

The Nesting Season

June 1 — July 31, 1974

HUDSON — ST. LAWRENCE REGION / P.A. Buckley and Richard Kane

Most observers found the early summer of 1974 cool, and in the north wetter than usual, continuing the Region-wide spring trend. High water was recorded north, while in the south, especially in the New York City area (below N.Y.C.A.), July was dry and water levels plummeted. Average-to-good bird populations and productivity were reported throughout the Region for groups as disparate as waterfowl, waterbirds, predators and insectivores. The few exceptions included open-field nesters (various sparrows, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper) and early spring migrants (E. Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Hermit Thrush and Field Sparrow) all across the Region, very late nesting waterfowl in the Montreal area, and winter finches (including Purple) over most of the U.S. portion of the Region.

Additional data supporting actual or anticipated breeding range changes were obtained this summer for (1) *northern species southward*: Com. Raven, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Nashville, Blackburnian and Canada Warblers, N. Waterthrush and Red Crossbill. Many but not all of these species were associated with now-maturing stands of Norway Spruce well south of normal "boreal" forest areas, continuing the trend reported in 1973; (2) *southern species northward*: pioneers still were Sandwich Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, and Blue Grosbeak, while continuing rapid expansion are Cattle Egret, oystercatcher and Acadian Flycatcher. Still extending their ranges are Turkey Vulture, Willow (*fitz-bew*) Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary, Cerulean, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, chat, Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole and Cardinal; (3) *mid-western species eastward*: Am. Wigeon, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Bewick's Wren, W. Meadowlark and Clay-colored Sparrow. Yellow Rail might also belong in this category. Grassland species seemed to be still decreasing as habitat vanishes; ground nesters (for example, goatsuckers) disappear with increasing suburbanization; and marsh and colonially nesting waterbirds are more dependent each year on man-made habitat.

As more pelagic work is done, it is becoming increasingly apparent that seabird migration is still underway in, perhaps even not peaking until, mid-June. The list of species recorded grows annually: were we just ignorant of their occurrence or are their statuses changing, and if the latter, why? Some of the June pelagic work has been associated with the nascent Captree June "Christmas Bird Count," (see *AB*, 27: 566-70). This year it tallied 145 species even though held a week later to diminish

the impact of migrant passerines. The results (*Linnaean Newsletter*, 28 (7): 1-3) again demonstrated its value, giving good data on a strange amalgam of species: Black Rail, possibly breeding as well as summering waterfowl, several owls, odd passerine distributions for Long Island (below L.I.) and some significant probable breeding range extensions: Chuck-will's-widow, Acadian Flycatcher, N. Waterthrush and Canada Warbler Investigations by the Urner Ornithological Club in the Hackensack Meadows and in the wilder highlands of n. New Jersey continued to astonish: some waterfowl and marsh birds (as well as the Region's only Dickcissels and Blue Grosbeaks) breeding in sight of the N.Y. City skyline are otherwise very rare in New Jersey, and the odd intermingling of Carolinian and Canadian Zone species in Passaic, Sussex and Morris Cos. (1200-1400 ft.), reported last year, was in 1974 extended and duplicated in the Surebridge Swamp section of Harriman State Park, (below, H.S.P.) N.Y. (1200-1380 ft.) by E.R. Brown (*vide* R. Deed). Other poorly covered areas elsewhere in the Region deserve this kind of attention.

A two-day helicopter survey of breeding waterbirds on the Long Island coastline was undertaken by PAB, FGB and BAF June 10-11. While the data are only estimates of pairs present, subject to many variables, they were confirmed in many cases by the "ground-truthing" of numerous observers, whose contributions we acknowledge. We believe this to be the first reasonably complete assessment of all of Long Island's breeding waterbird resources ever undertaken in one season, it needs refinement, more ground-truthing, replication annually and at several times during each season. But it is a start. Details of the survey, with colony locations and species compositions, will be published shortly, a summary is provided in Table 1. Most of the per cent changes over 1973 figures (*AB*, 27: 845-52) probably reflect increased coverage. Given that knowledge, however, the per cent *declines* in estimated breeding pairs of Black Skimmer, Black-crowned Night Heron and Glossy Ibis might be truly alarming. As for Black Skimmer, it might be in serious trouble.

