

species: Bobolink: Good numbers locally in their usual breeding areas. Eastern Meadowlark: About the only member of the family that did not show an appreciable increase. Red-wing: Flocking observed in the West area as early as July 10. Orchard Oriole: Fred Hough reports at least three breeding pair within a few miles of each other in Ulst. The only other report is of an immature bird at Pound Ridge, West on June 9 (BA). Grackle: Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Lent of Katonah reported observing birds of this species on several occasions going through "anting" movements with dog repellent pellets they had spread about their property. Indigo Bunting: Far and above last years population for the whole region. Purple Finch: Scattered nesting reports from Dutch, Oran and Putn. **House Finch:** Continued reports throughout summer from South Nyack might indicate breeding. Numbers continue to increase in the Hawthorne area of West (BA). Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrow: Nesting reports from Oran (ME) and West. Henslow's Sparrow: A singing male of this rare species was found just south of Letchworth Village, Rock on June 1 & 2 (MI). Vesper Sparrow: Breeding records made by Martha Earl in Oran. Slate-colored Junco: A good summer record of an immature bird near Armonk, West on Aug 6 (MH). Could indicate breeding in the area. Jim and Mary Key found a nest of this species with two young at Dover Plains, Dutch at an elevation of 1,500 ft. This is the most southerly nesting record for this county, and at the lowest elevation. White-throated Sparrow: Found singing at Pine Swamp, Bear Mt. State Park on June 6 (MH).
Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls.

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

The spring migration was a protracted one with migrant orioles, thrushes, and flycatchers still moving along the coast on the extremely late date of June 16 (JM, *Linnaean News-Letter*, 17(3) May 1963).

During the first three quarters of June the temperature in New York City averaged below normal. This was more than compensated for, however, when the mercury soared well over the 90 degree mark for five consecutive days during the period from June 24th through the 28th, tying the record for the maximum number of consecutive days of this occurrence for June. The monthly average temperature was 70.9 degrees (0.5 degrees below normal). The precipitation for the month averaged 2.72 inches (.59 inches below normal). This in no way compensated for the near drought conditions which prevailed during the spring. As a result, several species of waterfowl seem to have been affected.

Roy Latham, of Orient, reports that most of the summer residents there (Wood Thrushes, Ovenbirds, and Black-billed Cuckoos, as well as many other species) are "still reduced in numbers," while Redstarts, Blue-winged, and Black and White Warblers no longer nest in the area. Is this due to insecticides? Dennis Puleston also reported "a very uneventful breeding season" for L. I.

What is apparently the first record for eastern North America, a Red-billed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) was pick up dead in early June. This bird was presumably carried north by a tropical disturbance, which, according to the United States Weather Bureau, originated about May 31st in an area of squalls extending from 200 miles SSW of Jamaica, across Cuba, and through the eastern and central Bahamas. First called a tropical disturbance on June 1st when over the extreme NW Bahamas, this storm traveled up the Atlantic coast and finally "petered out" over northern Maryland on June 3rd.

The shorebird migration began, as usual, during the last week of June and by mid-July was well underway with 20 species present on the Moriches flats July 13 (PP, GT). A total of 27 species of shorebirds was reported from L. I. during July.

The most notable feature of July was the number of excessively warm and uncomfortable days (on 11 days the temperature was 90 degrees or above and a spell of six consecutive 90 degree days from the 24th through the 29th included three days over 95). Precipitation for the month was only 2.19 inches (1.61 inches below normal) marking the 8th consecutive month with below normal precipitation.

The first land bird migrants (Black and White, Worm-eating, Blue-winged and Yellow Warblers, Northern Water-thrush, Baltimore Oriole, etc.) began moving through the New York City parks during the last week in July. However, this early movement in no way approaches the magnitude that such flights assumed some 30 years ago (WN). This may, in part, be due to a decrease in the number of breeding birds as nearby areas become built up. Notable among these is the Golden-winged Warbler which is fast disappearing and being supplanted by the Blue-winged Warbler. Most observers reported land bird migrants, as of the end of the summer period, scarcer than last year.

