

and near Westfield, Kings Co., a pair built a nest in a birdhouse in late July, but abandoned it almost at once (Mrs. C. M. McJunkin, fide DSC). While it has always been rare in the province, this species is now thought to be even less frequent than in the period 1920-1950. Another House Wren was found in Nova Scotia near New Ross, Lunenburg Co., June 16 (AJE, fide PRD). A **Bewick's Wren**, the first known to occur in Maine, was discovered by Roger Foxall on July 2 in the Ship Harbor area of Acadia National Park, Mount Desert I. A careful description noted the striking white eye-line, dull brown back, whitish underparts from throat to under tail coverts, and the species' characteristic long-tailed and slim proportions. Surprisingly, the bird was found to be still present in the same area more than a month later, on Aug. 5 (WCT) and Aug. 7 (EVT). Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were found singing June 27 at Little Timber L., N.B., where they are at the very limit of their range (JGW, fide DSC). Short-billed Marsh Wrens reappeared as nesters in the Region, 4 or 5 birds being found in Massachusetts in a remote part of the Quabbin Reservoir area (CAG, et al.). The only breeding of **Loggerhead Shrike** to be recorded in the Region in recent years occurred in Newburyport, Mass., where a nest with eggs was discovered in late April or May (photographed, Richard A. Forster, JFK, fide RPE).

**WARBLERS, MEADOWLARK, SPARROWS**—The northernmost White-eyed Vireo of the season was a singing bird at North Hampton, N.H., June 6-7 (EWP, et al.). The species has never been found to breed in the state. The status of Warbling Vireo in New Brunswick was clarified this summer by the discovery of 1 or more singing birds—believed to have previously been overlooked—in Moncton, Newcastle, Lakeville Corner, St. George, Salisbury, and Sussex (DSC, et al.). This species had hitherto been considered as more or less limited to the Fredericton area. A Golden-winged Warbler at Otter Cove, Acadia Nat'l Park July 24 (Don Bradburn, fide WCT) was believed to be a 4th record for Mount Desert I., and for the second successive year, a Lawrence's Warbler was found at Chilmark, M.V., July 15-16 (ARK), while another was seen at the Kimball Sanctuary in Charlestown, R.I., Aug. 2 (CW, fide SSD). Again this summer a ♂ W. Meadowlark was present at Dayton, Me. (not "Dalton" as in AFN 24:664), first noted on July 23 (RWS, EVT). The typical song was heard, as well as the "chuck" note. At Martinique Beach, Halifax Co., N.S., Ian McLaren found 2 ♀♀ Ipswich Sparrows mated with Savannah Sparrows this summer. Three such cases of hybridization were previously known from Sable I., but these were the first to be recorded on mainland Nova Scotia. In New Hampshire, the first Henslow's Sparrow to occur in recent years was found singing in Whiteface Intervale between North Sandwich and Wonalancet, Carroll Co. Aug. 2 (Robert S. Ridgely).

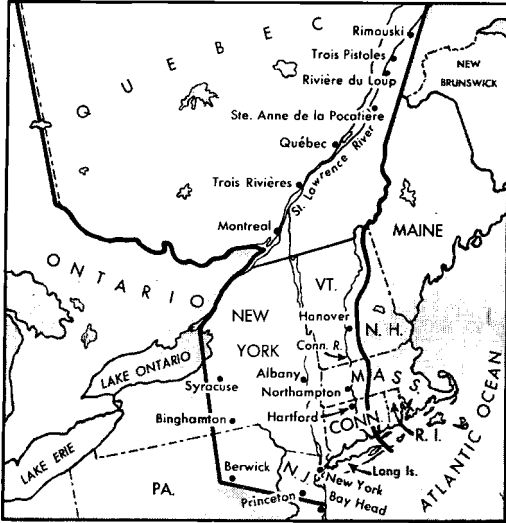
The bird remained until Aug. 8 (VHH, RWS, et al.) but disappeared shortly thereafter when the field was mowed. The discovery on June 9 of a **Fox Sparrow** nest on Guilford I. off Sheet Harbour, Halifax Co., N.S. was thought to constitute the first positive breeding record for the province, although for some time breeding has been suspected on islands nearby off Harrigan Cove (R. Kenyon Ross, fide ELM).

