

FIELD NOTES

Record of Late Breeding in the Hermit Thrush: During a survey of breeding bird populations in an oak-pine forest at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island, N.Y., in 1961, I discovered an unusual nest of the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*). The nest is of interest since it represents one of the latest breeding records for the species. The population of the Hermit Thrush on eastern Long Island is a restricted and isolated one assignable to the race *faxonii* (W. E. Lanyon, per. comm.).

I found the nest containing three eggs on August 17. It was situated on the ground, embedded in the litter and well concealed from above by moderately dense, low shrub cover of *Vaccinium* spp. and *Gaylussachia baccata*. On 25 August three nestlings two-three days old were present. Estimated hatching date is 22 or 23 August. The young fledged successfully on 1 September giving a nestling period of 9 to 10 days. The estimated date of completion of the clutch is 10-11 August, depending on the exact date of hatching and assuming a 12 day incubation period (Gross in Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 196:147, 1949).

The date of nesting and the clutch-size suggest that this record represents either a late second brood or a re-nest. Bull (Birds of the New York Area, p. 339, 1964) gives egg dates for Long Island as May 14-June 22. But later nestings, including a few August records, are known for some northeastern populations. Gross (op. cit.) reported two nests found by F. H. Allen in New Hampshire. One was found on 1 August and the other on 9 August, 1883, both with three eggs. Saunders (Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., 5:364, 1929) gave dates of hatching for three late nests in northern New York as July 24, August 8, and August 12. Another nest contained three eggs on 22 July and two nestlings and an infertile egg on 10 August. Smyth (Auk, 64: 625-626, 1947) reported a late nest in northern New York with a nestling "starting to feather" on 31 August. Finally, Knight (J. Maine Ornith. Soc., 11:122-123, 1909) recorded young Hermit Thrushes leaving a Maine nest on September 8.

Although the present record from Long Island represents one of the latest known nestings for the species, the records reviewed above suggest that late July—early August nest starts are not altogether unusual in this highly insectivorous thrush (see also Palmer, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 102:417, 1949; Gross, op. cit.: 151).

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Ed. note: Such late nestings, as Mr. Greenlaw implies, are the result of some interference with the normal or usual breeding period. First or second nesting may have been broken up, resulting in a delay in part or all of the cycle. Exact documentation such as this is, however, quite uncommon.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Torrential Hurricane Agnes brought an excess of rain to an already brimming summer scene. All reports agree it was the wettest summer in several decades and the devastation to nesting species (v.i.), though difficult to document, was probably quite extensive. Particularly severe were the losses in water birds (herons, geese, ducks, rails, gallinules, coots) at the various marshes and refuges at the north end of the Finger Lakes and the southern fringe of the Lake Ontario plain (cf Region 3). Similarly ground-nesting species, particularly such gamebirds as Ring-