

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,