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## HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION / Ned R. Boyajian

Following an unseasonably cold spring, moderate to severe drought conditions prevailed over much of the Region until broken in August by heavy rains. At Topsham, Vt., for example, the last frost was June 11; only 1.55 inches of rain fell in June; there was no measurable precipitation

during the period June 24–July 14 (A&EM). This combination of cold and drought doubtless had some effect on the nesting success of certain species. Norse, for instance, cites it as the probable reason for a mediocre duck crop in his section of Vermont. But by and large what significant population level variations were noted seemed due to reasons other than weather.



Also, as might be expected from the weather pattern, late migrants were very much in evidence. At Alpine, N.J. during the period June 5-10, migrants, mostly swallows, jays, waxwings, ♀ redwings and goldfinches, were passing through at a rate of 400+ per hour, about twice normal rate (NB). At Derby Hill, N.Y. a considerable list of species, including 2 Com. Loons, 161 Blue Jays, 21 Cedar Waxwings, 40 Red-winged Blackbirds, 19 Baltimore Orioles and 50 Am. Goldfinches, were noted in migration as late as June 20 (GS).

Trends — Two of particular interest were noted. One was a phenomenal increase of northern species in the Waywayanda–Bearfort Mt. area of n.c. New Jersey, particularly in conifer groves planted about thirty years ago and now reaching maturity. An account of a survey of this area (IB, RK & WM) will appear in the publication of the Urner Club; a brief summary follows. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 6 pairs, at least 1 successful nesting. **Brown Creeper:** 16 pairs. **Winter Wren:** at least 17 pairs. **Hermit Thrush:** at least 3 singing ♂♂; no further evidence. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 10 pairs, 4 definitely successful. **Solitary Vireo:** several pairs. **Nashville Warbler:** 11 pairs. **Myrtle Warbler:** an imm. present, July 18-25 at Canistear Res.; no ad. seen. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 25-30 pairs; the dominant warbler in several locales. **Slate-colored Junco:** a singing ♂ at Bearfort; no definite nesting. **White-throated Sparrow:** 1 definite nesting. The nuthatch, kinglet and white-throat were all first records for the state and for the New York City area. As an additional note, a

pair each of Blackburnian Warblers and Slate-colored Juncos nested on the New Jersey Palisades (N.J.P) in Bergen Co. Both were firsts for the area (NB).

The second trend was the continued northward spread of the **Golden-winged Warbler**. It nested for the first time in Quebec, where a pair was discovered at Philipsburg June 13 (RDo, fide MM) with young seen Aug. 1 (GM, fide MM). A second ad. ♂ was also observed in the area in late July (fide MM). In Vermont, on a subsequent visit to the Saxton's R. site reported last Spring, Kibbe discovered 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ at one location, and a pair carrying food at another.

**LOONS, GREBS, TUBENOSES, CORMORANTS —** Two Red-throated Loons, present through the season on the Connecticut coast between Stratford and Milford (CH & DV) reflect the abnormal numbers of this species present in the Region since last fall. At the Tenafly Nature Center, Bergen Co., a pair of Pied-billed Grebes raised 4-5 young; the first nesting of this species on the N.J.P. in over twenty years (NB & CL). Pelagic birds were few but fantastic. On June 8 at Gardiner's I., L.I., Rob Hernandez saw land on the beach a bird he identified as a **Yellow-nosed Albatross**. His report was questioned in great detail by veteran observer Puleston, who is firmly convinced of its validity. There is one other Regional record, also from Long Island. As part of his fully convincing description of a small shearwater he saw on July 25 at Fire Island, Finch wrote: "I have no doubt that it was an Audubon's–Little, but can only guess that it was **Audubon's**, if the two are still to be considered distinct." There are a scattering of other Long Island records, including specimens. A Double-crested Cormorant, seen on the Hudson R. at Hyde Park, N.Y., July 21 (DF & AJ) may have been a wandering non-breeder since the date seems very early for a migrant.

