

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

This summer's weather might be summed up in one word—hot. The month of June averaged above normal and from June 27 to July 14 we were stricken with temperatures above 90 degrees F on all but two days. On four days during that period the thermometer reading rose to above 100 degrees F (to as high as 107 on July 3). Precipitation averaged near normal except for June when it was low.

This summer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a Breeding Bird Survey throughout the United States. At least three such counts were taken on Long Island this year. Their results have been summarized as follows, listing only most common species for each:

1. Hauppague west to Muttontown, July 3, 42 species (F. Enders): Rock Dove-118; Common Grackle-106; House Sparrow-85; Starling-74; Redwinged Blackbird-66; next five in descending magnitude: Robin, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Rufous-sided Towhee, Bobwhite.
2. Manorville west to Miller Place, July 3, 48 species (D. Puleston): Starling-146; Common Grackle-68; Blue Jay-51; House Sparrow-50; Robin-50; Rufous-sided Towhee, Catbird, Barn Swallow, Mourning Dove, Rock Dove.
3. Wantagh east to Oakdale, July 10, 44 species (F. Enders, T. Davis): Starling-530; Herring Gull-416; House Sparrow-399; Redwinged Blackbird-214; Common Grackle-143; Mallard, Robin, Rock Dove, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove.

Mr. Robert Gardiner's generosity in allowing three visits to his island this summer produced a wealth of data on this exciting area. For a complete account of these trips read the column under the following headings: Heron colonies, Cattle Egret, Gadwall, Oldsquaw, King Eider, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Turkey, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, Gull, tern and skimmer colonies, Iceland Gull, Herring Gull, Black Tern, Bank Swallow and Bobolink.

Rarities recorded this summer included Black Vulture, Razorbill, five Thick-billed Murres and a juvenile Saw-whet Owl. Also, three Willet's nests were found in the vicinity of Jones Beach and Tobay Sanctuary, establishing this species as breeding in New York State for the first time. Of special interest are the continued increase of breeding Glossy Ibis and observations on three pelagic trips to Cox's Ledge off Montauk Point during July and August.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Tobay—Tobay Sanctuary; Atl Bch—Atlantic Beach; Jones—Jones Beach State Park; AMNH—American Museum of Natural History; Is—Island.

Contributors frequently cited: FB—Frank Bader; JB—John Bull; RC—Richard Cohen; TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; FH—Fred Heath; HH—Helen Hays; WH—Will Houston; RJ—Robert Johnson; DP—Dennis Puleston; RP—Richard Plunkett; FS—Fred Schaefer; BT—Benjamin Trimble; JT—Joanne Trimble, JZ—John Zarudsky.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: none seen at JBWR this summer. Cory's Shearwater: Jun 14 Jones Inlet (A. Van Sant, B Moessinger)—extremely early. Shearwaters: on Jul 2 the following numbers were seen at Cox's Ledge, SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT)—14 Cory's, six Greater, two Sooty and 18 unidentified; Aug 1 in same area, 30 Cory's and 120 Greater (BT); on Aug 13 visit to same area—44 Cory's, 11 Greater, one Sooty and 28 unidentified (BT, JT, RP, J Plunkett). Wilson's Petrel: 60 Jul 2 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT); 100 plus Aug 1 Cox's Ledge (BT); 37 Aug 13 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT, RP). Gannet: sub-adult Jul 2 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT); sub-adult Aug 13 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT, RP).

Heron-egret colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Gardiner's Is Jun 18 (mob): Common Egret, one; Snowy Egret, five; Black-crowned Night Heron, 40–50. Lawrence Marsh, nine dates from Apr 16 to Jul 12 (TD et al): Green Heron, four; Little Blue Heron, three; Common Egret, two; Snowy Egret 115; Black-crowned Night Heron 20; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, three; Glossy Ibis 25 (13 pairs last year). Complete figures are lacking for Canarsie Pol, but at least 60 pairs of Glossy Ibis nested (20 pairs last year) and also a Louisiana Heron's nest with young was found (HH, H. Johnson, D. Cooper).

Cattle Egret: three summered at JBWR (mob); Jun 1 Gardiner's Is (JB). Glossy Ibis: up to 30 seen at Tobay from late Jul to end of period (mob). Gadwall: nest with 12 eggs, Jun 2 Gardiner's Is (JB). Oldsquaw: an oiled bird summered at Gardiner's Is (mob). King Eider: three Jun 2 Gardiner's Is (JB)—extremely late. Red-breasted Merganser: Jul 3 Mecox Bay (FB, WH, TD).

