

changing plumage, mostly white but with brown head and neck." Eaton (1909) accepts this record but Reilly & Parkes (1959) question it, with the comment "hypothetical, one specimen 1876, identification doubted; specimen lost." Could this have been an albino Ruffed or Spruce Grouse? It might be added that the A.O.U. checklist (Fifth Edition, 1957) includes Watson, Lewis County, N.Y. in the extralimital range of the Willow Ptarmigan.

The Whistling Swan is given as a possible breeding species on the authority of DeKay (1844). However, the extreme northern distribution of this species precludes the likelihood of its breeding in New York State. One species whose status has changed radically since the time of Merriam is the Raven. According to his report the Raven was "a common resident throughout the Adirondacks." Comments on the Loggerhead (White-rumped) Shrike are interesting: "They now breed throughout Lewis County and have extended their range into all congenial spots within the Adirondack Wilderness." This shrike is partial to open country rather than heavily wooded areas and one wonders how many "congenial spots" it would find in the big woods.

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FIELD NOTES

A New Glossy Ibis Colony at Cedar Beach, New York: During May, 1971, Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) established a colony along the ocean parkway at Cedar Beach, Suffolk County. On 1 July, I penetrated the colony and estimated, by running

a 25 × 25 m transect, that there were 100 Glossy Ibis nests and 60 Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) nests. The overall size of the colony was 250 × 25 m. It was situated in a dense growth of phragmites, which had overgrown a stand of bayberry and poison ivy. The ibis and herons utilized the dead and dying shrubs for nest support, and the phragmites provided cover and nesting material. The ibis nests were 0.3 to 2.5 m high. The ones closest to the ground were built on prostrate bayberry or poison ivy branches, and were additionally supported by a solid mass of phragmites stems, so in effect the birds were nesting on the ground. The center of the colony is only about 20 m from Great South Bay and 25 m from the highway but the high, dense phragmites seem to provide sufficient screening and protection from humans. In fact, few nests or young could be seen from the highway. It is interesting that the ibis did not seem to require elevated nest sites and there appear to be few ground predators on this narrow section of the barrier beach. At Tobay, Black-crowned Night Herons occasionally nest on the ground in a phragmites patch next to one of the pine groves, but such behavior is probably infrequent because of the presence of foxes in that area.

The Cedar Beach colony appeared to have had a successful season. There were many well grown young ibis climbing about their nests, and some were already flying weakly.

This colony is the tenth known nesting site in New York. In addition to the six locations reported by Post, Enders, and Davis (Kingbird, 20: 3-8, 1970), in 1970 P. A. Buckley found ibis nesting on Oak Island, Suffolk County (personal communication), and D. Puleston reported four young hatched in a heronry on Gardiner's Island, Suffolk County (Kingbird, 20: 178-179, 1970). In addition, at least 19 pairs nested in the pine groves at Tobay Sanctuary in the summer of 1971. These groves are near the Jones Beach parking field pine grove previously reported as a nesting site (Post, Enders, and Davis, *op. cit.*).

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Lesser Black-backed Gull at Onondaga Lake, New York: While checking gulls and shorebirds on Onondaga Lake 28 September 1971 I found a distinctly dark-mantled gull swimming with an assemblage of Herring (*Larus argentatus*) and Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*) Gulls at the mouth of Nine-mile Creek. Struck by its size, scarcely larger than the Ring-billed Gulls, and by its small-headed, slender-billed appearance, I suspected it to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) although its legs were not visible. After following it several minutes, I quickly scanned the rest of the area here, then discovered the bird had left its original position. A quick check showed it to be standing just under knee deep in water in the center of a large group of Ring-billed Gulls. I moved to a closer position to check leg color, then dashed to the nearest public phone to alert other local birders, and returned to the lake and continued studying the bird. F. G. Scheider, C. G. Speis, M. S. Rusk, and J. W. Propst arrived in time to see the bird before it flew off to the southwest. I observed the bird for perhaps 50 minutes under bright overcast skies with a 30× Balscope at ranges up to 50 yards. All observers, of which I was the only one not to have seen the species before, concurred with the identification.

A description, with elaborations from notes made in the field and before consulting field guides, in parentheses, follows:

A dark-mantled gull the size of (an extremely) small Herring Gull by direct comparison, (probably in third alternate plumage). The head, belly and tail were uniform white; (the back of the head was lightly streaked with gray or the feathers were badly ruffled). The mantle was dark slaty gray, appearing uniform except for white tips to the scapulars and secondaries and flashing white feather bases when the bird spread its wings; the primaries were black and unpatterned, (the innermost colored more like the mantle). In flight the primaries were smudged with black below; the rest of the underwing was pure white. The wings were very long, ex-