**HERONS, IBISES, WATERFOWL —** The colony of Great Blue Herons at Millbrook, Dutchess Co., has increased by 3 pairs over last year. A count on June 9 totalled 34 adults, 6 pairs still incubating, and 14 young (fide EP & OW). However, at the only known colony in Berkshire Co., Mass., at Otis, numbers have declined to 6 pairs (RG). In the Connecticut R. valley of New Hampshire (C.R.V.) a total of 7 pairs were reported from three locales (fide VH). A Com. Egret at Senneville, Que., July 26 (DS, fide MM) was a good find for the area. So too were single Snowy Egrets at Nun's I., Que., July 19 (MM, et al.) and Pennellville, N.Y., May 16 (FS). The latter was only the fifth record for the Oneida Lake Basin (O.L.B.). Two new breeding records were established for Connecticut where a pair of **Cattle Egrets** and 3 pairs of **Glossy Ibis** nested successfully on Chimon I. off Norwalk (S.V.A.S.). The event, although highly gratifying, was not surprising. Both species have been steadily spreading and increasing. The ibis, especially, exploded last Spring. Two belated reports of this were: 8 sightings in Monmouth Co.,

N.J. in April and May, with a high of 7 May 19 (WS) and 13 at Ile du Moine, Que. June 6 (MM). Although feral Canada Geese have long been firmly ensconced in many metropolitan "feed-the-ducks" localities, there has been a decided and rather sudden increase also of more self-sufficient pairs in inland localities, for example: 1 or 2 pairs per pond throughout Berkshire Co. (RG); a pair on a pond in Sandy Hook, Fairfield Co. Conn. where previously unknown (LM); 5 pairs along the N.J.P. where previously only 1, irregularly (NB). On June 3, Norse sighted 15 Brant overhead at Winhall, Vt., the first he has recorded there. Further data on the Mallard/Black Duck shift came from two localities. In the O.L.B., Mallards enjoyed "A good breeding season" while Blacks were "declining". Maximum late summer counts were 200 Mallards at Baldwinville, August 8 and 16 Blacks on Onondaga L., July 11 (GS). In Berkshire Co., Mallards "proliferated recently and are certainly more plentiful than Black Ducks as a breeding bird" (RG). The Gadwall enclave on the St. Lawrence R. continued to flourish. There were 22 at Ile du Moine July 2 (TT, et al., fide MM). And in Dutchess Co., where it is very rare, 2 were seen at Bannerman's I. Aug. 17 (DF, fide EP & OW). Early June seems a strange time for a record number of **King Eiders**, but 7 present in the Guilford-Madison area of Connecticut, was a state high (DF & JH).

**RAPTORS, GROUSE** — Although the Raptor picture was not uniformly dismal, negative reports predominated. Turkey Vultures were definitely on the increase in Berkshire Co. Through the season, sightings of 5-6 at a time were not unusual (RG). No breeding Accipiters were reported anywhere. Buteos were spotty. Several locales reported very low populations. At Winhall, for instance, there were only 1 pair each of Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks (WN). But Red-tailed Hawks were reported as "holding their own in the O.L.B. (GS) and on the N.J.P., 2 pairs of Red-tails and 9 pairs of Broad-winged was the best count in many years (NB). Only 1 Bald Eagle was reported, an ad. at Pittsburg, Coos, Co., N.H. in June (A.S.N.H.). At the Gardiner's I. Osprey colony, 25 active nests produced 17 young, a definite decline from the 38 nests and 25 young of the past two years (DP). The sudden increase of Ruffed Grouse on the N.J.P. resulted in 2 broods; seen at Alpine, July 3 (NB). Although this was the first known nesting in an incredibly long time, it is entirely possible that the species has been continuously present in very small numbers.

