

colony of Bank Swallows at the Mt. Hope Mine property of the Warren Foundry and Pipe Corporation at Wharton, New Jersey. The swallows had run their tunnels into the sides of a huge pile of iron ore 'tailings.' This scrap pile, accumulated over a period of years and now abandoned, has settled and weathered in such a way that the outside presents a large number of vertical faces. The consistency of the material is that of a mixture of coarse sand and finely crushed cinders, and is easily worked by the swallows. On a subsequent trip to band this colony, the writer also found a pair of kingfishers using the same niche. Mr. Harry Davenport, superintendent of the mine, who kindly granted me permission to band the swallows and who has rigidly protected the colony, tells me that the birds started nesting on the property in 1943. A. C. Bent, in Bulletin 179 of the United States National Museum, records two instances of the Bank Swallow nesting in piles of sawdust accumulated during lumbering operations.—HOBART M. VAN DEUSEN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Late nesting of the Hermit Thrush in New York.**—In 1944, while I was on summer duty with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and living in a house at the north end of the sixteen-acre reservation of the U. S. Fur Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga, New York, I found a very late nest of the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*). The reservation is situated a few miles north of Saratoga Springs and can be regarded as in the outskirts of the Adirondacks. The climate is cool and the summer season is of short duration. One brood is probably the rule for the woodland passerine birds.

The reservation fronted on a larger wooded tract that, while chiefly made up of small growth, had, like the north end of the reservation, a scattering of large trees, mostly white pine, sugar maple and beech. A Great Horned Owl had a favorite hooting perch in a large white pine near the house and could be heard in the early morning hours until it began to grow faintly light. And several times a Barred Owl, a little farther back toward the main forest, would add his higher, more vociferous comments to the listener in the dark.

During June and early July, Hermit Thrushes were heard singing regularly in the woods back of the house and in a woodlot across the highway in front, with the singing gradually tapering off until by mid-July it had stopped for the season. Wood Thrushes likewise ceased to sing regularly at about the same time, though during the middle of July one Wood Thrush could be heard occasionally, carrying on a few days beyond the Hermits.

It was distinctly surprising to hear a Hermit again in good song after August was well started. Rather by accident the nest was discovered the third week of August. It was situated in a rather open place in the woods and contained only three eggs. As the fourth week of August started, two newly hatched young were found in the nest. The third egg did not hatch and later disappeared. Then the evening of August 31, a last hurried observation was made before leaving the region. One young bird, only, was seen but it seemed to be in good condition and just starting to feather.

No observations were made on the feeding of the young, but some years earlier, in the Catskills, a Hermit Thrush was watched returning to the nest with food. The young were at the stage where they were just beginning to show feathers. Several times a caterpillar, apparently a geometrid larva, would be brought in the bill and fed after a short halt at the edge of the nest. Then a pause of some seconds would result in the regurgitation of an entire blueberry and several times the first one was followed some seconds later by a second berry. Then, if no nest sanitation was

called for, the parent would depart.—THOMAS SMYTH, *Dept. of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

**Female Cowbird dead at Prothonotary Warbler's nest.**—On May 22, 1941, in a little swampy woods on the south shore of the Grand Reservoir (Lake St. Marys) in Mercer County, Ohio, I noticed a dead female Cowbird lodged in a cavity entrance in a small willow stub, standing in water. As Prothonotary Warblers have nested in cavities of trees in this locality for years, I assumed that this female had intended to deposit an egg in the Prothonotary's nest but had become lodged in the entrance and had died trying to extricate herself. After removing the body, I found that the nest held one typical egg of the Prothonotary. Upon opening the abdomen of the Cowbird, I found an egg that appeared to be perfect. The Cowbird was badly decomposed. I was surprised at the force required to dislodge it from the cavity entrance. The primary feathers seemed to act like the barbs of fish hooks. I recall finding Cowbird eggs in two or three Prothonotary Warbler nests in this little colony in previous years.—HOMER F. PRICE, *Payne, Ohio.*

**Ring-necked Duck broods in New York State.**—The Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) is uncommon as a summer resident in New York and its breeding here is rare, if ever reported up to the present writing. It has been observed as a summer resident in the Finger Lakes section, in the Lake Champlain area, and in the southwestern Adirondacks. Records from Ithaca showed the average migration dates on Cayuga Lake, prior to 1936, were between February 18 and April 7, and from September 16 to October 29. Observations made in the Ithaca region by Benson during 1936 and 1937 showed this species as late as June 10 on Dryden Lake, June 15 on Labrador Pond, and late May on Spencer Marsh and Danby Pond. Each spring from 1939 through 1943 a flock varying from 15 to 40 birds, with drakes predominating, two to one, were observed on one pond at Visher's Ferry Flats, Saratoga County, regularly until the first of June, and in 1942 until June 20. On June 15, 1940, a pair of Ring-necked Ducks was observed by Benson near Rouse's Point on Lake Champlain, but there was no sign of nesting. In May, 1941, six pairs were found by Severinghaus on Lake Lila (Webb, Herkimer Co.).

Our first record of the breeding of Ring-necks in New York State was made in 1946 by Severinghaus who observed four pairs and two broods at Jones Pond (Brighton Township, Franklin Co.). Jones Pond, in the north-central Adirondacks east of Paul Smiths, lies at an elevation of 1652 feet. It consists of two shallow bays, west and north, connected with a deeper south bay by a body of open water. The west and north bays are from five to fifteen feet deep. The west bay is nearly filled with emergent vegetation, mainly cattails (*Typha*), growing on a bog mat of Ericaceous plants that have pushed out from the shore. In the remaining open water, buoyant aquatics, yellow pond lilies (*Nymphozanthus*) and sweet water lilies (*Nymphaea*), as well as a dense growth of submergent aquatics, nearly fill the bay with vegetation. The north bay is largely open water with a sparse growth of emergent and buoyant aquatics but a dense growth of submergent aquatics, while the south bay, about forty feet in depth, is almost entirely open water. The shore line of the pond is covered with a dense growth of alders and woody shrubs (except on the east side of the south bay where there are several summer camps), and behind these are tall, mature conifers. The road from Paul Smiths to Rainbow Lake passes close to the north and west bays.

On May 29, 1946, three pairs of Ring-necks were found on the north bay by Severinghaus, and identification was confirmed by two fellow workers. The birds