

areas. *WESTERN MEADOWLARK*: bird reported in spring last checked Jun 10, may have remained much later. (EDT). Orchard Oriole: one first year male Jun 12, Salt Pt, Dutch; nested again at Kripplebush; new nest site at Chester, Oran where pair observed Jun 3, with three young leaving nest Jul 6 (SU). Baltimore Oriole: reported down in Putn and Dutch. Scarlet Tanager: even scarcer than low numbers of last year. Cardinal: normal. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: no unusual change from previous years. Indigo Bunting: scarce in some areas; low in usually well populated USMA. Purple Finch: usual nesters in Putn and Dutch; about half a dozen pairs of this species and the same number of House Finch reported from Dutch. Rufous-sided Towhee: slightly less than usual. Grasshopper Sparrow: "Good population in Pine Plains area, Hyde Pk, and Dutch Co Airport" (WBC).

Autumn notes due no later than Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

The wet, cold spring gradually turned into the wet, cool summer. Precipitation throughout the period remained high (wettest summer since 1938) and temperatures remained low. As could be expected in such a situation, nesting activity averaged about two weeks later than normal. In many cases breeding birds, particularly passerines, were found to be way down in numbers. Dr. Lanyon reports that for the first time not a single Pewee, Kingbird, Song Sparrow or Chipping Sparrow bred at Kalbfleisch Research Station. It was noticed that swallows had been hard hit. Bank Swallows at Gardiner's Island being a good example (see body of report). Whether low temperatures and wet conditions discouraged nesting or caused large scale breeding population mortality is a matter of conjecture, but we can be sure the weather played a significant role.

Despite poor showings by other species, the cuckoos seemed to do extremely well. They were noted as "in high numbers" at Kalbfleisch and Heckscher State Park. The Glossy Ibis also did well this year, its breeding numbers still rising.

Again this year Mr. Robert Gardiner allowed a visit to his island by a field work team from the Linnean Society. The island was divided into five areas with Tom Davis, Frank Enders, Fred Heath, Ben and Joanne Trimble, each taking an area. Arthur Swoger was the team's roving photographer. A large percentage of this report contains information from this interesting island.

Complete information on most of the heron, gull and tern colonies is presented as usual in capsule form.

Rarities recorded included Audubon's Shearwater, Skua, Long-eared Owl breeding record and Boat-tailed Grackle, a holdover from the spring.

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

Contributors frequently cited: TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; HH—Helen Hays; FH—Fred Heath; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; LM—Lee Morgan; WP—William Post; BT—Benjamin Trimble; JT—Joanne Trimble.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one in winter plumage Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT)—very rare in summer. Cory's Shearwater: three Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (area due south of the western end of Long Island) (MK). Greater Shearwater: one Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT). Sooty Shearwater: 22 Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT). *AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER*: an injured bird found on the beach at Blue Pt, Fire Is on Jul 28 (C. Kessler *vide* Dr. W. Lanyon)—specimen now at AMNH, fifth Regional record. Wilson's Petrel: about 150 Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT); 300 plus Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (MK)—one flock of about 25 birds was seen sitting on the water, very unusual for this species. Gannet: sub-adult Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT). Glossy Ibis: 85 Aug 12 Tobay Pond (FE)—post breeders and immatures, highest Regional count.

Heron colonies, with numbers of breeding pairs—Gardiner's Is Jun 17 (BT, TD): Little Blue Heron, three; Common Egret, three; Snowy Egret, 25; Black-crowned Night Heron, 200 plus—almost all night heron young were fledged while all other heron's eggs had not yet hatched, this is the first known nesting of Little Blue Heron east of Oak Beach. Oak Beach, west of Captree State Pk Jun 27 (WP, FE): Little Blue Heron, three; Green Heron, two; Common Egret, 15; Snowy Egret, 40; Black-crowned Night Heron, 87; Glossy Ibis, two—a Glossy Ibis nest with one young was photographed, this is the first time this species has nested east of Lawrence Marsh. Tobay Sanctuary, three visits (FE): Green Heron, two; Common Egret, 23; Snowy Egret, 55; Black-crowned Night Heron, 63; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one. Jones Beach St Pk, pine groves along barrier beach, six visits (HH, *et al*): Green Heron, one; Snowy Egret, one; Black-crowned Night Heron, 57; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, four. Lawrence Marsh, seven visits (TD, HH, BT, JT, *et al*): Green Heron, 26; Little Blue Heron, three; Common Egret, two; Snowy Egret, 183; Black-crowned Night Heron, 43; Glossy Ibis, 44 (25 pairs last year, only 13 pairs two years ago). JBWR, includes Canarsie Pol (HH *et al*): Common Egret, five; Snowy Egret, 100; Black-crowned Night Heron, 60; Glossy Ibis, 70 (60 pairs last year).

