

As indicated by the number of subspecific sight identifications in the literature, there has long existed a widespread opinion that *Dendroica dominica* is one of the few species whose subspecies might safely be identified in the field. Roger T. Peterson, whose general conservatism on the question of subspecific field identification is highly commendable, stated in the text of his book (1947. *Field Guide to the Birds*: 197) that the Sycamore Warbler "can be told at close range by the *white* instead of yellow lores (between eye and bill)." Many field identifications have undoubtedly been made in good faith on this basis; unfortunately Peterson's caution that "this is not a constant character" is buried in an appendix (p. 268). Peterson and several other authors have mentioned that some individuals of *albilora* have distinctly yellow lores. The converse is also true. I examined the extensive series of this species in the American Museum of Natural History, and soon came to the conclusion that the color of the lores, emphasized in so much of the literature, is actually the least satisfactory of the three principal characters which separate *dominica* and *albilora*. Many individuals of *dominica* had so little yellow on the lores that I had to step to the window and examine the birds closely in bright light to detect the yellow tinge. Some of these specimens had originally been identified as *albilora* (obviously on the basis of color of lores) and then reidentified. The lores of these birds would without question appear white under field conditions. In view of the variability of this character, it is unwise to assign an individual bird seen in the field, especially outside the normal range of the species, to a definite subspecific population on the basis of apparent color of lores. It would therefore appear that *dominica* and *albilora* are not separable in the field, since the two more consistent diagnostic characters, size of bill and amount of white on inner webs of rectrices, are comparative and hardly to be observed except by actual measurement.

I am grateful to Dr. John T. Zimmer for permission to report on the specimens of Yellow-throated Warbler in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History.

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.

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A SAPSUCKER - GRAY SQUIRREL RELATIONSHIP

The holes bored by the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus v. varius*) often attract sap-loving insects, but it is not often that other vertebrates are found feeding on the sap. On April 23, 1953, I observed a gray squirrel, (*Sciurus carolinensis leucotis*) about fifteen feet from the ground on the side of a shagbark hickory tree in Washington Park, Albany. The squirrel appeared to be licking the side of the tree. Closer observation revealed that