

mal. Winter Wren: numbers up at Mohonk, Ulst this season (Dan Smiley). Carolina Wren: 1 June 14 South Salem West (SOG); another Jul 28 South Nyack (Bob Deed); another last half of July at Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT). Long-billed Marsh Wren: normal to less. Mockingbird: continues to hold its own, but does not appear to be increasing. Hermit Thrush: 1 singing June 28 Mt. Riga, Dutch (WBC). Eastern Bluebird: scattered nesting reports; Waterman Bird Club project reports 36 nesting pair, 5 pair suffered predation, 120 hatched out of 126 eggs laid. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 June 20 in Dutch (MK,HM,EB), not known to nest in that county. Cedar Waxwing: very scarce early in the period; numbers improved by end.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: spring birds at USMA unreported during period. Yellow-throated Vireo: numbers good. Red-eyed Vireo: seemed normal most areas, but nesting numbers down in Ulst for past several years (FH). Worm-eating Warbler: more summer reports than usual; observed regularly thru late June and early Aug at USMA (JG); 1 observed feeding young on June 20 near Mohonk, Ulst (Robert Pyle); another July 11, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Oran (A,BM). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 being fed by a Blue-winged Warbler at USMA Aug 10 (EDT). Brewster's Warbler: 1 Aug 17 USMA (JG). Lawrence's Warbler: 1 Aug 2 USMA (JG). Parula Warbler: 1 very late date of June 15 USMA (JG). Cerulean Warbler: As many as 4 birds observed throughout June, July and Aug to the close of the period, at the Weyant's Pond, USMA; last report Aug 17 (EDT,JG); no nesting proven; nested as usual in Dutch; 3 June 20 in the vicinity of Pawling, Dutch might possibly mean another nesting area in that county. Chestnut-sided Warbler: numbers down in those areas where they are resident. Blackpoll Warbler: Last report, 1 June 7 USMA (JG). Prairie Warbler: observed in the Hook Mt. area of Rock from June 1 to July 4; singing in early part of period; latter date an imm—bird observed (Ed and Lana Mills). Ovenbird; numbers less than usual. Northern Waterthrush: 1 Aug 2 USMA (JG). Yellowthroat: less than usual in lowlands of Ulst; normal elsewhere. Hooded Warbler: observed regularly thru June, July and first half of Aug USMA (JG). American Redstart: normal.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: nesting numbers good this year. Orchard Oriole: one pair raised 3 or 4 young in June in Dutch (EB); suspected the same pair nested in July. Scarlet Tanager: normal. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: better than usual. Indigo Bunting: good numbers at Howells, Oran (Margaret Moon); numbers reported lower than usual in Ulst. (FH). Purple Finch: in at least 5 areas of Dutch all summer; one other bird reported from West June 15. House Finch: nesting records still reported from Poughkeepsie area, but birds still not increasing as expected. Pine Siskin: one dozen June 25, 26 Mt. Kisco (Mrs. Wm. Grierson). American Goldfinch: numbers good. Rufous-sided Towhee: normal. Grasshopper Sparrow: observed in usual places, numbers never high. Chipping Sparrow: normal. Field Sparrow: low in Ulst, but reported normal elsewhere. Swamp Sparrow: very few reports. Song Sparrow: normal.

Autumn reports due Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

The Marine Region is certainly the most densely populated one in the State with over 10,000,000 humans now in residence. The havoc wreaked upon the environment by this multitude is immeasurable. Long Island is fast becoming that sort of sterile habitat typified by Manhattan Island.

Many human activities at all seasons work to deplete our wildlife, but it is during

the summer when people "return to nature" that the destruction is highest. Most people display a remarkable lack of knowledge regarding the natural world, from not recognizing poison ivy, to not realizing when they are intruding into a tern colony. Other harassments may be intentional or misguided.

Examples of interference—intentional or misguided—were noted frequently this summer at many public areas, but especially near Jones Beach. Don Cooper relates how a small tern colony he was studying along the Loop Causeway was abandoned overnight after someone drove a dune buggy through the area. Will Post tells of a man at Oakbeach who fires his shotgun near the pine groves where herons nest. The herons are decreasing, but this fellow insists he only shoots at "pigeons" (?), or "targets."

