

OBSERVATIONS NEEDED

In 1967 and 1968, 1839 adult Common and Roseate Terns were color banded on Great Gull Island, located 7 miles ENE of Orient Point at the mouth of Long Island Sound. The work was done by members of the Linnaean Society of New York and was sponsored in part by the Linnaean Society and in part by the American Museum of Natural History, which holds title to the island.

Each of the terns, in addition to receiving a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band, was given three colored plastic bands. The colors used were: red, yellow, blue, green, black, white, pink and orange. In 1968, 330 young Common and Roseate terns were color marked using the same colors but substituting a red and white striped band for the colors pink and orange.

From August through October of last year we spotted terns from Great Gull Island along the north and south shores of Long Island and along the mainland from New Haven, Connecticut to Point Judith, Rhode Island.

This summer we would like to get as many sightings as possible on these color banded birds. It would be interesting if any of the marked birds were sighted along the coast before they arrive on Great Gull Island in the spring. Last year the first terns reached the island May 4.

This summer, 1969, in addition to color banding we will mark the birds with dye to enable the observer to spot birds in flight marked on Great Gull Island. Red, yellow, blue and black dyes will probably be used and the color applied to the bird's back just above the tail, or on the breast or wings. Hopefully observations of the dyed birds will give us an idea of where birds from the island feed as well as more information about the extent of their post breeding dispersal from July to October.

We would appreciate any help you can give us with this. We read bands left leg first, then right leg, top to bottom. For example: left leg: red over yellow, right leg, black over aluminum. Date and locality of the sighting should be included with the record.

Please send records to:

Miss Catherine Pessino
Department of Education
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th St.
New York, N.Y. 10024

If you prefer to telephone the number is 212-Tr.-3-1300, Ext. 281.

A final word of caution, some of the bands are hard to read. Unless you have good light pink can look like any color it is next to, so double check. Even if you cannot read the bands please send us the records of the sightings because we are interested in the localities and dates when the birds are seen.

Thank you for any help you can give us with this and good birding!

FIELD NOTES

Black Vulture in Northern Franklin County: On November 10, 1968 a large black bird with an injured wing was found near North Burke, Franklin County, by Clarence Duheme of that hamlet. Mr. Duheme could not identify the bird but called in Dr. J. D. Sweet, a veterinarian of nearby Chateaugay.

Dr. Sweet measured wing spread (well under five feet) and tail length. He also noted the light patch near the tip of the under surface of the wings. He identified the bird as a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). This identification was later confirmed by Ed Gardephe, a biologist in the Game Management Department of the New York State Conservation Department.



Photograph by Dr. J. D. Sweet of Chateaugay, N.Y.
Franklin County, N.Y., 7 February 1969

There was ample time for Dr. Sweet and Mr. Duheme to study the bird at close range while the wing healed. They fed it on a still born calf and other carrion as well as water. The vulture has been housed through the winter in one of Mr. Duheme's barns at North Burke. He intends to release it when the ground is clear of snow. The first account of the bird appeared in print with picture in "The Chateaugay Record and Franklin County Democrat", February 13, 1969.

Eaton (1914) says of the Black Vulture: "Wanders rarely as far north as Maine, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ohio," but the spot furthest north in New York State is Buffalo. The A.O.U. *Check List* of 1957 places northern New York, as well as Quebec, among the areas to which the bird may occasionally wander; no specific spot is mentioned. Reilly and Parkes, after a vague reference to sight records and specimens from "central and southern counties," says "Status uncertain" (*Preliminary Annotated Checklist of New York State Birds*, 1959).

All research to date, then, points toward this as the first record for Region 7 for *Coragyps atratus*.

Harriet L. Delafield, Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

Second Nesting Record of the Louisiana Heron for New York State: Meyerriecks, A. J. (*Wilson Bull.* 69, 1957, pp. 184-185) reported the first breeding record for the Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) for New York State. He found the nest in 1955 on Ruler's Bar Hassock in New York City. The nest contained three eggs by May 17 and was found destroyed on May 18. Meyerriecks suggested that Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were responsible for the destruction.

On August 4, 1966 while censusing a heronry about five miles southwest of Kennedy International Airport and about two miles west of Ruler's Bar Hassock, I flushed a Louisiana Heron. Upon checking the spot where the bird had flown up I found a nest containing an egg and one young Louisiana Heron. The nest was about four feet above the ground in a small Poplar Birch (*Betula populifolia*).