We ask that observers make every effort to increase the accuracy of the 1975 survey by reporting the size and species composition of all Long Island waterbird colonies of to PAB. We are especially concerned with ibis and night herons (both species), and with colonies of any waterbirds away from the South Shore, and indeed from anywhere in the Region, with a goal of annual publication. The confidentiality of any colony locations will be scrupulously honored; we urge observers to report beginning with the 1975 breeding season, and to undertake repeated monitoring for success data throughout the breeding season.

It seems that more than usual normally winter waterbirds were recorded oversummering this year: many waterfowl, including Brant, Snow Goose, both eiders, all three scoters, Old-squaw, Bufflehead, Ring-necked, a suspiciously high incidence of Red-breasted Mergansers in optimal breeding habitat, Purple Sandpiper, Glaucous and Little Gulls and several alcids. But these too might merely reflect better coverage. Other unusual birds included three from spring in w. Massachusetts but reported too late for the August issue: White Ibis, Sandhill Crane and Painted Bunting (plus a male Black-throated Gray Warbler without details). Non-

breeding summer rarities were N. Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, White Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, Fulvous Tree Duck, Swallow-tailed Kite, Ruff, Great Skua, Sabine's Gull, Sooty Tern, Sandwich Tern, and Dovekie.

GREBES THROUGH PELECANIFORMS — "A grebe, probably Horned, with five young north of Essex, N.Y., June 22" (from *High Peaks Audubon Newsletter*, Vol. 2, #7:51) and one definite Horned in Essex May 28 (JMCP), are suggestive, but not yet proof, of New York State's first breeding. Pied-billed Grebe was reported scarce throughout the Region. Up to several hundred Wilson's Storm-petrels were seen from shore on Raritan Bay, N.J. in June (PAB *et al.*), but it was a very poor year for land-based observation of pelagics. Data from trips to Cox's Ledge and the Hudson Canyon have been going to the Editors of the other Regions but on May 26 Steve Dempsey *et al.* saw a Manx Shearwater and three **Northern Fulmars** on a trip to the Ledge. Apparently fulmars were seen there well into June, and non-breeding (?) birds were seen from the Matane-Godbout, P.Q. Ferry June 9 (ten) & 22 (twenty) by R. Pelletier and P. Laporte, respectively.

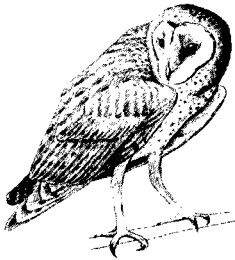
In Québec, a **White Pelican** appeared at Bristol June 1-12 (m.ob.: photographed); was seen flying over Senneville June 12 (A. Bentley); was reported "in June," on Boucherville I., St. Lawrence R. (*vide* Canadian Wildlife Service) and at Varennes Aug. 12 (JS, MG *et al.*) It is not known if the same individual was involved, or whether this was the bird seen in Vermont in August or in Massachusetts in September. An ad. ♂ **Magnificent Frigatebird** was seen on the Captree June CBC at Fire I. Inlet June 8 (HM, PP), later that day in nearby Babylon (F. Keating), and probably the same bird the next day further east at Georgica Pond by M. Kalogerakis and son. This is the eighth known N.Y.S. record, and the description eliminates other species.

WADING BIRDS — About 14 pairs of Great Blue Herons nested successfully in the Sandy Hook, N.J. colony (Dale Engquist, Jim Griffin) and about 11 pairs in the Tamarack colony near Millbrook, N.Y. Long Island's wading bird population changed little this year, although minor shifts of colony location took place. A new heronry, located on Shooter's I. at the confluence of Kill Van Kull and the mouth of Newark Bay comprised 15 pairs each of Cattle and Snowy Egrets and 20 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons (DS, PAB *et al.*). Another 50 pairs of the latter species breed in a Kearny, N.J. colony. The large colony on the Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain (Essex Co., N.Y.) had in 1974 about "200 adult and nestling" Black-crowns and at least 20 Cattle Egret nests (JMCP; see Fig. 1), which species first nested here in 1973, although numbers are not available. This is the first N.Y.S. nesting away from Long Island where until 1973 breeding was decidedly erratic. A flock of 34 in nearby Grand Isle in L. Champlain Aug. 7 (W. Sweetman) was probably from this colony. High post-breeding Snowy Egret counts included 350+ on Aug. 4 in the Hackensack Meadows, N.J. (below H.M.) (RK, TP) and 137 over Randall's I., Manhattan Aug. 13 (R. Kelly). Is there an undetected roost/heronry between the known ones at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (below J.B.W.R.) and H.M. — possi-

