

Commission Annual Report, 1924). This report describes the Department's campaign of destruction against these birds which were said to be inimical to the interest of conservation. Game protectors were instructed to destroy species listed as "vermin" whenever opportunity afforded. The 1921 Annual Report of the N.Y. State Conservation Commission reported that the list of vermin species was even placed on the back of hunting and trapping licenses, together with a request to destroy the vermin species whenever opportunity to do so afforded. So by law the game protectors, hunters, trappers and farmers were all leagued together to destroy birds of prey in the name of conservation. This historical perspective gives us a greater appreciation of just how far we have come in protecting wildlife, particularly birds of prey. Once destroying birds of prey was thought of as conservation while today protecting these species is the law. That is progress! The 1940's Valcour Island predator control study was funded by the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Restoration Act. Would anyone believe that this study had anything to do with wildlife restoration today?

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Huckleberry Island, 1988: The annual census of this Long Island Sound waterbird colony in New Rochelle, Westchester Co., was made again on 22 and 24 June 1988 (see Künstler and Capainolo 1987, and Ducey-Ortiz *et al.*, *in prep.*). Counts obtained of all colonial species were much greater than any previous years, which started with only a few birds in 1975. In addition, one of two newly recorded species bred successfully. This year's census, taken on foot as opposed to the aerial surveys taken until 1983, was the most thorough of our counts (1986-1988) and thus included many nests and birds we would not have recorded earlier. However, it was felt by all returning visitors, including an owner of the island, that the birds had indeed increased in numbers.

The 1988 count, in pairs, with 1987 results for comparison, and relative size of all coastal New York colonies in 1988 (preliminary data, fide Anne Ducey-Ortiz) are as follows:

Species	1988	1987	Relative size
Double-crested Cormorant	284	92	3rd of 4 colonies
Great Egret	67	10	1st of 15 colonies
Snowy Egret	145	30	2nd of 15 colonies
Cattle Egret	1		5th of 5 colonies
Black-crowned Night-Heron	206	127	2nd of 22 colonies
Herring Gull	2405	1000	data incomplete
Great Black-backed Gull	546	400	data incomplete

A Cattle Egret fledgling on 24 June was indication of the first nesting

of this bird on Huckleberry Island. Since the nearest known colony of this species is on South Brother Island, 9.7 mi (15.6 km) to the southwest in Bronx Co., it is unlikely that this bird originated anywhere other than Huckleberry. This site is one of five recorded in coastal New York in 1988 (Ducey-Ortiz, *pers. comm.*). Numbers of Cattle Egret had been declining from 1985 to 1987 in coastal New York (MacLean *et al.*, 1988) but increased in the 1988 nesting season (Ducey-Ortiz, *pers. comm.*). No nest or adults were seen. An adult Glossy Ibis was also seen this day but no nest was located where it perched before flying in a straight line across the sound for Long Island. A pair of non-colonial Green-backed Herons nested in 1987 but was not sighted in 1988.

It should be noted that the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons reported nesting at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye by Künstler and Capainolo (1987) last nested there in 1981, apparently because a pair of Great Horned Owls began nesting in the immediate vicinity in 1982 (Alison Beall, *pers. comm.*).

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