JBWR Waterfowl Count Aug 2 (HH, et al): Mallard 14; Black Duck 481; Gadwall 272; Blue-winged Teal 12; American Widgeon, one; Shoveler, one; Red-head, four; Greater Scaup 23 (non-breeders); Bufflehead, one (up to three individuals seen during season); Ruddy Duck 274.

HAWKS—OWLS: BLACK VULTURE: Jul 5 Far Rockaway (JB); injured bird Jul 8 Central Islip (*vide* I. Alperin); probably same individual, died, specimen now at AMNH. Red-tailed Hawk: two pairs bred on Gardiner's Is (JB et al). Osprey: an estimated 120–130 adults were seen at Gardiner's Is on Jun 18 (mob)—of about two dozen nests checked, only two contained young, an infertile egg which was collected and later analyzed contained a considerable amount of insecticide. Pigeon Hawk: Jul 30 Brookhaven (DP)—extremely early. Turkey: 30 adults plus young Jun 18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Clapper Rail: Jun 18 Gardiner's Is (DP). Common Gallinule: one pair bred at JBWR (*vide* HH). American Coot: 78 Aug 2 JBWR (HH et al).

American Oystercatcher: dead adult, possibly shot, and nest with two punctured eggs Jun 12, unnamed island 1.3 miles NE of Tobay Sanctuary Tower (TD, FB, RJ)—during Jul a pair of birds was seen on this same island but no nest was found; territorial pair Jun 13 Moriches Inlet (DP); 14 pairs found on Gardiner's and Cartwright Islands on Jun 18 and Jul 2 (mob)—on the latter date a pair was seen with two flightless young. An albino plover, either Semipalmated or Piping, was seen Aug 13 East Hampton (E. Gamble). Killdeer: max 40 migrating Aug 14 Atl Bch (RC). American Woodcock: Jul 3 Great Gull Is (FS); Jul 15 Atl Bch (RC)—does not breed at either locality. Upland Plover: 30 Aug 15 Farmingdale (D. Davidson, A. Van Sant)—extremely high count, probably includes local breeding birds. **WILLET:** nest with four eggs Jun 4 Jones (TD, FB, JZ); nest with two eggs Jun 12

Tobay (TD, FB, JZ, RJ); nest with four eggs Jun 30 Tobay (TD, FB, JZ, RJ)—color photographs taken, these are the first breeding records for New York State, further details will be published elsewhere. Hudsonian Godwit: nine Aug 12 Moriches Inlet (DP). Ruff: female Jul 17 JBWR (R. Arbib)—seen well both sitting and flying. Wilson's Phalarope: two Aug 12 Moriches Inlet (DP). Northern Phalarope: Aug 13, 30 miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT, RP); two Aug 14 and 15 JBWR (mob).

Gull, tern and skimmer colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Canarsie Pol (HH): Herring Gull "about 1000". Gardiner's Is Jun 18 and Jul 2 (mob): Great Black-backed Gull 320–480; Herring Gull 3100–4000; Common Tern 80–100; Black Skimmer, one—Herring Gull numbers were below last year's, but the Black-backed Gulls have shown a tremendous increase, terns have not been known to nest here in recent years. Cartwright Is Jul 2 (TD, FB, WH): Great Black-backed Gull 10; Common Tern 150; Black Skimmer, two—last year 400 pairs of terns were found on Jul 4, about 80 percent of which had young, on this visit we were able to find only three downy tern chicks. West Meadow Is, north of Island Park, Jul 4 (TD, BT, FE.): Common Tern 400 plus; Least Tern 40 plus; Black Skimmer 60–70. Unnamed Island, 1.3 miles NE of Tobay Tower, Jun 12 (TD, FB, RJ, JZ): Common Tern 250–300; Black Skimmer, five-ten—on Jun 30 the colony was revisited and many fewer birds were found, only about 100 pairs, possibly as a result of severe rainstorms. Great Gull Is (HH et al): about 3700 pairs of Common and Roseate Terns in a 1:1 ratio; Spotted Sandpiper 15. Meco to Westhampton Beach Jul 3 (TD, FB): four Least Tern colonies were estimated to contain 350–400 pairs.