Aside from the Tropic-bird, rarities reported during the period included Leach's Petrel, Louisiana Heron (breeding), Curlew Sandpiper, Ruffs, Black-headed Gull, Royal Terns, Chick-will's-widow, "Lawrence's" Warbler (breeding), Cerulean Warblers (apparently breeding), Western Tanager, and Lark Sparrows.

Abbreviations used JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; EP — East Pond; WP — West Pond; Max — Maximum one day count during the period.

Regular Contributors: JB — Jacqueline Backstrom; PB — Paul A. Buckley; RC — Richard Cohen; FE — Frank Enders; HF — H. Lee Ferguson; RF — Robert G. Fisher; FH — Fred Heath; HH — Helen Hays; WH — William Hackett; HJ — Herbert Johnson; KK — Klaus D. Kallman; EL — Emanuel Levine; RL — Roy Latham; JM — John H. Mayer; KM — Kevin J. Malone; LM — Lee Morgan; PM — Pauline Messing; WN — William J. Norse; PO — Paul Opler; DP — Dennis Puleston; PP — Peter W. Post; RP — Richard L. Plunkett; DR — Daniel J. Rafferty; GR — Gilbert S. Raynor; GT — Guy A. Tudor; CW — Cornelius J. Ward; CY — Charles F. Young; JZ — Jeffrey Zupan.

Loons—Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: one pair bred at JBWR-WP; compare with the 15 or more pair last year. Is this due to low water level? A very poor season for pelagics, at least from the beaches. Only shearwater report was of a Sooty, Jun 1, Jones Inlet (KM). This represents part of the spring migration that normally takes place a few miles offshore. Leach's Petrel: one, Jun 30, Shinnecock Bay (GR) — "well observed from boat at close range both flying and on the water" — one of the few observations of a live bird; most records of this species are of birds picked up dead on the beaches. Wilson's Petrel: 250, on an excursion between Battery Park and Atlantic Highlands, Aug 13 (PP). Most of the birds were in lower N. Y. Bay (in the vicinity of Hoffman and Swinburne Islands). This species no longer occurs in Upper N. Y. Bay as it did annually, ten or more years ago. Red-billed Tropic-bird: one, Jun 10, Bergen Beach, Brooklyn (W. J. Lynch). The specimen (an immature) has been deposited in the AMNH collection — for details see above. Double-crested Cormorant: 30, Jul 13, Bellport Bay (GR) — first returning migrants.

Heron colonies with numbers of pairs breeding: Canarsie Pol (HJ, DP, GR, PP): Common Egret, eight; Snowy Egret, 75; Louisiana Heron, one — second breeding record for state; Little Blue Heron, two; Green Heron, two; Black-crowned Night Heron, 40; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one; Glossy Ibis, seven. Lawrence Marsh (PP, RP, LM): Common Egret, three; Snowy Egret, 20; Little Blue Heron, five (including one pair pied plumage); Green Heron, ten; Black-crowned Night Heron, 15; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, three. Tobay Beach (PP): Common Egret, 20; Snowy Egret, 35; Black-crowned Night Heron, six; Green Heron, two. Compare with the 200-600 or more pairs present in past years. Three adult Louisiana Herons, several adult Little Blue Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present at

