

of their home in Valley Cottage, Rockland County, on Aug 15! They submitted a feather as evidence, and we certainly hope that others were lucky enough to see these birds somewhere. Another unexpected find was made by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Smiley at Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, where they saw a small flock of Red Cross-bills on Jun 13; the birds appeared to be eating aphids concentrated in curled leaves of an elm tree. Martha Earl again found the Purple Finch nesting near Newburgh, Orange County. They were also found in certain lowland areas of Ulster County, obviously attracted to planted spruce.

Man and Nature are constantly changing the face of the land, and because the Henslow's Sparrow has rather restricted nesting site requirements the bird is seldom static for long. The grassy, weedy, bush-studded field is the favorite habitat, but these are not overly common in our region. Apparently one or two or more such places have returned into being in Rockland County for two Henslow's reports came from that area. One bird was found near Stony Point during July (H. Kelsey) and another with young near Blachard Road in northern Rockland Co. during the same period (Ed. Treacy, P. Jeheber, Margaret and John Dye).

Corrigendum: The Western Grebe reported in the previous summary and mentioned in James Meritt's covering summary was in error; the bird was a Red-necked Grebe.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Again, similar to last year, *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass), *Agrostis*, and *Digitaria sanguinalis* (crab grass) grew abundantly during June and July, which were hot and humid with plentiful rainfall. This speaks for a good seed supply for wintering sparrows and other ground-feeding birds. There were no southerly storms of importance to drive stragglers up the coast and no strong northeastern winds to flood the salt marshes or affect the colonizing terns and skimmers in their sandy, hollowed nests on the beaches. The weather was also favorable to nesting ducks, with well-maintained water levels causing prolific broods both at Jamaica Bay and Jones Sanctuary pond. A lack of prolonged damp periods proved favorable to Tree and Barn Swallow populations, and young Purple Martins were a-wing in early August in fair abundance. A tremendous crop of web-worms hatched in June, almost devastating our Long Island oak woods and leaving many trees almost as devoid of foliage as in winter. With plentiful food provided, aphids, leaf hoppers, etc., in the middle of nesting, land and song birds had a good season and cuckoos were fairly plentiful.

With the spread of herons and egrets northward in recent years, Long Island's nesting colonies are mostly reported from the western end. A newcomer, the Glossy Ibis, bred this summer at Jamaica Bay. There were also first breeding records for American Widgeon and Redhead, although presumably the latter are from young brought to the sanctuary last summer (see *Kingbird*, Vol. 10, No. 4, p. 169).

More encouraging reports came from nesting warblers on eastern Long Island, but records of Carolina Wrens are scarce since the severe snows of last winter. There have been a few records of imported Cardinals from several locations on central and eastern Long Island (Puleston); undoubtedly these were captive birds which had been released. Early fall migration to August 15 was in the doldrums with extremely hot weather and practically no north winds to bring down the few migrants usually appearing around that time. Therefore, only one record of Olive-sided Flycatcher and several of Northern Waterthrush came in before the end of the period.

Loons — Ducks: One or two Common Loons summered. A Horned Grebe was seen at Great Meadow Island, Jones Beach, Jul 11 (Levine) and from Jul 23 to Aug 13 (Buckley); another was seen at Gilgo Jun 21 (Buckley, Gill, Futuyama) and a Gannet same place and date. Pied-billed Grebes brought off two broods at Jamaica Bay, with the first young being seen Jun 4 (Post, Norse, and Heath). There were very few records of shearwaters except for one Sooty off Mecox on Jun 24 (R. Wilcox). Five Wilson's Petrels were seen off Gilgo on Jun 21 (Buckley, Gill, Futuyama). The last spring record of Double-crested Cormorant was three May 30 at Shinnecock; two at Moriches on Aug 12 was the first fall record (G. Raynor).

Both egrets were rather scarce on eastern Long Island. In the Jones Beach colony, south of the sanctuary pond, there were 40-50 Common and 100 Snowy Egrets, 20-25 Black-crowned Night Herons, and about five pairs of Green Herons in early June; among white herons, young ranged from one-fourth grown to practically full-grown, the latter hopping from branch to branch with partial use of wings (Elliott). At Lawrence marsh there were eight pairs of Common Egrets, four pairs of Snowy Egrets, 40 pairs of Black-crowns, ten pairs of Yellow-crowns, and eight pairs of Green Herons (Levine, Post). A Glossy Ibis nest containing three eggs was found at Canarsie on Jun 25 (Post); this constitutes the first New York State breeding record. Another nest with four eggs was discovered on Jul 1 (Post, Buckley, Heath, Horowitz, and Schaffer). On Jun 29 a nest with three eggs was found at the east pond, Jamaica Bay Sanctuary (Johnson). Besides the Ibis at Canarsie there were six pairs of Common Egrets, 25 pairs of Snowy Egrets, one pair of Little Blue Herons, 35 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons, one pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and a Least Bittern (Post). A Little Blue Heron was at Freeport Aug 5 (Elliott, Ward, Wheat). Four Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen at Jones Beach Aug 4 (Alperin), and a maximum Snowy Egret count for eastern Long Island was 30 on Aug 12 at Moriches Inlet (P. Connor).

