

A Sight Record of a Greenshank in Central New York: On the shores of Onondaga Lake on August 30, 1962 Mrs. Jean Propst noted a strange shorebird feeding with some Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*). In general appearance it was similar to a yellowlegs, appearing somewhat larger and more heavily built than a Lesser Yellowlegs. The bill was distinctly upturned, heavier than that of a Lesser Yellowlegs, shorter and more upturned than that of a Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleucus*). Upperparts greyish, with white margins to the feathers but the white markings were far less conspicuous than in the yellowlegs. Center of the throat clear, but definite grey speckling on the sides of the neck and breast. Rest of the underparts white, legs greenish-grey. In flight the pattern was similar to a yellowlegs but the white of the rump appeared to extend further up the back.

The bird was observed at a range of about 40 yards in excellent light using a 20x balscope. It appeared in all respects to be a Greenshank (*T. nebularia*). One of us (D.B.P.) had had considerable experience of this species in Europe.

This species was recorded by Audubon from the Florida Keys (Bent, Life Histories of North American Shore-birds, Part 1, p. 309, 1927) but this record is not accepted by the A.O.U. list committee in the 5th section of the Check-list of North American Birds (1957). Thus there appears to be no accepted record for this species for North America.

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Turkey Vulture Nesting in Cattaraugus County: In southern New York, in unglaciated parts of Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties, there are several places 1900 to 2350 feet above sea level where thick beds of Conglomerate Rocks outcrop. These usually weather out in blocks as big as an average-size house and produce what are commonly called, in this area, "Rock Cities." Among these outcroppings, weathering forms many shallow caves and crevices.

We have had indirect evidence that these rocks were being used as nesting sites by Turkey Vultures. On July 27, 1957 Eugene H. Donahue found a molted secondary among the rocks near Knapp Creek, N. Y. Terry L. Moore, in August 1960, found two Turkey Vultures near a conglomerate rock outcropping about six miles south of the N. Y.-Pa. line and about 5 miles west of Bradford, Pa. The behavior of these birds indicated immaturity.

Direct evidence of Vulture nesting was obtained on June 23, 1962 when George Charles of Allegany, N. Y. found two young covered with white down, six and one half miles NNW of Allegany (Cattaraugus Co.) on Chapel Hill among conglomerate boulders. Charles guided Eaton to the nest site July 8. At this time we estimated the young to be about the size of Leghorn pullets (perhaps two pounds), white except for the black remiges which protruded from the down on the wings. When a pole was pushed into the cave to flush them into a net, they hissed vehemently. The cave at this time was odoriferous, but not as much as it was a month later. One bird was photographed.

On Aug. 5 the contour feathers were erupting and visible beyond the down. The flight feathers were perhaps two thirds their full length. One bird was caught, banded, and again photographed on this date.

On Aug. 15 the other bird was caught and banded. The wing spread measured 63 inches. The birds had moved to a new cave about 100 feet from the original cave and appeared to be about ready for flight.

On Aug. 19 Charles visited the area and saw one young bird (now indistinguishable from the adult except for black skin about its head) jump up on a large rock and glide away, disappearing through a hole in the tree canopy.

On Sept. 2 Charles saw four vultures soaring along the hill in the vicinity of the nest.

According to the literature, Turkey Vultures, along with other Carolinian species, began invading New York in the 1920's and early 1930's, particularly in the lower Hudson Valley (Deed, F. F.—Proc. Linnean Soc., N. Y. Nos. 58-62, 1951), and near

Naples, N. Y. (Wetmore, Alexander — Auk 47:81). Evidence of nesting in western N. Y. in the Oak Orchard Swamp region was established by William A. Smith (1927 Oologist 44 (11):151 Turkey Vulture nesting in New York). Through the kindness of Harold Mitchell we learned of another nesting record in the Oak Orchard Swamp (Orleans Co.) when young were found by E. W. Jameson in June 1938.

Today the Turkey Vulture is no longer a scarce bird over much of New York except in the Adirondacks. The advance of the species in New England and eastern Canada has been reviewed by Aaron M. Bagg and Henry M. Parker (1951)—Auk 68: 315-333).

In western Pennsylvania, W. E. Todd (1940 Birds of Western Pa. p. 123) has said that there were originally two centers of dispersal of the species in his region. One was east of the main Allegheny divide in the Potomac and Susquehanna drainage; this is perhaps the origin of the Naples, N. Y. and Oak Orchard birds. The other center Todd spoke of was in the Ohio River drainage; this is perhaps the source of the breeding population in Cattaraugus County. As hypothesized by G. M. Sutton (1928 — Auk 45: 501), this plateau population of northwestern Pa. advanced due to the presence of a dependable food supply in the form of deer carcasses, rather than to any change in climatic conditions. To these ideas must also be added nest sites. Rock outcrops or undisturbed areas of mature timber are also important to the spread of this species.

The population building up in Cattaraugus County has probably come from the high plateau country of northern Pa. and the Ohio River drainage. Its success in southern Cattaraugus Co. is probably due to the rock outcrops in the unglaciated portion in close association with winter-killed deer in April and May.

On checking W. Bryant Tyrell's notes in Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, part 1:17-18), we surmised that the young found by Charles probably came from eggs laid between the first and fifteenth of May.

Stephen W. Eaton, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure: George Charles, R. D., Allegheny.

Observations of Hummingbirds Nesting at Erlen Acres: In June, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus Colubris*) nested in a maple tree close to our house where I had a splendid opportunity to make almost constant observations. The nest was built on the east side of the tree at a terminal fork of a branch one half inch in diameter. It was eighteen feet from the trunk and about six feet from the ground, a most unsteady homesite.

It took the bird four days to construct the nest. During the nest building, the wind blew almost constantly and I wondered how two eggs could ever remain in the nest.

While the hummer was incubating and after a terrible blow, when the nest swayed back and forth and over, I went to look at it. I was fearful that I would find no eggs in the nest but instead I found two eggs, both immovable to my touch. They were wedged into one side of the nest as if glued there. I had previously noticed the bird collecting cobwebs after the nest was completed and the eggs laid. Could it be she had secured them with cobwebs?

Two babies were hatched. Five days after the young left the nest, the female started the second nest in the same tree in a similar position but on the west side of the tree. This nest, also, was completed in four days and on the sixth day she began incubating. I observed again that she added lichens and cobwebs to the nest which already contained eggs. A sad ending came to this nest as a chipmunk took the eggs.

I saw the female later carrying nesting material into an apple tree but I did not locate the nest.

Mrs. C. Paul Erlenbach, R. D. #1, Ghent

A Collection of Chats: The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), according to John Bull and John Elliott, is a rare and local breeding bird on the north shore of Long Island. It is therefore of interest to report a large breeding group of this species about one mile northeast of the Village of Northport. There are at least ten breeding pairs which have been observed annually for about fifteen years in a 100-acre area of overgrown fields on an abandoned golf course. The habitat is ideal chat country, dense brushy tangles, predominantly briar, sumac, poison ivy,