bly on Rikers I. in the East R.? Some 20 Least Bitterns, mostly immatures, in the H.M. July 26 (DS) suggest a breeding population of about 10-12 pairs in one part of this vast area. It was also reported regular in at least 11 places along the lower Conn. R. near Old Saybrook (RJC). Breeding was also suspected at Piermont Marsh, on the Hudson R. in Rockland Co., N.Y. (RFD). Errant waders included an immature Glossy Ibis at Berthierville, P.Q. Aug. 10-14 (RL); Québec's second Little Blue Heron (imm.), same locale Aug. 2-9 (Yves Gauthier, MM *et al.*); Québec's second Louisiana Heron at Ile du Moine June 16 (JS, S. Holohan) and a Snowy Egret at Oswego, N.Y. Aug. 6 (G.W. Smith *et al.*) Three well-described immature (post-breeding dispersal?). **White Ibis** flew over Westhampton, Mass May 12 (J. Lynes).

WATERFOWL — Breeding species did very well in most areas. In the H.M. both species of teal continue to increase and one brood of Ruddies was seen (DS, RK, TP); Gadwall continues its general increase: it now is regular on the lower Conn. R. (RJC) and 60-70 pairs nest in the H.M. (RK, DS). A ♀ Am. Wigeon with 4-5 half-grown young at Piermont Marsh July 21 (RFD) is only about the seventh known N.Y.S. and third New York City N.Y.C.A. breeding, all since 1959; half were one-time occurrences. Pairs of Green-winged Teal were flushed from likely nesting habitat on Plum I. off Orient Pt. June 10 (PAB, FBG, BAF), and two locations each along the lower Conn. R. in June (RJC) and in the Pittsfield area (RJG). More summer Red-breasted Mergansers at likely breeding locations included a "female" at Piermont Marsh May 27-28 (AA); four (including one molting ad. male) in Tobay Beach, L.I. marshes June 11 (PAB, FBG, BAF); 17 (including one ad. "pair") on Sexton I., Fire I. Inlet June 8 (same obs.); and 15-16 (also including a "pair" of adults) in Shinnecock Bay marshes all summer (E & LS). This species is thus still probably a regular breeder in its traditional Long Island salt marsh locales, although harder evidence is still desirable. If size of "young" seen on Long Island in June is any indication, nests should be looked for starting in early May. A ♂ Com Merganser with one downy chick was seen along the Susquehanna R. near Tunkhannock, Pa., July 13, in the same area where four adults had been in mid-May (WR). Pennsylvania breeding records for this species are very few. The **Fulvous Tree Duck** reported in spring remained in the H.M. throughout the period. Other summer waterfowl reports included a ♀ Ring-necked Duck with eight downy chicks at Upper & Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Rensselaer Falls, St. Lawrence Co., N.Y., July 27 (H. Armistead), a solitary female at Piermont Marsh June 4 (AA); a pair of Buffleheads on undisturbed, isolated, and woody Long Pond near Sag Harbor, L.I. through the period (E & LS); Brant in small flocks on L.I. (up to 100 at J.B.W.R.), H.M., and near Montreal; up to eight King Eiders (both sexes) at Montauk Pt. through the period (PAB *et al.*) and one, Rimouski, P.Q. June 10 (RP), Com. Eider: three through the period at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I. (E & LS) and the ad. male was still at the West Pond, J.B.W.R. in August (m.ob.); scattered scaup (mostly Greater); a single Oldsquaw at Piermont June 4 (AA) and a pair at New Haven, Conn. June 2

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Table 1. Estimated number of breeding pairs of colonial waterbirds on Long Island, N.Y. from surveys in June 1974 (virtually 100% coverage) and 1973 (incomplete coverage).

