

Besides the two adult birds recorded above, Mr. Bauer recalls seeing a first year Golden Eagle with white at the bases of inner primaries and tail over Howlands Island, but he did not record the date. Only a few miles south, at the Montezuma Refuge, Dr. Fritz Scheider saw a similar bird passing south on November 12, 1950. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

Unusual Song Sparrow Diet — On June 23, 1958 I observed a Song Sparrow in my garden feeding two Cowbird fledglings a rather unusual diet. The bird made quick and frequent trips to the rows of sunflower seeds which were sprouting and unfolding their first seed leaves. These he would nip off, leaving only the stem stubs, and cram them into the throats of his two Cowbird foster children as they sat on the fence nearby. I wonder whether anyone can report a similar observation. — Mrs. Lewis H. Stratton, Route 2, Oxford.

Large Flights of Red Phalaropes on Long Island — On April 28, 1958, at about 9:30 A. M., Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Goldsmith of Center Moriches noted several hundred Red Phalaropes swimming in the water near their fishing station on the north shore of Moriches Bay. Mrs. Goldsmith notified her mother, Mrs. John Lukert of East Moriches, an amateur ornithologist, on whose farm the first Cattle Egret was recorded for New York State. Mrs. Lukert estimated there were from 1,500 to 2,000 Red Phalaropes at about 3:30 P. M. and alerted other bird observers in the area. It was foggy all day with a south wind blowing about 31 miles per hour from 10:00 A. M. to 12:00 noon.

By 5:00 P. M. only about 200 were seen. When I arrived at 5:30 P. M. they had reduced to 50 and two hours later only 12 were left. Some were feeding on shore, or in the water very close to shore, and appearing to be eating the tiny shell, *Gemma gemma*, great quantities of which were floating close to shore.

They may have been feeding on jellyfish further out in the bay, as Mrs. Goldsmith saw the first ones of the year the day before. In the late afternoon, also on April 28, several hundred were seen in or near the boat basin at Shinnecock Inlet by Supervisor Meschutt of Southampton Town.

The next morning Gilbert Raynor of Manorville saw 90 at Westhampton Beach at 11:00 A. M., but none were at Shinnecock Inlet by 12:00 noon. April 29 was a foggy day, with a south wind blowing at 26 miles per hour at 11:00 A. M. At Remsenberg at 1:45 P. M. that day, I saw 50 Red Phalaropes in five minutes in small groups, flying east, close to the north shore of Moriches Bay. I hastily drove eastward about a mile and saw them still flying in the same direction. About 2:15 P. M., at West Bay bridge, Westhampton Beach, I was surprised to find about 2,000 Phalaropes in the water ranging to about one-half mile to the west where, three hours earlier, Saynor had found only 80. Small groups were arriving from the west while others, up to about 20 in a flock, were attempting to fly east but were having great difficulty in getting over the wires.

I drove about three-quarters of a mile east to the next bridge (Rogers) and found about 300 in the water west of the bridge. About three miles further east at Shinnecock Bay a spot check revealed 55 in five minutes, flying east over the ocean close to shore. The visibility was about 1,000 feet. At Shinnecock Inlet I saw 100 at 3:00 P. M. The flight was probably just reaching there, as Raynor had none there three hours earlier.

At 6:00 P. M. there was still about 1,000 at West Bay bridge, and as birds were continually arriving from the west and others leaving by flying east over the bridge, this must have been an entirely new population from those seen at 2:15 P. M. They were leaving at an estimated rate of 600 an hour.

I found nine dead under the wires at West Bay bridge, two dead at Rogers bridge and eight at Ponquogue bridge, the latter near Shinnecock Inlet. One was still alive with one wing entirely sheared off and three, stunned by hitting the wires, were banded and released.

I estimated that I saw 3,728 Phalaropes from 1:45 P. M. to 7:00 P. M. on April 29. On April 30, at 5:30 A. M., there were only 12 at West Bay bridge, eight at Rogers bridge, 40 at Ponquogue bridge and 20 at Shinnecock Inlet. There were 18 in the ocean off Mecox Bay at 7:15 A. M. April 30 began cloudy with a moderate north wind and no fog. At 2:00 P. M., clear, with a light north wind, there were five at West Bay bridge, seven at Rogers bridge, two flying east over the ocean in five minutes, and by 3:00 P. M. six were seen at Shinnecock Inlet.