Tobay Pond during the summer; where they are nesting, if at all, is a mystery. East Moriches (GR); first known heronry in that part of L. I. in 6-8 years: Common Egret, one or two pairs present but no definite proof of breeding; Snowy Egret, 10 — first known nesting east of Jones Beach; Black-crowned Night Heron, 30. Fisher's Island (HF): Common Egret, eight; Little Blue Heron, three adults, Jul 1 (not nesting) — rare here; Green Heron, ca 12; Black-crowned Night Heron, 60-100; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one — first nest found this year, although this species has been present during breeding season since 1952. A brief analysis of breeding herons over the past few years shows that they are subject to great fluctuations. The only steady trends seem to be the increase in Little Blue Herons and Glossy Ibis. Green Herons seem to be declining steadily on western L. I. Latham expresses the same opinion for the Orient Peninsula. The reasons for this remain obscure. Many of these colonies are in areas which experience no apparent disturbance either by humans or other predators. Least Bittern: absent this summer from JBWR — several pairs bred in past years; Van Cortlandt Park — has not bred here for at least the last three years.

Brant: three, JBWR — a few summer here annually. Tobay Pond, once the Mecca of the region's bird watchers, is now one of the most neglected areas. Management by the New York State Conservation Department and the Town of Oyster Bay, under the 1959 "Wetlands Bill," is reverting the pond back to its former fresh to brackish condition, and extensive beds of Cattails (*Typha* sp.) now line the southern edge of the pond. This has, at least in part, been responsible for the greater utilization by waterfowl. All the "prairie" ducks (except the divers) that have bred at JBWR during the past few years were present at Tobay all summer, and may breed in the future if they are not already. Two brief surveys of the pond were conducted on Jun 22 (PP) and Jul 11 (PB), respectively. Counts only give an approximation of the true numbers present. Many birds nest far from the pond, in adjacent sand dunes, coming to the pond only to feed and when young are out. The following are maximum numbers seen on the above dates: Mallard, 50; Black Duck, ten; Gadwall, 60 (170 young in various stages of development on Jul 11); Pintail, one pair; Green-winged Teal, four pairs; Blue-winged Teal, two pairs; American Widgeon, one male; Shoveler, one male plus two females feigning injury. This species has bred here at least twice before — 1958 and 1962. Following are waterfowl records for JBWR (WP unless EP is specified) (FE, HH, WN, et al): Mallard, 28, Aug 11; Black Duck, 600, Jun 11, WP and 225, Jun 11, EP (FE); Gadwall, at least three broods; Pintail: two, Aug 11 (migrants, only breeding record is that of one pair which bred last year); Green-winged Teal: at least two broods, Jul 4, EP (WN) — one pair bred in 1961-2; Blue-winged Teal, several broods, 80, Aug 11; American Widgeon, none this year — three pair bred in 1961; Shoveler, none this year — one pair bred in 1956 and 1960, two pairs bred in 1957. Wood Duck, three (two females and male in eclipse), Jun 30 (JB, FE), were transients. This recalls the occurrence of three males (also in eclipse) on EP, Jul 9, 1961. Redhead, three broods (two pairs bred in 1961-2, presumably from stocked birds); Common Golden-eye, one female summered; Ruddy Duck, EP and WP, 94 males, 150 female-juvenile. "Although there seems to be fewer adult males, in 1963, production of young is up! A few broods will probably appear in the next few weeks" (HH). She estimates 40 broods this year. Last year's estimates included about 30 broods, 108 males, 45 female-juvenile. Hooded Merganser, one female, a non-breeder, summered (JB, RC) — there are comparatively few summer records for this species. The Ruddy Duck figures are probably representative of the entire breeding population; the other figures, unfortunately, are not. They are cited here as minimum estimates to stimulate further research.

Hawks—Owls: Marsh Hawk: continues to decline as a breeder — at least one pair still nests at Jones Beach. Bobwhite: thriving at JBWR after having been introduced. Clapper Rail: nest with eight eggs, Jun 30, Shinnecock (GR); one adult and one young, Jul 27, Moriches Inlet (GR) —