While studying the gull colony at Captree, Darrel Ford witnessed many human-gull encounters. A young boy was seen walking through the colony with a stick, breaking every egg in every nest he passed close to; at least seven nests containing about 21 eggs. Other boys played catch with eggs, took them home as souvenirs, or gathered them together in one nest. One pair of gulls quickly gave up trying to incubate 17 eggs! A couple who appeared to have recently arrived from the Caribbean, where such behavior is common, was accosted while gathering eggs into a shopping bag. When told this was illegal and asked why, Darrel was belligerently told to get lost. The man said "we gathered the birds' eggs to eat where we came from, why shouldn't we do it here also?" A man told Darrel how he and his son took a gull chick home last year and tried to raise as one does an "Easter chick," but "it died."

Channel dredging operations have created a number of sandy islands north of Jones Beach, all suitable as tern-skimmer nesting areas. On visits to such an island north of Tobay Beach in 1967 and 1968, Tom Davis found dead adult oystercatchers. Both appeared to have been shot. Two similar islands near Oak Beach which support tern-skimmer colonies are literally invaded by hordes of pleasure boaters who land there to picnic and swim. Their presence exposes the terns to much the same harassment that gulls suffer at Captree. In addition, many people bring dogs and turn them loose to play. The result can be likened to the proverbial bull in a china shop. Needless to say, terns fare poorly on these islands and others along the south shore of Long Island where an increasing number of pleasure-boaters land.

Facing the enormous problem of both willful and unthinking plundering of our wildlife areas is a conservation force not half large enough to do the job. Bill Ward, a Suffolk County officer, states that three men on rotating shifts and assignments spend a little over 80 man-hours a week working an area that is over 300 square miles (from the county line to near Smith's Point and from the Long Island Expressway to the 3 mile limit). About half their time is taken up by the usual bureaucratic paper-work, plus answering questions on what to feed baby birds, what to do about squirrel bites, etc. In the remaining time it isn't possible for them to cover such a large area effectively, no matter how hard they try. If the State feels it cannot assign more conservation officers, it behooves all interested in the local ecology to publicize and disseminate the conservation message to friend and stranger alike. It is encouraging that people thus enlightened seem willing to leave critical areas to the birds.

Highlists of the breeding season were a heartening report on the Gardiner's Island Osprey population, the first nesting of Red-bellied Woodpecker at Old Field, and an attempted nesting of Red-headed Woodpecker at Smithtown. Rarities included American Avocet and Gull-billed Tern. European Widgeon, Rusty Blackbird, and Red Crossbills put in unseasonal appearances.

Contributors frequently cited: LBT—Linnaean Boat Trip off Jones Beach (R. Harrison, R. Wolk, S. Stepinoff, et al); PB—Paul Buckley; JB—John Bull; WB—Wilma Baumann; DC—Don Cooper; JD—Jeanette Doran; TD—Tom Davis; DF—Darrel Ford; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; WL—Wesley Lanyon; EL—Emanuel Levine; RP—Richard Plunkett; WP—Will Post; GR—Gilbert Raynor; LS—Laurie Schore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: Jun 12 Southampton (JD,WB,LS); Jul 19 Atlantic Beach (EL)—in winter plumage. Greater Shearwater: 2 plus Jun 8 (LBT). Wilson's Petrel: 15 Jun 8 (LBT). Gannet: sub-adult Jun 8 (LBT). European Widgeon: male May 30-Jun 1 Tobay Pond (R. Budliger, MK)—latest Regional record. King Eider: sub-adult male Jun 13 Great Gull Is. (RP, K. Parkes)—single individuals recorded nearly every summer in recent years, perhaps formerly overlooked. Hooded Merganser: female Jul 11 Tobay Pond (PB).

Heron Colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Jones Beach (N/parking field 3) Jun 21, 30 (WP,TD): Common Egret 10; Snowy Egret 20; Black-crowned Night Heron 15; Glossy Ibis 10. Lawrence Marsh, Jul 12, 25 (TD,DF,JB, H. Honig, E. Rodriguez, et al); Green Heron 4; Little Blue Heron 4 (plus?); Common Egret 2; Snowy Egret 120 plus; Black-crowned Night Heron 20 plus; Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1; Glossy Ibis 30 plus; Single adult Louisiana Herons seen on both visits here. Tobay, Jun 21 (WP): Snowy Egret 25; Common Egret 9; Black-crowned Night Heron 20; Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1; Glossy Ibis 16—first breeding record for Glossies here.

