

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

will not be confused with spring migrants; when in doubt report first date anyway.)

An additional 14 winter to the south of us:

Common Nighthawk	Barn Swallow	American Redstart
Chimney Swift	Purple Martin	Baltimore Oriole
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Eastern Kingbird	Black and White Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Wood Pewee	Yellow Warbler	

The *arrival date* only is desired for all species listed with the exception of the White-throat and Canada Goose. These latter are being studied in more detail. For them the following information is desired: dates of increases or decreases, main flights, date of departure of last birds, or, if possible, daily counts.

If you are already keeping arrival dates, we will appreciate having your 1953 dates for the species listed. If there is still time to obtain arrival dates for late migrants, please send them to us. The study will continue for at least five years so if you haven't heard about the project in time this year please plan to send in your reports for the spring of 1954 and thereafter.

Send all reports either to your regional Audubon Field Notes Editor or to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. A *postcard* listing species and arrival dates should be sufficient.

We are interested not only in your records but also in your support in finding additional cooperators. We should emphasize that we want the individual reports of each cooperator in a region and not local compilations of many records.

Already an able group of ornithologists are acting as advisors to this program. Yearly announcements will be forthcoming in many ornithological publications as to the progress of the study. The final goal is to interpret properly the effect of weather upon bird migration.

James H. Zimmerman, John V. Dennis, Chandler S. Robbins

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