

Orchard Oriole: nested at Bedford, West (JT); sang daily in South Nyack "for a couple of months" till Jul 10 (RD). Baltimore Oriole: a wandering group observed on the summit of Slide Mt. Jul 11 (FH). *Bullock's Oriole*: One reported at Ridgebury, Oran Jul 22 by Mildred Arfmann. She observed the bird in good light for 30 minutes at a range of 40 feet. It was a male in breeding plumage. It had clear white wing patches, black stripe on the throat and a smaller stripe near the eye. Unfortunately the bird left before confirmation could be made by other observers. Scarlet Tanager: noticeably scarce all spring and summer. *Summer Tanager*: one observed by Dr. Heinz Meng and his class at New Paltz on Jul 20, first record for Ulst. Cardinal: nested well; two males were feeding young cowbirds at the feeder of John and Margaret Dye in Cornwall. Purple Finch: singing birds at Cornwall on June 9 (MD); between 10 and 20 young being fed in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley and Standfordville, Dutch (EP, FG). House Finch: several birds feeding regularly through the period in Mt. Kisco, West, and heard singing in South Nyack, Rock; pair observed thru Jun and Jul at Poughkeepsie; no breeding reported. Rufous-sided Towhee: plentiful. Slate-colored Junco: two Jul 22 at Dover Plains (MK).

CORRIGENDUM: Canvasback reported on Indian L in July *Kingbird* were actually on the Hudson R, and not inland as reported.

Autumn notes are due no later than Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

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"Nearly all species . . . seemed in below-normal numbers." "Breeding birds (were) exceptionally scarce." These comments, Raynor's and Puleston's respectively, describe another poor breeding season on eastern Long Island. Very few observers reported increases of landbirds, several blamed the severe drought for the general decrease.

Gardiner's Island, seldom visited, was the subject of a two-day stay by Wesley Lanyon on June 5 and 6. He writes that "a conservative estimate of the Osprey population is 30 to 40 individuals. A number of ground nests were found to contain eggs, and several adults were observed to be incubating. No young were observed." John Bull's book mentions 21 Osprey nests in 1962, a severe decrease from the more than 150 nests reported in 1908. Lanyon also saw a number of Wild Turkeys. This species was apparently first introduced in the early 1940's and has been quite successful. They were observed in a variety of habitats, including mowed fields. A number of White-eyed Vireos and Yellow-breasted Chats, as well as two pairs of Cardinals were also seen on this visit.

Again this August both temperature and precipitation averaged below normal. This weather may have been the cause of the lack of extremely

early dates and large numbers as occurred last year. The only species seemingly unaffected were thrushes; Hermit Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush set new arrival records. Norse said that numbers of migrants at Inwood Hill Park were low, especially Redstarts. The daily banding records at Huntington showed no appreciable number of migrants.

Several observers have predicted a finch invasion this coming winter. The 1965 cone crop was exceedingly poor throughout the regions to our north. As of this writing (in early September) a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches have been reported in our Region. Aaron Bagg writes from New England that Evening Grosbeaks and both cross-bills were reported in August south of their usual range.

A Magnificent Frigate-bird was the only outstanding rarity this season. Of great interest is the discovery of what may be a Long Island breeding colony of Willets. Also recorded was a Leach's Petrel and an early Pigeon Hawk.

Abbreviations: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Contributors frequently cited: JB—John L. Bull; TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; LE—Leonard Epstein; RF—Robert Fisher; FH—Fred Heath; HH—Helen Hays; RL—Roy Latham; WL—Wesley Lanyon; LM—Lee Morgan; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; PP—Peter W. Post; RP—Richard Plunkett; GR—Gilbert Raynor; LW—LeRoy Wilcox.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one in breeding plumage spent the summer at East Rockaway Inlet (JB, et al). Pied-billed Grebe: again, only one pair breeding at JBWR (HH, WN). Leach's Petrel: a freshly dead bird was found at Westhampton Beach on Jul 3 (TD, LE); the specimen is now preserved in the AMNH alcohol collection. Wilson's Petrel: 1000 plus at the "acid grounds" Jun 29 and Jul 13 (D. Rafferty). Gannet: one, Jul 25, off Great Gull Island (R. Sutton, D. Cooper). *Magnificent Frigate-bird*: July 3, imm observed from as close as 40 feet with gulls at Montauk Pt lighthouse from about 3 to 4 PM, and later for 20 min. at Montauk Harbor (TD, LE), sixth record for Region. LE had seen species previously in Florida and Dry Tortugas. Very large size, white head and underparts and brownish wing coverts of immature plumage, and fact that right fork of tail was missing were noted.