There were six Snow Geese at Spring Creek, Jamaica Bay, Aug 12 (Buckley), and on Jun 4,500 Brant were seen flying over the surf at Mecox (Raynor). Eight broods of Gadwell were reported from Jones Beach totaling about 50, with about a dozen adults seen; they were found on the sanctuary pond.

A female American Widgeon and six young were seen at Jamaica Bay on Aug 6, and two broods were noted later, a first for the New York City area (Buckley, Horowitz, Norse, and Phelan) (Ed — see **Kingbird**, Vol. 10, No., 3 p. 94 for an account of other Widgeon breeding records in New York State. As Sally Hoyt notes, American Widgeon also bred at Montezuma this summer). A Blue-winged Teal was seen Jun 4 (Raynor), and there were four at Jamaica Bay Aug 15 (Ward). Two Wood Ducks were at Manorville on Jun 12 (Raynor) and three at Jamaica Bay on Jul 9 (Norse, Post). A Redhead and four young and a Green-winged Teal with young were found in mid-summer by Caretaker Johnson and Wm. Norse. Shovelers did not breed this year. A female King Eider was seen at the sanctuary east pond, Jamaica Bay, on Jul 6 and photographed (Buckley); there were three at Great Gull Island (eastern Long Island) on Jul 31 (Post, Kallman, Eisenmann). Twenty-six White-winged Scoters were seen by Peter Post on Block Island Sound on Jul 16. There were several broods of Ruddy Ducks at Jamaica Bay this summer.

Hawks — Owls: Single Red-tailed Hawks were at Manorville Jul 2 to Aug 13 (Raynor), and there were also singles at Neapeague and Flanders during June and July (Connors). A Broad-winged Hawk probably nested around Hampton Bays; it was seen carrying food in June and July. Raynor reports Broad-winged Hawks very scarce for the past six years. One was at West Hills in mid-July (Elliott). A Pigeon Hawk was at Jamaica Bay Aug 13 (Buckley).

There was a single Virginia Rail at Manorville from Jun 14 to 17. American Coot nested at Jamaica Bay, and Common Gallinules had four or five broods of young in the same marsh with Least Bittern.

Three Oystercatchers were seen and a pair nested at Moriches; one young about a week old was found dead on Jun 23, and another was banded on Jun 29. The latter was flying by Jul 11. This believed to be the first successful nesting record (i.e. in that at least one young successfully left the nest) for Long Island (Wilcox). There were three or four records of Oystercatchers on eastern Long Island. A 14-year old Piping Plover was caught Jun 5 at Shinnecock, perhaps "the oldest shorebird in North America" (Wilcox). There were several other reports of Piping Plover colonies. Golden Plover: Great Meadow Island, Aug 5, one (Levine, Hirshbein). There were several reports of Upland Plover, Aug 9 to 13. Whimbrel: Meadow Island, Aug 5, four (Elliott, Ward, Wheat); five were at Shinnecock Jul 17 (Connor). First Stilt Sandpiper: Jul 16 at Jamaica Bay (Norse). Willet: Jun 4, one at Mecox (Raynor); Jun 11, Jones Beach, one (Norse, Post). Ruff: Jamaica Bay, Aug 12, one (Norse, Post). Knot: 500 at Moriches Aug 12 (Connor). Dowitcher: 400 at Jamaica Bay on Jul 4 (Norse). Purple Sandpiper: one at Short Beach, Jul 4, for an extremely late date (Post, Buckley, Eisenmann, and Ward). Marbled Godwit: Moriches, Jul 15, one (Dignan). Hudsonian Godwit: Jamaica Bay, Aug 19, one (Ward); Moriches Inlet, Aug 12, six (Puleston, Raynor). Wilson's Phalarope: four on Aug 12 at Moriches Inlet (Puleston, Raynor).