uncommon breeder on eastern L. I. Virginia Rail: one, Jun 23 and 26, Manorville (GR) — probably breeding. For the first time in the memory of local observers no rails were breeding in the Van Cortlandt Park swamp. Four pairs of Virginia Rails and one pair of Soras bred here last year (FH, JZ). American Coot: 200 (ca. 40 adults), Aug 11, JBWR (FE, HH, WN); one pair, Jul 11, Tobay Pond (PB) — unusual location for that date. American Oyster-catcher: one pair, Shinnecock (GR) — three eggs laid, one young hatched but died within a few days; one pair, Moriches (GR) — four eggs laid, only one hatched to survive to flight stage; one pair, S end of Gardiner's Is (KK) — one fully grown young with adults, Jul 13. In addition, several reports of non-breeders from the "North Fork" of L. I. Golden Plover: one, Aug 14, JBWR (EL). American Woodcock: one pair bred for second consecutive year, JBWR (HJ). Whimbrel: many reports of small flocks from the south shore of L. I. from mid-July on. Curlew Sandpiper: one, Jul 20-21, BWR (HJ, CY) — breeding plumage. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 3000, Jul 13, Moriches (PP, GT). Excellent season for godwits; both species present at Moriches and JBWR since first week in July. Marbled Godwit: max five, Jul 16, Moriches (DP); max six, mid-Jul, JBWR (HJ). Hudsonian Godwit: max 13, Aug 10, Moriches (LM, PO); one, Jul 6 on JBWR (many observers). Ruff: one, Jul 13, Moriches (PP, GT) — photographed in color; one, Aug 11, Tobay Pond (CW) — both males in "late breeding plumage"; reported annually since 1956, but usually in spring. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Aug 10, Moriches (many observers).

Gull, Tern, and Skimmer colonies: Kallman reports the following numbers of pairs — Captree: Great Black-backed Gull, four; Herring Gull, 1005; Common Tern, 600; Black Skimmer, 17. Jones Beach: Common Tern, 350; Black Skimmer, 24. Short Beach: Common Tern, 650; Least Tern, 60; Black Skimmer, 120. The Captree colonies have been helped by new sand fill due to the building of the new Fire Island bridge. The Jones Beach colonies are suffering as old areas become overgrown with Beachgrass. The Jones Beach State Park Commission is also practicing a form of biological control in making lawns out of nesting areas, so that motorists will not stop to look at the birds, which nest along the road. On the other hand, in other areas, snow fences are put up to prevent young birds from wandering onto the road. The major colony, at Short Beach this year, in a new area of sand fill, was subject to continual harassment by persons using the nearby parking lot. "During the winter of 1962-3, the two islands at Moriches Inlet were joined to the barrier beach by dredging operations, giving predators and humans direct access to the islands. This resulted in complete elimination of the great tern and skimmer colony on the west island. Many birds returned and a few tried to nest but they were not successful. On the east side, a small number of Common and Least Terns and skimmers were raised but many were killed by predators" (GR). The colony on the west island last year supported 6000 pairs of Common Terns, 100 pairs of Roseate Terns, and 200 pairs of Black Skimmers. "Many of the birds displaced from Moriches apparently nested in other, mostly marginal areas. These account, however, for only a small percentage of those displaced at Moriches" (GR). It seems odd that predation plays a very minor role in the Jones Beach colonies, which are on a barrier beach and are also connected to the mainland. "The Cartwright Island and Nepeague Bay [Great Black-backed and Herring Gull] colonies showed a decrease but they remained stable at Shinnecock" (GR). Canarsie Pol: Herring Gull decreasing steadily as a breeder — evidence of extensive predation.