Heron colonies with numbers of breeding pairs: Canarsie Pol (HH, JB, H. Johnson): Common Egret, 20; Snowy Egret, 150+; Black-crowned Night Heron, 125; Glossy Ibis, 20 (four pair last year). The total heron count represents a three-fold increase over last year at this colony. Lawrence Marsh (PP, TD, LM): Common Egret, two; Snowy Egret, 75; Little Blue Heron, five; Green Heron, two; Black-crowned Night Heron, ten; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, two; Glossy Ibis, 13 (three pair last year). Jones Beach—barrier beach west of the Jones Beach Tower (TD): Common Egret, 18; Green Heron, eight; Black-crowned Night Heron, 57; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 14. East Moriches: "The heronry at East Moriches where Common and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons nested the last two years was routed by construction of a ball field with flood lights and night games across the street. The egrets apparently didn't even return to the colony. The Night Herons started to nest but none were successful. Later in the summer the usual roost failed to materialize in the grove. One evening, six Common Egrets were watched

trying to come in, but were too nervous because of the game in progress to settle down and finally departed" (GR)—in 1964, two to four pairs of Common Egrets, 20 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 30 to 40 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons bred at this now-abandoned colony.

Louisiana Heron: imm at Moriches Inlet, Jul 24 (DP, GR)—rare on eastern Long Island. Little Blue Heron: an imm was seen sitting in a tree alongside a Great Blue Heron on Aug 10 at Van Cortlandt Pk (J. & R. Gera). Glossy Ibis: up to nine at Tobay Pond through the summer (mob); no definite evidence of breeding was found.

The following species of non-breeding waterfowl either summered or were present on date indicated at JBWR: Canada Goose (up to three); Brant (two); Snow Goose (Jun 3); Pintail (Jul 17); Green-winged Teal (three); Baldpate (up to four); Wood Duck (Jul 12); Canvasback (Jun 3); scaup sp. (up to 21 individuals, Jul 17); White-winged Scoter (male, Jun 27); Hooded Merganser (two females); American Merganser (female—early July); Red-breasted Merganser (female).

Breeding ducks at JBWR (HH, WN, FE): Mallard, 60 ad plus three broods on Jul 7; Gadwall, 122 ad plus 18 broods on Jul 18; Blue-winged Teal, at least four broods; Redhead, ten broods with 70 young on Jul 10, 51 birds three to four weeks old were present on Aug 7—compare this total to last year when no young survived; Ruddy Duck, 20 pairs, six or more broods averaging five young.

Brant: six, Jul 18, Orient (RL). Pintail: pair summered at Tobay Pond (mob). Blue-winged Teal: one, possibly two pairs bred at Lawrence Marsh (WN, RF, et al); one pair probably nesting at Brookhaven (DP). White-winged Scoter: 37 summered at Orient Harbor (RL et al). Red-breasted Merganser: seven, Jul 24 to Aug 14, Moriches Inlet (GR).

HAWKS—OWLS: Osprey: of three separate nesting attempts near Orient only one young was raised (RL), see introduction for remarks on the Gardiner's Island population. Peregrine Falcon: imm seen several times through summer at Van Cortlandt Pk swamp (J. & R. Gera). Pigeon Hawk: one, chasing Starlings at Brookhaven on the unusual date of Jul 27 (DP)—this might represent a summering individual. Clapper Rail: Robert Johnson, of Cornell University, is writing a thesis on the ecology of the Clapper Rail. This summer he began his field research on 191 acres of marshy islands north of Tobay Sanctuary. His preliminary data shows a density of approximately one pair per 2.7 acres, a total of about 60 to 70 pairs on these islands. Common Gallinule: two pairs, possibly three at JBWR (HH, LE). American Coot: 15 to 20 pairs at JBWR (HH).

Oystercatcher: single pairs bred at Shinnecock Inlet and Cartwright Island (LW); non-breeding pair present through summer at Moriches (LW, et al); pair present on marshy islands north of Tobay, nest and young not searched for (R. Johnson). Woodcock: one pair bred at JBWR for fourth consecutive year (TD, PP, LE); also reported from Greenport and Montauk. Upland Plover: three, flying over Inwood Hill Pk, Aug 14 (WN). Willet: Robert Johnson reports a total of 20 individuals on the marshy islands north of Tobay. They were present for the entire summer and four individuals (three on one island, one on another island) were observed defending territories. Nests and young were searched for, but not found. Willets have extended their range in recent years: in New Jersey they now breed north to Beach Haven and Tuckerton, and Aaron Bagg (verbal comment) states that they also seem to be increasing in Nova Scotia. This range extension seems to be mirrored in our Region by this summer's occurrences. John Bull's book states that this species formerly bred in Massachusetts and Connecticut and it is quite conceivable that it might do so on Long Island in the very near future, if it has not done so already. Lesser Yellowlegs: ten, Lawrence Marsh, Jun 26 (PP, TD, LM)—early. White-rumped Sandpiper: two, Lawrence Marsh, Jun 26 (PP, TD, LM)—date unusual. Marbled Godwit: 11, Moriches Inlet, Jul 24 (DP), one present at JBWR from mid-July on

