



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*.

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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*).

The young heron appeared to be about two weeks old. Its legs and skin were greenish resembling that of young Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) which also nests in the heronry. In contrast to the white down of the young Snowy Egrets, however, the down of this bird was pale buff in color. The eye was whitish yellow and the bill was all black. This description is included since it differs somewhat from that given by Palmer (*Handbook of North American Birds*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1962, p. 465).

I checked the nest August 11 and found the young Louisiana Heron now completely feathered. The nest was again checked on August 19 when the young heron was found dead in the nest.

Interestingly the nest of the Louisiana Heron had not been fouled. This characteristic distinguished it from nests of the Snowy Egret which become white with droppings shortly after the young hatch.

Weekly checks had been made of this heronry beginning May 26. A Louisiana Heron was first noted on June 30. The area where the nest was found was checked carefully each week in June and I feel certain the birds which nested did not come to the heronry until the end of June.

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Ed. Note: Nest was reported in *Kingbird* 16(4):243, October 1966, with no details.

Two Mockingbirds, Five Nests, 15+ Eggs — No Young Fledged: For three years a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) had frequented the Holden Road home of the Lewis Laufersweilers high on Mt. Zoar near Elmira. Never had the birds shown evidence of having raised young nearby.

On May 14, 1968 I learned that in late April the pair had constructed a nest about 6 feet from the ground in a white pine near the driveway. No observation was made of the nest contents, but the birds were observed carrying food.

In early May it was noted that all activity had shifted to a 3-foot Scotch pine on the other side of the house. Nest #2 was about 2 feet off the ground, not well concealed. On May 14 there was one egg, by the 18th, three. On June 4 one bird, on June 7 three. When I checked on June 10, I found one bird had died and the other two, although partially feathered, were rather inactive and very small, definitely unable to leave the nest. On June 14 the nest was empty and a few feathers lay on the ground.

By June 18 the Mockingbird pair had built again in another Scotch pine not 10 feet away. Nest #3 was also about 2 feet from the ground. It eventually contained three eggs, incubation began — and then activity ceased, the eggs had disappeared.

Once again a nest was built (#4), this time in a yew hedge, about 3 feet from the ground and better hidden. Again there were three eggs, but in a few days the eggs were gone.

Apparently weary of nest building, the birds now laid three eggs in nest #2, where three young had disappeared several weeks before. On July 23 I found that for the third successive time the eggs had disappeared.

The pair had already laid one egg in a new nest (nest #5, the 6th nesting attempt) about 2 feet from the ground in a Scotch pine about 150 feet away. Two more eggs were laid, and in August there were two young birds which soon vanished. The unfortunate Mockingbirds were seen in the same territory for the remainder of the summer, but apparently did not try again.

The Laufersweilers made many daily observations from their windows, seldom approaching the nests for fear of disturbing the birds. I checked about every two weeks. Weather in late May and early June was unusually rainy with several near-cloudbursts. Were these birds victims of the weather and/or predators such as snakes, jays or raccoons? None of the nests was damaged or destroyed.

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