Gull, tern, and skimmer colonies: Moriches Inlet, two colonies; first colony — 10,000 Common Terns, 50 Roseate Terns, and 200 Black Skimmers; second colony — 400 Common Terns, 40 Least Terns, and one pair of Skimmers. Cedar Beach: 3,000 Common Terns, 60 Roseate Terns, and 10 Black Skimmers. Meadow Island, Jones Beach: 750 Common Terns, 75 Skimmers. Captree State Park: 300 Common Terns, 1,000 Herring Gulls, six Great Black-backed Gulls, and 20 Black Skimmers. Gull Island (east of Orient Point): 1,500 Common Terns, 300 Roseate Terns (increase of Roseate from 200 last year). Shinnecock Bay, two colonies: 500 Herring Gulls and two Great Black-backed Gulls in one, in the other 700 Herring and six Great Black-backed Gulls. Gardiner's and Cartwright Islands: tremendous numbers of nesting gulls depleting the Ospreys in this, the largest Osprey colony in the world (Wilcox). Two Caspian Terns were at Mecox Jun 3.

Both cuckoos were reported normally present at Manorville and eastern districts this summer (Raynor). Screech Owl: reportedly scarce, one Jul 27 and two Aug 7 at Manorville (Raynor). Great Horned Owl: Flanders, Aug 5 and 11 (Connor, Miller); one at Speonk on Jul 2, trapped and banded (Wilcox).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawks nested in upper Manhattan, two pairs on roof-tops (Norse, Post). Hairy Woodpecker: Oyster Bay, Jun 23, two (Elliott, Ward). Trail's Flycatcher: Northport, Jun 3, one (Elliott, Mudge, Ward); Port Washington, one, Jun 9, 16 (Mrs. A. Dove); absent this year at East Moriches where nesting previously; Westchester County Airport, one, Jun 18 (Post, Phelan, Norse, and Heath); ten reported at Jones Beach to Jun 17 (Post). Acadian Flycatcher: Riis Park, singing bird (Post, Norse, Heath). Least Flycatcher: Oyster Bay, Jun 23, two (Elliott, Ward). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Northport, Jun 3, latest (Elliott, Mudge, Ward); first southern migrant reported, Massapequa, Aug 12, 13, one (Elliott). A Prairie Horned Lark's nest was found at Short Beach on Jul 2, N/one egg, two young (Post).

Rough-winged Swallow: Lawrence Marsh, Jul 20, one (Buckley). Migrating Tree Swallows drifted through from the first week of August on. There was a good breeding population of Purple Martins in Manorville, with the last one leaving the Martin house on Aug 2 (Raynor). Fifty flocking Blue Jays at Montauk on Jun 6 were unusual (Conner), as were two Red-breasted Nuthatches near Flanders and one near Moriches Inlet (eating aphids in phragmites in July) (Connor, Miller). Wilcox found a Catbird's nest with two eggs on Aug 5 (late). Hermit Thrush: five singing near Flanders in June and July (Miller). Veery: Mill Neck, Jun 24, one singing (Elliott, Ward). There were seven Cedar Waxwings at Manorville Jun 3 (Raynor).

Vireos — Warblers: The White-eyed Vireo was at Calverton Jun 3 (Raynor); fairly common westward. Yellow-throated Vireos were singing at Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor. A pair of Warbling Vireos nested at Huntington (Raynor). A singing male Prothonotary Warbler was near Manorville on Jun 10 and 11. (P. Gillen, Lyman Langdon Aud. Soc., W. Terry, G. Raynor, R. Wilcox). There was a late Blackpoll in upper Manhattan Jun 13 (Post). Parula Warbler: singing male, Hither Hills, Jun 28-30; Flanders, Jul 17 (Connor, Miller). Hooded Warbler: Inwood, Jul 25 (Norse). There were five or six pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats at Northport Jun 3 (Elliott, Mudge, Ward); two at Jones Beach Jun 17 (Post). Louisiana Waterthrush: Port Washington, Jul 18, one (Dove). First Northern Waterthrush: Jones Beach, Aug 4 (I. Alperin); four records later to Aug 15.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: Brookhaven, Jul 31, young not long out of nest (Puleston). Good numbers of Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers nested, but no Bobolink reports. Several House Finches were seen at Center Moriches and East Moriches Jun 25 (Wilcox). Large broods of Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen at south Freeport, Brookhaven, and Moriches (Elliott, Ward, Puleston). The easternmost record of Seaside was at Shinnecock Bay, Jun 2 (Wilcox). A Lark Sparrow was in Central Park on Aug 4 (Post). Breeding Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Hither Hills, Neapeague, and Shinnecock Hills. Two singing Swamp Sparrows were at Flanders Jun 2 and 17, and two were at Sag Harbor on Jul 1 (Connor, Miller).

Correction: The earliest Scarlet Tanager was at Orient May 17 (Latham), in spring report, should read Apr 17.

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