

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