston); these birds were generally scarce.

The Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, and Yellowthroat were the commonest warblers. A Lawrence's Warbler stayed at Lake Success from late June to Jul 15 (Mayer). Pine and Prairie Warblers were scarce in western Suffolk County around Brentwood; only one Pine Warbler was seen in early July (Mayer, Rose). On eastern Long Island Puleston reported Pine, Prairie, and Black-throated Green Warblers in better condition than last year, and Mudge found two singing Black-throated Green Warblers at Northport on Jul 18. There were none again this year in West Hills. The Louisiana Waterthrush nested at Manorville for the second time in as many years; they were scarce elsewhere (Raynor).

Early arrivals included a Northern Waterthrush at Inwood Park on Jul 25 (Norse) and a Myrtle Warbler at Captree State Park on Aug 4 (Alperin).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Two Bobolinks were seen at Babylon on Jun 6 (Baldwin Bird Club). Baltimore Orioles had a good season, but there were no Orchard Oriole breeding records. Scarlet Tanagers were fairly well spread in the oak woods. Cardinals are becoming more widespread; they nested at Greenport this year (Latham). There were two records of the Purple Finch: two at Jessup's Neck on Aug 7 (Pembleton, Good), and one singing at Noyack on Jul 4 (Raynor). There were no Henslow's Sparrow nesting records. A Lark Sparrow was observed at Captree on Aug 9 (Alperin). Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows were present at Manorville during the summer, but Song Sparrows appeared down in numbers in the island (Raynor).

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1961 FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT

For date and information

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