SPECIES	1974	1973	Change from 1973	
			Numerical	Per Cent
Great Egret	299	122	+ 177	+ 145%
Snowy Egret	730	500	+ 230	+ 46%
Cattle Egret	16	4	+ 12	+ 300%
Little Blue Heron	34	27	+ 7	+ 26%
Louisiana Heron	13	13	0	0%
Black-crowned Night Heron	455	725	- 270	- 37%
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	93	2	+ 91	not really comparable
Glossy Ibis	428	676	- 248	- 37%
(sub-total:	2068	2069	- 1	= 0%)
Herring Gull	16764	5795	10969	+ 189%
Great Black-backed Gull	1838	208	1630	+ 783%
(sub-total:	18602	6003	12599	+ 210%)
Common Tern	10838	9280	+ 1558	+ 17%
Roseate Tern	2342	1680	+ 662	+ 39%
Least Tern	1677	550	+ 1127	+ 205%
Black Skimmer	356	420	- 64	- 15%
(sub-total:	15213	11930	+ 3283	+ 28%)
TOTAL:	<u>35883</u>	<u>20002</u>	<u>+ 15881</u>	<u>+ 79%</u>

(P J Desjardins); and small flocks of all three scoters on Long Island.

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures continued northward, with regular sightings in Essex Co., N.Y. and adjacent Vermont; three Canadian reports were from Montmagny, Granby and Québec City. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was carefully described from Cornwall, Orange Co., N.Y. Aug. 3 (Walter Lehnes); increasing n.e. U.S. records are perhaps associated with suspected breeding at Cape Hatteras, N.C. All three *Accipiters* were reported still scarce or absent completely. Buteos fared better, especially Red-shouldered and Broad-winged away from the N.Y.C.A. There were several scattered reports of single, but not of breeding Bald Eagles, and none of Golden. Marsh Hawk is reported still down or declining by most observers, although it bred successfully on Gardiner's I., at Montauk, and at Suffolk Co., Airport, Westhampton — all upland locations; traditional salt marsh breeders were in roughly the same numbers as in 1973. Ospreys on Gardiner's I. raised 26 young from 34 nests, vs only 18 from 31 nests in 1973; and most heartening of all, no thin-shelled, cracked or dented eggs were found there (DP). Long Island's westernmost pair raised three young at their new station in Connetquot River S.P. (below C.R.S.P.), Oakdale, Suffolk Co. (m.ob.). The only Peregrine was on June 26 at Ste. Hyacinthe, P.Q. (D. Cyr).

QUAIL THROUGH GALLINULES — Young Bobwhite were hard-hit by weather on Long Island in June, but Ruffed Grouse, although retreating into wilder sections of the Pine Barrens, apparently had a good year; in upstate New York, Vermont and Canada they seem to still be at a high point in their abundance cycle. Gray Partridge are down in Jefferson Co., N.Y. Is this a short or long-term condition, and how does this species fare elsewhere?

An ad. **Sandhill Crane** was seen and heard at close range in Sheffield, Mass. Apr. 3 (D. Berg, *vide* Bartlett Hendricks). King Rails were reported from only two locations: (1) H.M. July 26 (DS), the same day and place of a Clapper Rail observation. As *Spartina alterniflora* increases with salinity in the H.M. the probability of the two large rails interbreeding increases. (2) A mixed pair (no success details) was found at Old Lyme, Conn. June 12 by RJC, who also saw a King at Old Saybrook June 21. The unditched Oak Beach salt marsh on the Jones Beach strip, L.I. had this year between nine and eleven pairs of breeding Virginia Rails, with some nests and young located. In the same marsh probably five territorial ♂♂ **Black Rails** were seen and heard (HM, THD *et mult. al.*), although no nest, eggs or young were ever located. The same situation obtained for the Yellow Rails seen and heard again this July and August at Ile du Moine, P.Q. (MM, JS *et al.*).