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS** — On June 12 at Dundee, Que., 5 Yellow Rails were heard calling in response to a tape-recording (TT, fide MM). On May 17, 2 Piping Plovers were seen at Sandy Pond, the first in the O.L.B. since 1961 (GS). The Whimbrel seems to be occurring with some frequency in the Montreal area where it was formerly quite unusual. This season there was 1 at Ile du Moine, July 2 (MM, et al.). Upland

Plovers continued to survive on Long Island. Two were seen at Mitchell Field, June 19 (SD); 4 others at Suffolk County AFB, Aug. 18 (BC & SM) were "reported to have been there all summer" (obs?). Spotted Sandpipers seemed scarce in some locales. A count of 4 adults and 7 young at Littleton, for instance, was considered very low for the C.R.V. (RB, fide VH). A Willet, always a rare bird in the O.L.B., was seen at Onondaga L., July 5 (GS). A good find anywhere in the Region, the occurrence of a **Baird's Sandpiper** inland at Pittsfield, Mass., Aug. 29 (BH, SC, et al.) was especially noteworthy. A Least Sandpiper was seen at Charlestown, N.H. July 31 (WK, fide VH). The fourth Connecticut record of **Curlew Sandpiper** was a bird which wandered the Milford-New Haven area July 7-11 (DF, PS, et al.). Finch commented that 3 of the 4 state records are from the highly polluted flats at New Haven, a situation strikingly similar to the occurrences in Brooklyn many years ago. W. Sandpipers, always very rare in spring, were seen in two locations. There were 2 through early June in the New Haven area (PD, CH, et al.) and even more unusual, considering the semi-inland nature of the area, 3 among a flock of least Sandpipers at Overpeck Creek, N.J., June 12 (LB). The unusual number of godwits along the Atlantic coast last spring apparently resulted in at least 1 overwintering bird; a Marbled Godwit, present at Ile du Moine June 5-July 2 (MM, et al.). By early July both Marbled and Hudsonians were appearing along the coast. High count, 5 Hudsonians at the Moriches flats July 10 (DP). For the second year in a row, **Wilson's Phalaropes** summered at Ile du Moine. Although no nest was found, from June 2 on, 2 ♀♀ and 1 ♂ were constantly present and 5 imm. were seen Aug. 14 (MM, et al.) certainly excellent circumstantial evidence that a nesting did occur. Reports of **Franklin's Gulls** from the O.L.B. continue to pile up; there was 1 at Sandy Pond, May 27 (FS). The concentration of Little Gulls at South Amboy, N.J. had apparently dispersed by late summer. Only 1 was seen on Aug. 13 (DF, et al.). However, the same observer did see another bird Aug. 14 in New Haven harbor. At Ile du Moine, where it is unusual at any season, a Black-legged Kittiwake was seen on the early date of Aug. 14 (MM, et al.). The second spring record of **Forster's Tern** for the O.L.B. was a breeding plumaged bird at Sandy Pond, May 18 (FS & MR). Breeding Least Terns did well on the Connecticut coast. On Aug. 5, a post-breeding concentration of 150, which probably included some migrants, was noted at Stratford (CH). There were several Caspian Tern reports notable for the time and/or place. Most unusual were 2 inland at Hempstead L., L.I. on the very early date of May 1 (SD). There were also 1 at Milford Pt., June 5-10 (NG, CH, et al.) and 1 picked up alive at Fairfield Beach, July 28 (CH). On Aug. 14, one was seen at Ile du Moine (MM, et al.).