Iceland Gull: Jun 18, Gardiner's Is (TD). Herring Gull: unhatched and pipped eggs found at Gardiner's Is on Jul 2 (TD)—latest Regional egg date. Royal Tern: Jun 4 JBWR (WH et al)—earliest Regional record; two Jul 31 Tobay (A. Dignan). Black Tern: Jul 2 Cartwright Is (FB, WH, TD). Black Skimmer: 25 nests with one to four eggs each Jun 4 (FE, FH)—earliest Regional egg date. RAZORBILL: Jul 2 an adult flew past a boat thirty miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT)—first Jul Regional record, the previous two summer occurrences were of birds found dead. THICK-BILLED MURRE: John Bull reports *five* specimens received at the AMNH—oiled bird Jul 25 Fire Is; sick bird Aug 7 in Bay near Westhampton Beach; dead bird Aug 15 Fire Is; sick bird Aug 24 Moriches Inlet; sick bird Aug 28 Moriches Inlet—unprecedented, previous extreme dates were Apr 2 and Nov 13. SAW-WHET OWL: a bird in juvenile plumage, with traces of natal down was found at Quogue Beach on Jul 21 (*fide* DP)—it was brought to the Quogue Sanctuary where it later died, specimen now at AMNH; after last winter's flight it would not have been too surprising if a pair bred locally, the only Long Is breeding record (1879) followed another large flight.

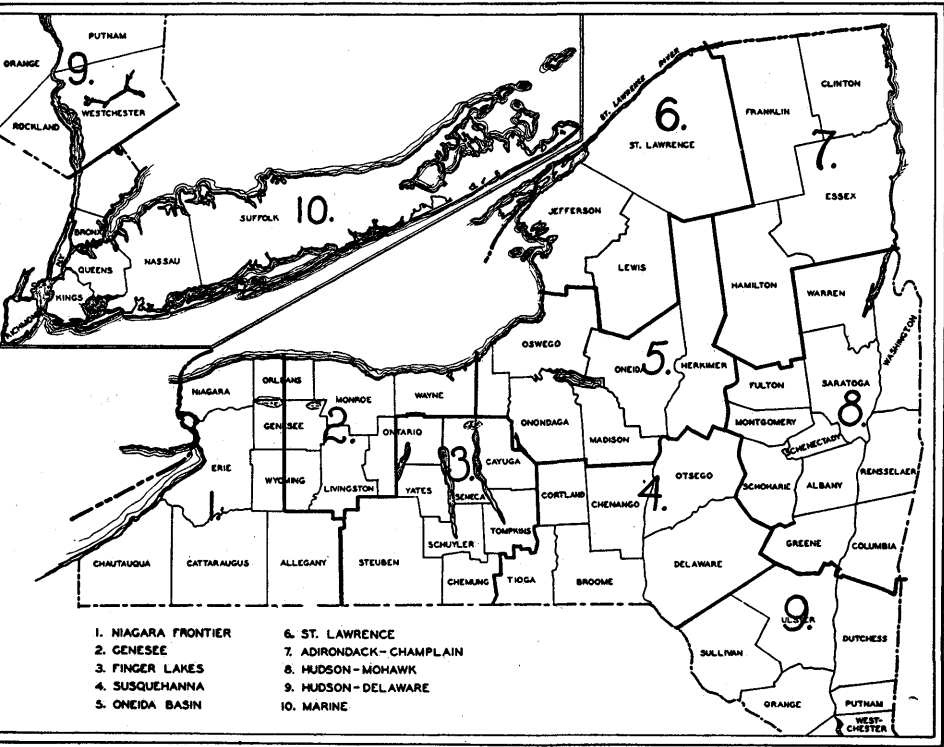
GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: Aug 13, twenty miles SE Montauk Pt. (BT, JT, RP). Eastern Kingbird: Jul 24 JBWR (mob)—early. Traill's Flycatcher: singles netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 2, 6, 9 and 11 (FS). Bank Swallow: "hundreds" of pairs nesting in the cliffs along the east shore of Gardiner's Is Jun 18 (mob). Blue Jay: last seen at Great Gull Is on Jun 6 (FS). White-breasted Nuthatch: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 6 (FS). Brown Creeper: Aug 13, thirty miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT, RP)—earliest Regional record by over two weeks. House Wren: netted at Great Gull Is Jun 9 (FS). Wood Thrush: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 4 (FS). Swainson's Thrush: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 4 (FS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Cerulean Warbler: singing male early Jun Noyack (DP)—fifth consecutive year with no evidence of breeding. Mourning Warbler: female netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 9 (FS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: pair at Gardiner's Is Jun 18 (mob). Redwinged Blackbird: two Aug 13, 30 miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT, RP); 500 plus Aug 14 Tobay (TD et al)—early movement. Orchard Oriole: imm male Jun 18 Bayard Cutting Arboretum (A. Bell); adult male Jun 2-Jul 7 Brookhaven (DP)—singing, no evidence of nesting. Dickcissel: Aug 14 Tobay (TD). Lark Sparrow: Aug 7 Tobay (G. Rose)—early. Field Sparrow: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 3 (FS)—late migrant. White-throated Sparrow; singing bird Jun 5-6 Atl Bch (RC)—late.

Note: Please send us fall reports by Dec 7.
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REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2