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SHOREBIRDS — American Oystercatcher continues to build up numbers in known Long Island localities. In 1974 these were: Jones Beach strip (all or mostly e. of Wantagh Causeway, to Fire I. Inlet area), probably 12 pairs; Moriches Bay, probably 2-3 pairs; Shinnecock Bay, seven pairs; Gardiner's I., probably 12 pairs; s. and w. shores of Gardiner's Bay / Napeague Bay probably 3-4 pairs, for a total known L.I. population of 36-38 pairs. Breeding success data are unknown except that "at least two" pairs reportedly brought off broods in the Shinnecock Bay area (E & LS). In the June waterbird survey, they were seen with surprising frequency on marsh islands well behind barrier beaches, so these counts might significantly underestimate the population. Piping Plover was reported still down by Long Island observers. An early ad. Golden Plover was seen at Mecox Bay, L.I. July 24-31 (PAB, Guy Tudor). "Several" pairs of Upland Sandpipers were reported nesting at Suffolk Co. Airport and a pair had two young at Saratoga Nat'l Historical Park June 21 (RJG). A Willet June 1-2 at Masson, near Hull, P.Q. was only the second area record (TH, m.ob.). Five hundred Lesser Yellowlegs on the H.M. Aug. 4 (RK, TP) is one of the highest "inland" New Jersey counts in recent years. Two Purple Sandpipers at Shoreham, L.I. June 10 provided one of few summer records (PAB). A Marbled Godwit at J.B.W.R. June 16 (J. Ash) and a Hudsonian at Ile du Moine June 22 (S. Holahan) do not fit north or southbound migration times for either species. But a male and probable ♀ Ruff at Stratford Marsh, Conn. July 7 were likely southbound (W. Rosenthal and Bill Wenokor). Probably northbound were the 75 N. Phalaropes seen from the Matane-Godbout ferry June 9 (RP). First positive evidence of breeding **Wilson's Phalaropes** in Québec came with Steeves' finding of a nest June 23 at Nun's I.; nest and young photographed. Possibly more than one brood was raised in that area, and nesting has long also been suspected — including 1974 — at Ile du Moine. The first southbound Wilson's arrived at J.B.W.R. July 6 (m ob.).

JAEGERS THROUGH GULLS — Between 12 and 20 Parasitic Jaegers were being watched feeding in a flock of terns at Fire I. Inlet June 8, when through their midst barreled an ad. **Great Skua**, cruising along the beach, passing within a few hundred feet of Democrat Pt and PAB, BAF, AJL, ROP. On July 8 another was seen close from a fishing boat 20 mi. east Sandy Hook, N J (Glenn Mahler).

A Glaucous Gull remained at J.B.W.R. until at least mid-June (m.ob.). The Long Island waterbird survey recorded startling totals of breeding gulls: on Gardiner's I. alone in three colonies were an estimated 6000 pairs of Herring and 1500 pairs of Great Black-backed. Most interesting were 900 pairs of Herring and 10 Great Black-backed on tiny Hoffmann and Swinburne Is., almost underneath the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in the Lower N.Y. Bay off Staten Island. The phenomenal increase of Great Black-backed noted in these figures is emphasized by a count of 200+ non-breeders at "inland" Piermont July 21, accompanied by only 21 Herring (RFD & LD); one at Oneida L. July 5-23 (D. Ackley) was very unusual in summer away from L. Ontario. Two large colonies of Ring-billed Gull

were also reported this summer: an estimated 5000 pairs breeding with 250 pairs of Herring on Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain (JMCP *et al.*) and another 5000 pair colony in the St. Lawrence Seaway opposite St. Lambert, P.Q. (MM). Up to six sub-adult non-breeding Little Gulls were present throughout the period at S. Amboy, N.J. (P.W. Smith *et al.*) and 9-12 of mixed ages at Ile du Moine, with some also at Beauharnois (MM *et al.*). An ad. **Sabine's Gull** in breeding plumage was seen close to shore at Jones Beach July 28 (T. Robben).