**DOVES, PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS, OWLS, WOODPECKERS** — Mourning Doves continued to increase

in northern areas. A total of 28 pairs were noted on 5 surveys in the C.R.V.; including 15 at Fitzwilliam, where the median for six years is 5 (fide, VH). It was also "the best season ever" at Topsham, where 1-2 were present through the season (A&EM). A young Monk Parakeet being fed by an ad. at Lordship, Conn., no date (UH, fide DF) was one of the very few Regional records of breeding, as opposed to nest-building, and the first such for Connecticut. There was a noticeable, though spotty, resurgence of cuckoos, with some evidence of a link with infestations of arboreal caterpillars. Quebec-Vermont: marked improvement of Black-billeds, including 1 at Lac Thoreau, 150 mi. n. of Montreal (FH, fide MM); 2 Yellow-billeds in the highlands around Winhall, where normally very rare (WN). New Hampshire: "Many . . . in worm-infested parts of the state." (VH). O.L.B.: Black-billeds up slightly, but only 1 Yellow-billed (GS). Dutchess Co.: both species very scarce (EP & OW) except in s.e. portion, where they were "in good numbers" (DF, fide EP & OW). N.J.P.: sudden jump in numbers, especially in Gypsy Moth-plagued areas; e.g., 3-6 pairs, species combined, in several 50-acre plots where 1-3 pairs in last few years (NB). Reports of Long-eared Owls were up. There were 3 nestings at Dorval, Que., at least 1 of which was definitely successful (FH, MM, et al.) and probable-possible nestings at Fairfield, Conn. (CH), Winhall (WN) and N.J.P. (NB). The nesting at Caldwell, N.J. reported last spring was unsuccessful (fide, RR). A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested successfully at Peekskill, N.Y. (JG) and a single bird was

seen in June as far n. as Charlestown, N.H. (WK, fide VH). Up to 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers were present through the season at Middletown, N.Y. (JT) and at Alpine, where it does not usually appear until late September, a southbound migrant was seen on the very early date of Aug. 31 (NB). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Hewlett Harbor, L.I., Aug. 15 (RS) was the earliest fall migrant for the New York City area by about a week.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CORVIDS — The Acadian Flycatcher may be making a comeback: 4 pairs were found in n.c. New Jersey (RK, et al.) and a scattering of suspected nestings and singles elsewhere in southern areas. On July 8, Norse found a "fitz-bew" song-type Trail's Flycatcher at South Reading, Vt., his first for an area where only the other type occurs. A migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at W. Hartford Aug. 8 (PD). Rather an early date though, interestingly, a small flight of E. Wood Pewees and Empidonax (sps?) was noted the same day at N.J.P. (NB). Cliff Swallows continued to disappear. The only known colony in Dutchess Co. was deserted this year (EP & OW) and only 4 pairs were reported in the New Jersey area surveyed by Kane, et al. On the brighter side, a new colony of 8 pairs of Purple Martins was discovered at Middletown, N.Y. (JT). A total of 14 Com. Ravens were fledged at Lac Thoreau (FH, fide MM). In Vermont, those breeding at Winhall left by early June and the species unrecorded until 1 was seen, Aug. 1 (WN). There was also 1 at Topsham, July 4 (A&EM). For the first time in many years, a pair of Fish Crows nested along the Hudson R. in Bergen Co. (NB).



*Great Black-backed Gull at nest, Captree State Park, N.Y. Photo by Tom Davis. \$5 prize for best caption received by Jan 2, 1972.*

One of this species was also seen at Middletown June 13 (JT) a rather unusual occurrence.

**CHICKADEE, NUTHATCH, WREN, MOCKINGBIRD, THRUSHES**—Both Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches began appearing in numbers quite early, perhaps indicating good flights this year. There was a decided influx of the former at N.J.P. in early August; e.g., 3+ per acre over residents on breeding bird plots (NB). Red-breasteds, virtually absent last year, were present daily at Topsham from Aug. 1 (A&EM) and the outer beaches of Long Island from Aug. 9 (AW) through end of period. At N.J.P. a few appeared in mid-August and on Aug. 31, 14 were seen in two hours, coming across the Hudson R. (NB). As usual, 1 or 2 Winter Wrens were present through the summer in Dutchess Co., though to date no nesting has ever been recorded there (fide OW). Good evidence of the amazing northward penetration of Mockingbirds were 3 nesting pairs at St. Simeon and 2 more directly across the St. Lawrence at Rivière du Loup (ND, fide MM). These locales are over 100+ miles n.e. of Quebec City. In addition, there was 1 pair at Melocheville, just s. of Montreal (MM). During June, 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard singing on Mt. Graylock, Mass., the only known breeding station in the state (RG). Results of the annual E. Bluebird nest-box survey in Dutchess Co. were: 18 successful pairs, 76 young; 7 unsuccessful and 2 undetermined (R.T.W.B.C.). Two pairs also nested on the N.J.P., the first in many years (NB).

