

RED-TAILED HAWKS ATTENDING A GRASS FIRE

March 30, 1952, was a dry, warm day with numerous grass fires in the Syracuse vicinity. A twenty-acre fire in an old pasture-cornfield two miles east of Fayetteville was attended by four Red-tails and one Kestrel. The Red-tails alighted in low trees along fence rows close to the fire, and flew from one perch to another through fairly dense smoke. During half an hour of intermittent watching, no bird was seen to catch anything, but it was assumed that they were attracted by the possibility of picking up small animals fleeing the fire. The nest of one Red-tail pair was $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of the fire, and was later broken up by a racoon. The nest of the second pair was found on April 20 in a maple woods $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the fire area. One fully feathered young was perched upon this nest on May 30. A third pair of Red-tails nest $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north in Green Lakes State Park, but they did not appear at the fire. The Kestrel's nest was found about May 1 in an old flicker hole $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the fire area.

Walter R. Spofford
Fayetteville, N. Y.

NESTING OF THE GOSHAWK NEAR BIG MOOSE, NEW YORK

During the spring months of 1951, Mr. Paul Paquette and Mr. Kittendaugh, of Kenwood, Oneida, New York, were attacked by Goshawks as they walked along a trail near Big Moose Lake, one of the birds actually striking Mr. Kittendaugh on the head. In late April 1952, he was attacked again less than half a mile from the previous site, and this time one of the birds chased Mr. Kittendaugh's dog for several hundred yards. On May 24, 1952 the three of us walked along the trail, first passing what appeared to be an old hawk's nest about 40 feet up in a yellow birch. Less than a mile further we arrived at the point where the others had been attacked in 1951, and here we found another hawk's nest, again in yellow birch, close to the trail. Some distance further on we came to the 1952 site and at once heard the high pitched scolding note of first one and then another goshawk. We could see no sign of a nest until we happened to look straight up into a large yellow birch directly over our heads, beside the trail. The nest was again some 45 feet up, quite large, but not quite so deep and substantial as a Red-tail nest. Neither bird attacked, but when Mr. Paquette "squeaked" one of the hawks came at once and stooped at him and then perched close by. Climbing a spruce tree nearby I could see at least two and probably three white downy chicks, and occasionally we could hear a faint "peep" note.

On two subsequent trips by several members of the *Onondaga Audubon Society*, the Goshawks did not attack, but on trips by Mr. Kittendaugh alone one bird would persistently dive at him, on one occasion forcing him to the ground where he waved a staff over his head for protection. In 1951 the birds would drop at a steep angle directly at his head, but in 1952 the attacking bird would drop almost vertically, then level off and come in at eye-level, which Mr. Kittendaugh assured me was very disconcerting!

There was one full grown eyas perched on the nest on June 28.

A PARTIAL ALBINO HORNED OWL

A pair of Horned Owls nest in the heavy timber of Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville, N. Y., using nests built by Red-tailed Hawks which nest close by. On May 10, 1951, Mr. David Swetland and the writer captured a young owl that had recently left its nest, and noted that some of the flight feathers were pure white. Although not quite full length, primaries number 1, 2, 3 of the right wing, and 3, 4 of the left were albino, as were their respective primary coverts. The talen of the first toe of each foot was also without pigment. Eye color and other feathers were normal. The bird was photographed, banded and released.

On April 13, 1952, Mr. Walton Sabin and the writer flushed an owl from a hemlock midway between the 1952 owl's nest (made by Red-tails in 1951) in which there was at least one young owl, and the nest used by the owls in 1951 (the regular Red-tail nest, and now occupied by an incubating Red-tail). We immediately saw white feathers in each wing tip as the owl flew out, and as it passed under its nest of the year before, the Red-tail attacked it from above. Both birds disappeared from sight behind the bluff above Round Lake, but the Red-tail soon reappeared and settled on her nest. It is of considerable interest that this year-old owl was in the immediate vicinity of both its old nest and the new occupied owl's nest, apparently tolerated by the parent owls.

Walter R. Spofford
Fayetteville, N. Y.

COOPERATIVE STUDY OF BIRD MIGRATION THROUGH THE USE OF SPRING ARRIVAL DATES

During the spring of 1951, members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology launched a new study of the age-old problem of bird migration. By plotting arrival dates on a map they hoped to discover to what extent spring migration is influenced by the weather and whether or not birds move forward steadily or by occasional long hops.

Observations that spring indicated that the White-throated Sparrow, the only species then under study, moved northward by a series of hops, 7 to 10 days apart and that 300 miles might be covered in one hop. With such distances involved it was decided to increase the area under study. The support of cooperators from the Gulf to southern Canada was enlisted. New species were added — the Mouring Dove, Baltimore Oriole, and Canada Goose.

So encouraging were the results for the spring of 1952 that it was decided greatly to increase the scope of study. For 1953 the help of cooperators from the area east of the Rockies to the Atlantic seaboard is being enlisted. Additional species have been added. Of the 28 selected, 14 winter in part or entirely within our borders:

Canada Goose	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Myrtle Warbler
Marsh Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Common Crow	Slate-colored Junco
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
	Redwing Blackbird	White-throated Sparrow

(Arrival dates for above species are desired wherever wintering individuals