TERNs THROUGH ALCIDS — Up to four Forster's Terns reappeared in early August at Ile du Moine (MM, JS *et al.*) for the third year in a row. On Long Island Com. Tern population size was up over 1973, but no productivity comparisons are at hand. A 60-pair colony in Cos Cob, Conn. harbor was reported new this year (*Mianus Field Notes*), and of non-breeders (?) up to ten were seen near a H.M. landfill in Secaucus where the first H.M. Least Tern colony (12 pairs) was found this year (DS), while up to 55 Commons (July 28) were seen at Piermont (RFD, LD, AA). Most Long Island colonies of Common/Roseate were in their usual locations, but a big surprise was an estimated 1300 pairs of Common and 600 pairs of Roseate w. of Shinnecock Bay, nesting in tidal marsh wrack just as Forster's does in the s.e. U.S. marshes. This colony was reported flooded out in late June (E & LS), a real hazard to species not adapted for routine marsh nesting. A vagrant apparently unrelated to any tropical storms was the ad. **Sooty Tern** carefully studied with Commons at Piermont July 26 (AA). This is the second area record for Sooty Tern: on Aug. 14, 1955 during Hurricane *Connie*, another adult was also seen on the Hudson R., at West Point (E.D. Treacy). The Long Island total of breeding Least Terns from the waterbird survey probably underestimated them somewhat; we know of a few colonies that we missed. But this year's total is far closer to the actual population than 1973's rough index, and the phenomenal 600+ pair colony from Eaton's Neck in 1972 has not been wiped out as many thought: it seems to have dispersed from Lloyd's Neck east to Mt. Sinai Harbor. Another new New Jersey area colony of "24 birds" feeding young, on a landfill under the Goethals Bridge on Staten I. was reported (Esther Brewer).

Two different groups of yellow-bodied Least Terns were seen this summer: three (in an unprecedented flock of 72) at Piermont July 28, and a total of six along L.I. Sound from Lloyd's Neck east to Northport. Presumably these birds were dyed (some were also color-banded), but by whom, where, and when? Have other "golden" Least Terns been seen recently? Two ad. **Sandwich Terns** were seen briefly in the Jones Beach Common colony June 1, but not thereafter (M. Cochfeld). The four **Dovekies** June 28 at St. Simeon, about 100 mi. downriver from Québec City (S. Boivir, *fide* MG) would be exceedingly unusual any time of year, but in summer are virtually without precedent away from the ocean. Less surprising were two Com. Murres seen from the Matane-Godbout ferry July 23 (MG).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Barn Owl has become increasingly uncommon over most of the

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Region, probably from a combination of urbanization, pesticides and loss of old buildings; thus two reports of probably or definitely breeding are noteworthy. Both are from Long Island: calling adult, C.R.S.P. June 8 (THD *et al.*) and a pair which raised a single chick at Bellport (E & LS). One was found dead in the e. Bronx May 2 (Marshall Russak); are they still nesting in coal sheds there? Also of note were three reports of possibly or definitely breeding Long-eared Owls: two, July 20-23, in woods near Flanders L.I., (S. Kontos and L. Edelstein); one calling, C.R.S.P. June 8 (THD *et al.*); and four young fledged at Salt Pt., Dutchess Co. in late June (H. Alben, M. Key, C. Terhune). The L.L.A.S. Great Horned Owl census in n. Nassau County recorded 26 (presumably individuals although not stated), impressive for urban Long Island. Two territorial **Chuck-will's-widows** were calling this summer, one in deciduous woods at Richmond Valley, Staten I. until mid-July and one in a pine grove at Oak Beach, L.I. until mid-June (both m.obs.). Just received was report of a female seen under optimal conditions May 15 at Greenwich Pt., Conn. (Doris Bova). While Whip-poor-will is present in only a fraction of its former numbers on L.I., over 100 were heard in 3000-acre C R S.P. June 8 (m.ob.). Upstate it is in good numbers still. Many areas are reporting a great scarcity of breeding Com. Nighthawks, although one this June in appropriate habitat near Riverhead could be Long Island's only known breeder (E & LS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers might be staging some sort of minor comeback. Two pairs nested in n.e. Pennsylvania at Camptown and Montrose (WR) and another two pairs in e. Long Island, near Riverhead (E & LS, L. Wilcox), at least one of which raised two young. Another single was seen on the L.L.A.S. breeding bird census. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found to be "uncommon: 1-6 per day in the proper habitat" in the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks; Northern was reported only at Madawaska, a nest with young June 23 (HM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Singing **Acadian Flycatchers** continue to be reported in increasing numbers, this year as follows: singing males at C R S.P. June 1 and some distance away in East Islip June 8 (DE, R. Pasquier, F. File); without details on the L L A.S. breeding bird census in N. Nassau County in June; two at Red Rock, Pa. June 19 (WR, EJ); two late May into June, Lithgow (Millbrook), Dutchess Co. (HM, PP, D.W. Finch *et al.*) — reportedly at the same location where a nest was found in 1973, although no details are at hand; in the Surebridge Swamp section of Harriman S.P., four singing males were found in two coniferous glens with mixed northern and southern birds in much the manner described for n.c. New Jersey highlands in 1973; and June 18, Highland Forest, Onondaga Co., the Oneida L. Basin's second record (PDeB *et al.*). No successful breeding was recorded this year, to our knowledge, so there is still none known with certainty for N.Y.S. at least since the '40s. Willow (*fitz-bew*) Flycatchers continue their expansion in all directions; this year RP reported "the first official records for Québec": one singing at Thurso June 8 (TH & Ron Pittaway) and two at Aylmer June 9 (Monty