**GNATCATCHER, WAXWING, WARBLERS**—Some evidence that Blue-gray Gnatcatchers may be solidifying their recent gains were 9 pairs in the area survey by Kane, et al., and a successful nesting at Mt. Sinai, L.I. (DP). A late, heavy, movement of Cedar Waxwings was noted in June at Derby Hill, 2100, June 2 (GS) and Alpine, 200-800 per four-hour morning watch, June 1 through 10 (NB). They were also more plentiful than usual at Topsham, averaging 1-5 a day through the summer (A&EM). A singing ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** was present at Westport, Conn. June 1-23 (RD, DF, et al.). A "Brewster" type hybrid was seen at Turkey Hollow, Dutchess Co. June 19 (EP & MV) and another, together with a Blue-winged and a Golden-winged, at Basherkill, N.Y., June 4 (SD). A pair of Prairie Warblers was found nesting at Saxton's River in June (DK) and one was seen at Pratt's Fall, May 16 (MT, et al., fide MR), the first in the O.L.B. since 1968. On July 8, a singing Louisiana Waterthrush was noted at Cavendish, Windsor Co., Vt. (WN) a locale somewhat n. of the normal limit of its range. Two further Kentucky Warbler reports to add to those of the spring were 1 at Camillus, N.Y., May 19 (FS) and 1 at Lithgow, Dutchess Co., N.Y., May 31-June 6 (DF, et al.). A singing ♂ was also present at Stockholm, Sussex Co., N.J., July 14-15 (RK, et al.).

**ICTERIDS, FINCHES**—A **Western Meadowlark** was heard and seen at the same spot at Calixa

Lavallee, Que. where it was found last year. Unfortunately the observer was unable to return later in the season to check on nesting (MM). Following a heavy spring flight, nesting Orchard Orioles were notably more abundant than usual. There were "several" pairs in s.w. Connecticut (CH) and 3 in e. Bergen Co. (NB). But none were reported from Dutchess Co., where 1 or 2 pairs have nested in recent years. In mid-May, single ad. ♂ ♂ were reported in Madison and Oneida Cos., "the only modern (O.L.B.) records e. of Onondaga Co. except for a nesting at Sherrill in 1963" (MR). A belated addition to the spring report of southern invaders was a Blue Grosbeak at Hempstead L., May 22 (SD). In Windham Co., Vt., single Pine Siskins Aug. 3 & 12, and Aug. 9, and the first White-winged Crossbill since Spring, 1970 (WN) may have been the precursors of a good finch flight this fall. For a finishing flourish, consider: **Le Conte's Sparrow**: very carefully identified at Gardiner's I., June 7 (DP) the second New York State record, and, **Bachman's Sparrow**, seen and heard, July 25 at Middletown by Tramontano, an observer especially knowledgeable of the species and genus.

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## **MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION / F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler**

The weather was rather uneventful during the period, being somewhat cooler than normal with no really oppressive hot spells. Precipitation was deficient, particularly in June, but because of heavy May rains this deficiency did not have any pronounced effects. Fresh-water stream flow was generally higher than usual, a situation which undoubtedly contributed to the lower-than-normal salinity in the Chesapeake Bay estuary.

**PELAGIC BIRDS**—A few summer records of loons and Horned Grebes are made virtually every year. Of interest this year were a Com. Loon at Deal I., Md. (Chesapeake Bay) June 5 (HTA) and