Black-headed Gull: one immature, from Jul 29 to present, JBWR (WH, DR, et al) — first summer record. There was a light movement of Royal Terns in late Jul and early Aug: one, Jul 26, Jones Beach (KM); one, Jul 28, Moriches (RF, RP); one, Aug 3, JBWR (PP) — apparently the first record. Black Tern: very scarce this fall — max at JBWR, four. Mourning Dove: greatly increased as a breeder throughout the Orient Peninsula (RL). Shot-eared Owl: two, Jun 22, Canarsie Pol (PP, GR) — although at least one pair has been present every summer, no proof of breeding has ever been found here.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Chuck-will's-widow: one, Jun 26, Port Chester, Westchester Co (Paul C. Spofford — heard calling at night by an observer who is previously familiar with the species in the south; second record for the region. Common Nighthawk: a bird heard calling during early morning hours of Jun 29 on Columbia University Campus is interesting (PP); only known breeding pair in Manhattan is in the Inwood section where they have bred for the past three years (WN). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one, Jul 31, Central Park (PM) — may be only Jul record. Alder Flycatcher: five pairs bred in Van Cortlandt Park swamp (FH, JZ): two pairs at JBWR — new breeding location. Since 1957 this species breeds or has bred at the following L. I. locations: East Moriches, Tobay Beach and Idlewild. The only other L. I. nesting record is that listed by Cruickshank at Kissena Park (*Birds around New York City*, 1942). All these birds refer to the "fitz-bew" song type. Purple Martin: one pair arrived on the extreme date of Jun 21 at JBWR and attempted to nest, but finally gave up after a week of continuous harassment by a pair of Tree Swallows (HJ). Carolina Wren: returning to Greenport area — at least three pairs plus singles (RL). Long-billed Marsh Wren: nine pairs bred in Van Cortlandt Park swamp (FH, JZ). Mockingbird: continues to increase as breeder: "bob-tailed" young seen at Riis Park on as widely separated dates as Jun 11 (GT) and Aug 15 (PP). One pair raised two young in Central Park for the first nesting on Manhattan Swainson's Thrush: one, Aug 14, Inwood Park (WN) — early. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: the nest at Noyack, mentioned in the spring report, was empty on Jun 10, the young were presumed to have fledged successfully (DP). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Aug 5, Inwood Park (WN) — early.

Vireos—Warblers: Worm-eating Warbler: good numbers this fall. Seven, Aug 2, Inwood Park (WN) — high count. Blue-winged Warbler: also in good numbers; max: 12, Aug 2, Inwood Park (WN); 12, Aug 9, Bronx Park (Edward Maguire). "Lawrence's" Warbler: one male mated to Blue-wing bred in Van Cortlandt Park, and was seen feeding young in late Jun and early Jul (Gus Schmidt, et al). Magnolia Warbler: one, Aug 14, Inwood Park (WN) — early. Cerulean Warbler: one, Aug 15, Inwood Park (WN) — extremely rare in fall. This species, rare on L. I. at any time, is apparently breeding at Noyack; a singing male present during May was still present on Jun 10 when it was seen chasing other birds (DP). A singing male, as well as a female, were present last summer in the same area. Yellow-breasted Chat: 12 singing males, 31 May, Northport (Eugent T. Mudge) — have bred here for past 15 years. Wilson's Warbler: one, Aug 11, Central Park (PM) — early.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: more numerous than usual this spring and early summer (generally males in immature plumage); one nesting pair at East Marion (male in adult plumage); a second pair was also present (male in immature plumage) and may have bred (DP, GR). Baltimore Oriole: excellent numbers this fall; earliest Jul 20, JBWR (FE). Western Tanager: one, Aug 2, Inwood Park (WN) — in female plumage, located by its "unfamiliar call note, unlike any Scarlet" — the earliest record by about two months. House Finch: one pair, Inwood Park (WN) — new breeding locality. Lark Sparrow: one, Jun 15, Van Cortlandt Park (DR) — first for that park and one of the few Jun records. One was seen at Riis Park on the much more normal date of Aug 15 (PP).

Note: Please have fall reports in by Dec 7. "The reader is reminded . . . that this is a cooperative work; if he fails to find . . . [here] . . . anything that he knows about birds, he can blame himself for not having sent the information to . . ." — Mr. Post, 575 West 183 St., N. Y. C. 33, or Mr. Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, N. Y. C. 25.