At 4:10 P. M. I left Shinnecock Inlet on a trawler and went three and one-half miles out into the ocean, returning at 5:25 P. M. There were four flocks in the water from the Inlet to one-half mile offshore comprising 111 individuals. The following flocks, all flying south away from the land, were: thirty, five, five, twelve, thirty-two, twelve, five, four, four, six, three, eight, four, (one individual) and four. There were 150 in the bay near the inlet after returning at 5:25 P. M., making a total count of 396.

The ocean was not rough as it had been on the 28th and 29th. There was a north wind all day, but there was still a little roll, or swell, on the ocean. On May 1, with a light south wind, 11 were feeding in the surf near Tiana Coast Guard station at 2:00 P. M., 13 in the surf at Ponquogue bridge and six at Shinnecock Inlet. On May 2 there were seven in the surf near Tiana Coast Guard station at 3:00 P. M. On May 3 the only ones seen were three in the surf at Tiana station.

In all of the above observations the flocks were comprised of about 90 percent Red Phalaropes and 10 percent Northern. Only about 20 percent of the Reds were in full breeding plumage. On May 7 at 3:00 P. M., there were 572 Northern and Red Phalaropes, as follows, all in the surf: 93 in one-half mile west of Tiana Station, 64 in one-half mile east of Tiana Station, 115 in one-half mile at Ponquogue bridge and 300 near Shinnecock Inlet, also about 90 percent Reds and 10 percent Northern.

The last seen was a flock of 12 on May 8 at 6:00 P. M., just off Shinnecock Inlet, by the fisherman who took me out on the ocean in the trawler.

For the seven days of my observations I saw an estimated 3,955 Reds and 943 Northern. This is the third and probably the largest flight of Phalaropes recorded in New York State. In the 1958 flight I did not observe any dead jellyfish on shore as I did on April 28, 1937 when I estimated there to be 1,500 Reds and 500 Northern, which was the first large flight recorded for Long Island. In this flight I caught four in a trap baited with jellyfish and also caught two with a scoop net. All six were banded and released. Up to that time, according to the records, only four others had been banded in North America. The additional three banded in 1958 make nine now banded by me. A search revealed that at the present time only 31 have been banded in North America with the others as follows: Alaska, 10; California, two; Kansas, nine and Kentucky, one.

The only other large flight of Phalaropes for Long Island was 3,000 at East Hampton on May 16, 1939 by the late Dr. William T. Helmuth. I believe these were not all Reds but think some were Northern. I can find no record of Phalaropes being driven ashore in numbers between Florida and Long Island. If a storm should hit the birds as they are migrating north they are apparently just driven ashore from their feeding grounds. In 1937 and 1958 they were about 70 miles east of New York City, or the mainland; and in 1939 they were about 100 miles east of New York City. — LeRoy Wilcox, Speonk, Long Island.

A Partially Albino Chickadee — On February 1, 1959 at Selkirk Shores State Park in Oswego County at the mouth of the Salmon River, hearing chickadees in the mixed hemlock-hardwood growth about 50 feet in from the Lake Ontario shore bluffs, I stopped to "spish" them in hopes of attracting a Red-breasted Nuthatch or kinglets. A few moments of "spishing" drew about a half-dozen chickadees toward me since the wind was only moderate. I turned to see what birds had approached from behind, and I noted a bird facing me perched on a twig and hammering a seed. In the first instant I couldn't identify it by color pattern as any local species, but then recognized from its size, shape, and actions that it was a chickadee. Its gray back and light buffy-gray belly feathers were pigmented normally as far as I could tell with the bird facing me. The coloration of these parts contrasted in a unique way with the cap and throat. The crown, chin, and throat were **white** except for a narrow fringe of black between the throat and the normal gray chest. The lighting was good as I looked north at the bird at about 3:00 P. M. of a clear day. The Chickadee flew before I could observe the albinism in more detail. — Margaret S. Rusk, 100 Stadium Place, Syracuse 10.

Hawk Owl in Jefferson County — On December 11, 1958 I saw a Hawk Owl in the town of Lyme, about three miles northeast of Three Mile Bay. The bird was identified after being studied at close range under good light conditions. It remained in the same area until the end of December and was seen by a number of people.