

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.