Brigham, RF & RP). Unexpected were two singing Alders (*fee-bee-o*) June 1 at Piermont Marsh, probably migrants (RFD). Singing Olive-sided Flycatchers at Point View Res., Passaic Co., N.J. June 4 (RK) and at Red Rock, Pa., June 19 (WR, EJ) raise anew suspicions of breeding in these montane areas. One on territory in June and July in a Pittsfield Valley man-made conifer stand is the first ever at such a low altitude (RJG). **Common Ravens** are continuing their increase and were reported as follows: two, Red Rock, Pa. June 19 (WR, EJ); "holding their own" in n. Vermont (Bruce B. Peterson, although none seen in s. Vermont by WJN); one, May 29, Westhampton, Mass. (J. Lynes); and two successful nests were located in the Adirondacks, at Indian L., Hamilton Co. and at Cascade L., Essex Co. (*vide* JMCP). Tufted Titmouse apparently bred in Westport in the Adirondack region, and another suspicious Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen June 13 in a Long Island coastal pine grove (HM). At least three pairs nested again in the Pequannock Watershed, n. New Jersey (RK *et al.*) and at least one in H.S.P. in June (ERB). Brown Creepers also are apparently expanding southward, and the "colony" at C.R.S.P. still thrives; a smaller colony was discovered this year in similar undisturbed pine barrens habitat near Riverhead (E & LS). Up to eight were in the Red Rock, Pa. area in mid-June and in several spots in H.S.P. Winter Wrens were found in many of the same hill country locations in N.Y.-N.J.; (but not yet on L.I.). Carolina Wren reportedly "invaded" w. Massachusetts this spring and summer; and only one, probably non-breeding, Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported in the entire region, in Québec. Possibly the most outstanding Regional breeding occurrence this year was that of a pair of **Bewick's Wrens** that successfully raised 3-4 young at New Paltz in June, for N.Y.S.'s first known breeding occurrence (J. Stapleton *et. mult. al.*); details to be published elsewhere. Breeding Hermit Thrushes are still holding out in the pine-oak barrens of Long Island with "centers" at C.R.S.P. and s.w. of Riverhead. WJN reported Swainson's greatly reduced in s. Vermont for the second year in a row, but E. Bluebird seems to be on the increase over the entire region, in the quiet but persistent bluebird way. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue their quiet explosion too; some 12 pairs were reported nesting in four areas on vast Quabbin Res., Mass. (B.N.W.M.). Golden-crowned Kinglets continue in ornamental conifers in N.J.'s central highlands. A pair of Cedar Waxwings nested successfully at J.B.W.R. for the first time; but only one Loggerhead Shrike was noted, June 11 at St. Roche, P.Q. (MM).

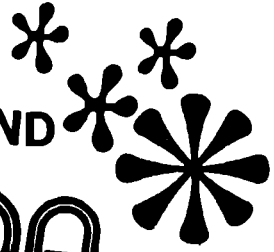
WARBLERS — Singing ♂ Prothonotary Warblers were seen in suitable habitat on L.I. along the Peconic R. June 3-5, and Carmans R. June 18 (DP). Being clearly pioneering males, nesting cannot be long behind. Nashville "exploded" as a breeder in s. Vermont this year (WJN) and further south, at least one nest with young was found at H.S.P. (ERB). Singing ♂♂ Golden-winged Warblers were seen twice in Québec: near Poltimore (RF) and Tremblant Park (MM *et al.*), both June 8. A ♂ Black-throated Grey Warbler was reported without details from Springfield May 7 (J. Cavanaugh). What are believed to be New Jersey's