HAWKS—OWLS: Marsh Hawk: 6 Jul 11 Tobay (PB)—nesting? Osprey: On Jul 11–13 Dennis Puleston and Paul Spitzer visited Gardiner's Island where they found at least 28 *young* in about 38 active nests. Ospreys had begun to *reoccupy ground nest sites* at Bostwick Pt (7 active nests) in spite of the high gull nesting population there. In further studies of the Long Island Osprey nesting population they found no young in the Orient area (where Ospreys once bred abundantly) and only three young elsewhere.

Upland Plover: 2 pairs Jun 27 Kennedy Airport (R. Cohen)—one pair with two young, a new nesting locality for this locally endangered species. Marbled Godwit: Jun 12 Southampton (LS,JD,WB)—very rare spring migrant. Hudsonian Godwit: arrived Jul 20 at Tobay (EL, C. Ward). *AMERICAN AVOCET*: adult Aug 6 Moriches Inlet (J. Bennett, J. O'Connell); adult Aug 12–17 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (H. Kemp, et al). Northern Phalarope: Jun 5 Jones Beach (LS)—late; 4 Jul 24 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (JB)—early. Glaucous Gull: 2nd year bird Jun Oak Beach (LBT). Iceland Gull: sub-adult Jun 29-Jul 18 Captree (TD,DC, A. L'Oiseau). *GULL-BILLED TERN*: 2 May 24–25, Loop Causeway at Jones Beach (DC).

Gull colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Captree State Park, 19 visits, Mar 23-Jul 21 (TD,DF, et al): Great Black-backed Gull 22; Herring Gull 1050. Jones Beach (N/parking field 3), numerous visits (A. Lauro, et al): Great Black-backed Gull 1; Herring Gull 37—a new colony. Jones Beach (N/Loop Causeway), Jul 23 (B. Sorman, JB): Great Black-backed Gull “present;” Herring Gull “several hundred pairs”—first report on this colony which has been in existence several years.

Tern colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Jones Beach (West End), numerous visits (M. Gochfeld, TD, et al): Common Tern 1300–1500; Roseate 20; Black Skimmer 60–75; Roseates are increasing slowly here. Fox Island (S Babylon), Jul 21 (TD,DF, R. Budliger, M. Boch): Common Tern 50; Least Tern 20; Black Skimmer 50—much disturbed by weekend boaters, potentially a very large colony. Rockaway Point, Jun 21 (R. Claremont, E. Daly, L. & E. Mills): Common Tern 650 plus; Least Tern 15 plus. Moriches Inlet (GR): “the tern colony increased in numbers again and did well in the early part of the season, but some mammal caused considerable mortality and terminated the later nestings.”

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: pair nested at Old Field (M. Hemmerick, D. Puleston, et al)—first Regional nest record (see Field Note in this issue). Red-headed Woodpecker: a pair present at Hoyt Farm Park in Smithtown began excavating a nest on July 15. The nest hole was located 35 feet above ground in a dead topless 40 foot oak about 10 inches in diameter. The pair incubated for several weeks, then disappeared in early September for unknown

reasons (Steve Pradon, et al). This species has gone unreported breeding in our area since the early 1900's. Acadian Flycatcher: May 25 Bronx Park (E. Maguire, D. Rafferty, et al); female May 31 Huntington (fide WL)—mist netted and collected; singing bird Jun 8-9 Huntington (fide WL)—tape recorded. Traill's Flycatcher: singing bird Jul 25 Lawrence Marsh (JB, et al)—new breeding location?

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: singing bird Jul 11 Tobay (PB); 2 in post-juvenal molt Aug 9-10, and an adult Aug 16 Tobay (F. Schaeffer)—netted and banded, undoubtedly bred here. Prothonotary Warbler: singing bird Jun 1 Mill Neck (B. Spencer)—evidently a late migrant. Lawrence's Warbler: Jun 1 Manorville (GR)—“almost certainly same bird banded here on May 21, 1967.” Louisiana Water-thrush: 1 banded on Aug 2 Manorville (GR)—rare Long Island migrant in fall.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: pair present through season at East Marion where found nesting several years ago (GR). Rusty Blackbird: male *Jun 11* New York Hospital on 68th Street (D. Gleick)—a straggler, never before recorded in June. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 territorial pairs probably nested at Hoyt Farm Park in Smithtown (S. Pradon). Red Crossbill: 13 *Jul 26* Jones Beach (EL)—“worked their way right down to the jetty, landed a couple of times, and then flew straight out to sea.”

NOTE: Please submit fall reports by December 8.
Thomas H. Davis, 8613 85th Street, Woodhaven, New York 11421
Lee Morgan, 4 Windsor Lane, East Northport, New York 11731