Snow Goose: four birds remained at JBWR through early Jun (mob); one Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Gadwall: 33 adults and nine young Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Bahama Pintail: Jul 16 JBWR (MK)—probably an escape. Green-winged Teal: male Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? Blue-winged Teal: pair Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? American Widgeon: male Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? Wood Duck: male Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? Oldsquaw: pair Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob); drake Jul 2–4 Heckscher State Pk (S. Anes, FH)—in excellent plumage. Harlequin Duck: one male and two females May 26 Jones Inlet (A. Dove, B. Conolly)—latest Regional record. Red-breasted Merganser: 14 Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-tailed Hawk: two pairs Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Marsh Hawk: one pair Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). American Oystercatcher: eight territorial pairs plus 14 adults in two flocks Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob); deserted nest with an adult lying dead nearby Jul 15 unnamed island 1.3 miles NE Tobay Tower (BT, FE, TD); territorial pair summered on an unnamed island 1.8 miles NW Captree State Pk (FE, WP). Upland Plover: 45 plus, Aug 11 Mitchell Field (Dr. R. Wolk, *et al*)—highest Regional count, probably includes several of the birds which breed here and their young. Willet: one or more territorial pairs summered on nearly every island north of Tobay (TD, BT, FE). Curlew Sandpiper: one in spring plumage Jul 31 JBWR (R. Ryan). Unidentified

phalarope: Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT)-odd date for either Red or Northern. Pomarine Jaeger: Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (MK). Parasitic Jaeger: two light-phased individuals Jul 20 Rocky Pt (M. Cashman)-extremely rare in Long Is Sound; five Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (MK). SKUA: Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT)-"Chunky dark bird, wingspan of Herring Gull but very thick-winged with deep powerful wingbeats; white patches in primaries on top of wing; dark head, back, tail and rest of wings; no protruding central tail feathers. Seen in good light with 7× binoculars at less than 100 yards; previously familiar with species"-fifth State record. Glaucous Gull: one remained to Jun 17 at the East River sewer outlet at 51 street (mob). Bonaparte's Gull: three Aug 13 Great Gull Is (HH *et al*)-extremely early. Little Gull: one at JBWR during Jun (mob)-photographed by A. Swoger. LONG-EARED OWL: pair with two young still in juvenile plumage Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (mob)-first known Regional nesting since 1944.

Gull and tern colonies with numbers of breeding pairs-Gardiner's Is Jun 17-18 (mob): Great Black-backed Gull, 330; Herring Gull, 1925; Common Tern, 104. Unnamed island, 1.3 miles NE Tobay Tower (FE, TD, BT): Common Tern, about 400 on Jun 2, only 100 on Jul 15-severe weather conditions had apparently decimated the colony, on the latter visit many deserted nests were found. Unnamed island, 1.8 miles NW Captree State Pk, three visits (FE, WP): Common Tern, 600; Roseate Tern, ten; Black Skimmer, 20. Captree State Pk, many visits (TD, FE, *et al*): Great Black-backed Gull, 20; Herring Gull, 700 plus. JBWR (H. Johnson): colony nearly deserted this year, only a few pairs of Common Terns and no Black Skimmers. West End Beach (FE, FH)-Common Tern, "about 1000;" Roseate Tern, three; Black Skimmer, 30. Great Gull Island (Dr. D. Cooper, HH *et al*): Common Tern, 1400; Roseate Tern, 1200-accurate counts arrived at via nest mapping techniques.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: Jun 2 Fire Is (BT). Bank Swallow: 25 nesting pairs Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is, (FH, FE)-contrast this count with last year's estimate of "hundreds." Blue Jay: flock of 17 seen flying high over Gardiner's Is Jun 17 (FH)-late migrants? Carolina Wren: one pair Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (BT). Cedar Waxwing: pair found nesting at JBWR during mid-Aug (H. Johnson)-first nesting record at JBWR, rare as a breeder on Long Is along the coastal plain.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Red-eyed Vireo: netted and banded Jun 10 Atlantic Beach (R. Cohen)-extremely late migrant. Tennessee Warbler: singing male Jun 2 Central Pk (G. Carleton)-extremely late. Parula Warbler: Jun 8 JBWR (A. Dove)-extremely late. Black-throated Green Warbler: Jun 4 JBWR (LM)-extremely late. Connecticut Warbler: singing male Jun 3 Central Pk (R. Plunkett) unquestionable details submitted, latest Regional record.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: the individual mentioned in the spring report remained at Far Rockaway at least until Aug 9 (Mrs. Jean Sorman, Mrs. Robert Berman, *et al*). Scarlet Tanager: two pairs Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Summer Tanager: adult male netted and banded Jun 3 Atlantic Beach (R. Cohen)-extremely late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two nests found at the Kalbfleisch Research Station near Huntington (Dr. W. Lanyon, *et al*)-probably this species nests very near in northern Suffolk or Nassau and should be considered a localized rare but regular breeder. Grasshopper Sparrow: 30 pairs Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (mob)-the highest breeding density noted on Long Is since the destruction of the Hempstead Plains prairie habitat in the late 1940's; nest with four eggs Aug 6 Mitchell Field (Harry Darrow)-when examined again on Aug 19, contained 4 young approximately one week old.

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

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