(mob). Northern Phalarope: two, JBWR, Jun 1 (J. Carleton). Wilson's Phalarope: one, JBWR, to Jun 10 (mob); one, JBWR, from Aug 7 on (mob). Pomarine Jaeger: one, a mile west of Great Gull Island, Jun 28, (LW, LM). Parasitic Jaeger: dark individual, off Westhampton Beach, Aug 14 (RF, RP).

Gull, tern and skimmer colonies, with numbers of pairs breeding: Canarsie Pol (TD): Herring Gull, about 1500—a fire in May destroyed most of the island's cover (phragmites, bayberry) creating new nesting habitat, this might explain the sharp increase over last year when less than 500 pairs bred. Gardiner's Island, vicinity of Great Pond (TD): Great Black-backed Gull, 30; Herring Gull, 1200; "several thousand" Herring Gulls were nesting at two other localities on Gardiner's (WL). Great Gull Island (mob): Herring Gull, one, nesting on the edge of a tern colony—first record for the island. Meadow Island, Long Beach (PP, TD, LM): Common Tern 100; Least Tern, 30; Black Skimmer, 70. Cartwright Island (PP, TD, LE): Common Tern, 400; Roseate Tern, ten; Black Skimmer, three.

Bonaparte's Gull: one, JBWR, from Jul 26 on (LE et al). Forster's Tern: one, Moriches Inlet, Jul 10 (RF)—very early. Roseate Tern: JBWR, Jul 27 (WN). Royal Tern: three, JBWR, Jun 20 (I. Black et al)—earliest record for the Region; two, Moriches Inlet, Jul 10 (RF). Black Tern: Great Gull Island, Jul 25 (R. Sutton, D. Cooper). Barn Owl; Orient, Jul 9 (RL).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Traill's Flycatcher: two pairs of the "wee-bee-o" song-type bred at Westchester Co Airport (J. Zupan); five pair bred at Van Cortlandt Pk swamp (J. & R. Gera); at least two pairs breeding at JBWR (WN); also bred at Tobay Sanctuary—numbers not known. Olive-sided Flycatcher: "lower than normal, only one through mid-Aug in Inwood Hill Pk" (WN); Barn Swallow: 400, Orient, Aug 1 to 4 (RL). Purple Martin: Far Rockaway, Jul 24 (WN, PP). Black-capped Chickadee: three pair (one feeding young), Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Inwood, Aug 14 (WN). Carolina Wren: imm netted at Tobay, Aug 15 (TD). Mockingbird: 14, Point-O'-Woods to Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP).

Thrushes—early movement: Wood Thrush, Trinity Churchyard, Aug 6 (TD); Hermit Thrush, single birds at Central Pk, Aug 3 and 11 (RF)—earliest records for Region; Gray-cheeked Thrush, Inwood, Aug 4 (WN)—earliest record for Region by three weeks; Veery, one netted at Huntington, Jul 29 (WL).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: Central Pk, Aug 7 (RP)—early. Warbling Vireo: singing male at Easthampton, Jun 5 (GR). Worm-eating Warbler: single individuals netted at Huntington, Aug 11, 12, 14 (WL); Cape May Warbler: imm netted at Huntington, Aug 12 (WL). Louisiana Waterthrush: imm netted at Huntington, Aug 4 (WL), one netted at Brookhaven, Aug 4 (DP)—very rare migrant on s. shore of Long Island. Mourning Warbler: imm netted at Huntington, Aug 11 (WL). Hooded Warbler: imm male netted at Huntington, Aug 12 (WL). American Redstart: Great Gull Island, Jun 28 (HH)—unusual date.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: singing ad male, Calverton, Jun 1 (GR); singing imm male, Brookhaven, Jun 19–28 (DP). Baltimore Oriole: eight, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP)—note trend toward early August movement since Cruickshank's time. Cardinal: three pair (one feeding young), Point-O'-Woods to Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a pair raised four young at Noyack, photographs obtained (DP), rare breeder on Long Island. Purple Finch: Orient, Jul 8 (RL); Inwood, Aug 14 (WN)—early. White-crowned Sparrow: JBWR, Jun 3 (R. Koepfel)—very late. Song Sparrow: two pairs used Redwing's nests to raise their young at Van Cortlandt Pk swamp (J. & R. Gera).

Note: Please have fall reports in by Dec. 7.

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