

FIELD NOTES

A Versified Record of the Harris' Sparrow — In my winter regional report for the Finger Lakes a typographical error, or perhaps a type-setting error, produced the interesting report of an **unversified** (sic) record of a Harris Sparrow. Dr. Kenneth Parkes, a former regional editor for the **Kingbird**, now at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, wrote me that "surely this oversight should be corrected, and I hereby versify it for you:

'Twas in the town of Trumansburg, New York (mark well the date
Of January twenty-eighth, in nineteen fifty-eight).
One Harrington, heretic
Saw a sparrow hypothetic
Which has never been collected anywhere in New York State.

On January twenty-ninth, the bird was seen again
By Harrington, who ranks, I'm sure, among our honest men.
O, genus *Zonothichia*,
He surely saw the pick o' ya,
As rare as Swainson's Warbler in New York, or Bewick's Wren.

To Sally Hoyt then Harrington sent details most complete
About his observations of this emberizid treat
I'm happy for him, yet —
I have only one regret;
I'd like it filled with cotton, with a label 'round its feet."

Ken Parkes and I, the best of friends, have always had a very mild warfare on the subject of the absolute necessity for a specimen for every state record. In this case, I am quite willing to agree that before the Harris' Sparrow is officially on the New York State list it should be collected. But I am also in favor of publication of what appear to be valid sight records, if it is clearly indicated that it is just a sight record, so that future students of a species, searching the literature for the first appearance of the species in an area, may have this information for what it may be worth. (Ed—There would appear to be a verified sight record of the Harris' Sparrow at Hamburg, Erie County, in November, 1951. See Brockner, **Kingbird**, Vol. IV, No. 2, July 1954, for a discussion of this record as well as a few other winter records in the northeast. The record of the Hamburg bird, however, was not versified). — Sally F. Hoyt, "Aviana," Etna

Hawk flights along southeastern Lake Ontario — Each spring the south shore of Lake Ontario serves as a collecting barrier and migration route for large numbers of hawks. In the spring of 1955 Harry Van Beurden of Rochester located a good observation post at Derby Hill just east of Sage Creek and the town of Texas and south of Selkirk Shore State Park. In 1955, the hawks passing through this point were 1500+ birds in seven days of observation; in 1956, 600+ birds in eight days of observation; and in 1957, 8000 for nine days of observation. The date range for hawk flights extends from approximately mid-March to mid-May with the largest flights in late April. Weatherwise, the best conditions are strong (25-35 mph) south or southwest winds, and 50% of the above observation-days had such conditions. However, small numbers move east along the lake shore even on west or southeast winds. The best single day to date was 25 April 1957 with the following figures: Turkey Vulture 2, Goshawk 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1120, Cooper's Hawk 12, Red-tailed Hawk 10, Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Broad-winged Hawk 3826, Rough-legged Hawk 7, Bald Eagle 1, Marsh Hawk 31, Osprey 30, Pigeon Hawk 3, and Sparrow Hawk 23. It should be noted that the complex of meteorological conditions creating these flights, accurate date ranges, and long term figures (maxima, minima, averages) of these migrations have been compiled at Rochester by members of the Genesee Ornithological Society.

Though numbers of hawks always arouse interest, the most striking feature of this flight is what occurs to it after passing the Derby Hill observation post. Checks at Selkirk Shores State Park and about the periphery of North and South Sandy Ponds

during flight days have established that the majority of buteos and accipiters pass northeastward over Selkirk Shores State Park, gradually mounting higher and higher. This flight of accipiters and buteos (and particularly the "chimneys" of Broad-winged Hawks) move north along the eastern edges of the Deer Creek marshes and the two Sandy Ponds. Their progression to this point has been steadily northeast and, by the use of southwest winds and/or thermals, steadily higher, so high in fact that unseen groups of circling hawks picked up by binocular use are the rule rather than the exception at the level of Sandy Pond. The progress of the flight beyond Sandy Pond is currently unplotted.

In late April a lesser flight of small falcons, Marsh Hawks, Ospreys, and a few Sharp-shinned Hawks adheres closely to the lake shore and moves steadily east, then north, along the edge of the lake, eventually migrating up the Sandy Pond dunes toward Stony Point and Henderson Harbor. Similar to the first, this flight has not been traced beyond Sandy Pond.

A third feature of this spring flight is the action of certain individuals of two species, the Marsh Hawk and the Rough-legged Hawk. While the majority of these species migrate eastward, then northeastward (in the case of the Rough-legged Hawk) or north along the shoreline of the lake (in the case of the Marsh Hawk), a number of individuals of these species take off from Mexico Point west of the town of Texas and cut across the "corner" of the lake. That some few hawks may do this from even farther west along the south shore of Lake Ontario is evidenced by reports of Marsh Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, and a few Sparrow Hawks coming from a south-west direction across the lake toward the Sandy Pond dunes, then flying northward parallel to the dunes.

Fall, the traditional hawk flight season along the Pennsylvania ridges and the New Jersey coast, produces but little along Sandy Pond. However, small (30-50 per day) fall hawk flights in this area have been noted at two places. The first is a late August through late September flight, mainly small falcons, Ospreys, Marsh Hawks, and a few Sharp-shinned Hawks, that passes south over the Sandy Pond dunes. This flight peaks in the middle ten days of September when strong northwest winds (20-30 mph) and concomitant "highs" start major migrational movements. The second flight occurs in late October and early November; these birds, mainly Red-tailed, Cooper's, and Rough-legged Hawks, pass east and south of Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores State Park, roughly parallel to Route 3. The dominant flight species, however, is the non-raptorial Crow. Frequent searching of large groups of migrating Crows will show hawks migrating in the same direction but at a higher altitude. Further work on these latter two flight lanes will be required to determine how extensive they are.

I would particularly like to thank Mrs. Orry Evans and Dr. Walter Spofford for their data collected from the various places mentioned in this note. — Fritz Scheider, 151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse

A Nesting of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker near Raquette Lake, Hamilton County — On the afternoon of June 9, 1957, a smallish woodpecker was seen flying across to the north side of the Marion River, to alight at a fresh nesting hole in the upper dead section of a live spruce, some forty feet above the ground. Upon its arrival, a second woodpecker flew from the spot to a neighboring dead trunk, while the first thrust its head and shoulders into the opening and began excavating. The birds were obviously Three-toed Woodpeckers, the yellow crown-patch of the male being noted on the second bird as he preened his dishevelled feathers.

Some fifteen minutes later the female backed out of the hole and only at this time was it noticed that her back was not black as in the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) but had many small white markings. She was shortly replaced by the male, who also showed the white markings indicating that these were Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers (*Picoides tridactylus*).

The pair exchanged places about six times during the nearly two hours of observation, and when last seen the female had been at the hole for thirty minutes, at last coming out and appearing exhausted, her beak open and feathers in disarray. The nesting tree showed two other holes, one in the living part of the tree, and both high in the tree. The site was a bog of several acres on the north side of the river about a quarter of a mile east of the large ledge marking the inlet of the river into Raquette Lake.