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only breeding Black-throated Blue Warblers (five pairs) nested again at Cherry Ridge in the Pequannock Watershed (RK), but they could not be found at H.S.P. The estimated population of breeding Blackburnian Warblers in the Pequannock Watershed is on the order of 60 pairs; curiously they are far less common than Black-throated Greens in the native hemlock stands, but in Norway Spruce groves outnumber all nesting birds, even Chipping Sparrows (RK). A highly agitated pair of N. Waterthrushes at Belmont Lake S.P. June 8 (Tudor and Robben) was suspected of breeding. Not far away, Long Island's only coastal plain Canada Warblers, possibly two pairs this year, nested again at C.R.S.P. (*vide* Giffin), and another nest with eggs was located in New Canaan, Conn. (D. Norris). Long known to nest in Manahawkin Swamp on s. New Jersey's coast, has this species always had a small coastal plain breeding population here? The only reported Kentuckys this year were males, both June 22: at Millbrook and Cruger's I., Dutchess Co.

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Single singing ♂ **Western Meadowlarks** were seen June 20-26 at Syracuse Airport (PDeB *et al.*), apparently mated to a ♀ Eastern; May 22, Sunderland, Mass. (D. Fischer); and near Quyon, Hull area, P.Q. June 11-18 (TH, Bruce Dilabio). Orchard Orioles were more numerous in w. Massachusetts than in many years, and a chestnut male was singing as far north as Essex, N.Y. June 20 - July 9 (G. Rosenband, C. Slatkin). They continue to increase as breeders on L.I.'s north shore.

A small flock of Red Crossbills was present again through the summer at C.R.S.P., and once more nesting is suspected, although without proof (DE *et al.*). That species and other winter finches were reported very scarce or absent this summer, except that Evening Grosbeak was numerous in the Montreal area. One pair of Blue Grosbeaks again nested on the H.M. in the same location as recent years (TP, RK). Cardinals had a terrible breeding season after phenomenally high winter numbers near Montreal, but were increasing appreciably — even up to the high country — in s. Vermont (WJN) and Adirondack foothills (PDeB). A bright ♂ **Painted Bunting** was in the Southampton, Mass., yard of R. Frary April 19-21, just when a southern vagrant would be expected. Savannah Sparrow seems to be declining drastically as a breeder on the south shore of Long Island and the New Jersey coast, for reasons unknown. Inland field populations are not so badly off on Long Island, but only one inland colony is now known in New Jersey, at Carpentersville (RK). A small colony of about six pairs of Sharp-tailed Sparrows still persists in the H.M., despite drastic habitat destruction. Perhaps they will fare better as *Spartina alterniflora* increases there. Possibly breeding **Clay-colored Sparrows** following the spring's "invasion" were seen in Millbrook at least to June 22, where rumored to have been paired with a Field Sparrow (m ob.); Florence, Mass., July 16-18 (T. Gagnon); singing male, Upper Jay, Essex Co., N.Y. June 19 (Bruce Beehler), and June 11-12, St. Anicet, P.Q. (R. Lenoire).

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1) Please note carefully the beginning and closing dates for each season, especially in view of some recent changes. Reports should be in the hands of the sub-

regional editor covering your region no later than 7 days after the season's end, and we prefer that individual observers follow that procedure if their own local group is not making one presentation for their area. In this regard we also solicit all local group publications containing records, *provided they are received in time to meet our own deadlines*. Generally speaking, mere listings of all species and individuals seen in a given area for some period of time — especially when lacking supporting details — cannot be used in the report.

2) Please give full supporting details for all rarities, whatever their type, including dates, names of all known observers, and at least one name, address, and area-code telephone number for follow-up verification if needed.

3) Be sure to discuss your local weather conditions in as much detail as you can, giving weather bureau data if available. Note seasonally important variables (snow, frozen water in winter; droughts in summer; warm fronts in spring; cold fronts in fall; etc.) and try to relate them to bird distribution and numbers whenever possible.

4) Please be sure to include your name and address on all pages of reports, not just on the envelopes, and please do likewise, giving additional pertinent details of the observation, on any photographs (preferably 8x10, glossy b & w) you submit for publication. We solicit such photographs, but they will not be returned to the sender unless requested beforehand.

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