

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.

The Hawk Owl is considered a rare and irregular late fall and winter visitor in New York State, most reports coming from the northern and central counties. The only other recent record for the state that has come to my attention is a bird seen in Saratoga County on December 20, 1955 (**Audubon Field Notes**), Vol. 10, No. 3, p. 237.

Due to its diurnal habits and fondness for open country the Hawk Owl lends itself to easy observation. The paucity of recent records for the state suggests that it may be the rarest of the northern owls which penetrate our borders during cold weather. — John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.

A Note on the Roosting Behavior of the Brown Creeper — The Brown Creeper is a rather common winter bird in the wooded areas of western New York. On January 31, 1959, four to six creepers were observed feeding in a mixed hemlock-deciduous woodland in Wilson Cemetery bordering the southern shore of Lake Ontario, Niagara County. They were observed in company with Golden-crowned Kinglets for nearly an hour in late afternoon by a party consisting of Miss M. Edna Blowers, Mr. Arthur R. Clark, Mr. Anthony Krayna and the writer.

At 4:05 P. M. (EST), while we were standing near an abandoned house on the edge of the woodland, a creeper flew past us and landed on the shingles which covered the house. Upon further investigation we saw that the creeper had moved upward to a corner made by two walls directly under the eaves. The bird used its tail as a prop while the bill rested on a painted board about one-fourth inch higher than the shingled surface. The paint on this board was chipped off in the area where the bill was placed, thus indicating the possibility that this exact roost was used on previous occasions.

Further inspection of this roosting area revealed no additional creepers. However, at 4:25 P. M. (EST), a second creeper landed on the shingled surface on the opposite side of the house. This bird proceeded to move upward and take a position similar to that of the first bird in the opposite corner of the house. The body of the second bird rested on a mud wasps' nest.

No further activity was noted and our presence within four feet was completely ignored by both birds. The light intensity was considerably lower under the eaves than in the surrounding open woodland when the birds first came into these roosting areas. Both roosting places were well sheltered from a steady north-northwest wind. (Editor's note — On June 24, 1950 I observed a Brown Creeper's hiding place back of a window shutter. The bird climbed up to the second floor level of a lodge that was adjacent to pine woods. It moved up on the shingles until it reached a point exactly half-way between two windows. Then it sidled toward the left one, where the blind had been opened back against the house, and disappeared behind it). — Richard C. Roscge, 48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15.

The Behavior Pattern of some Ruffed Grouse chicks in captivity (Part II) — It is now pertinent to remark about the sequence of moulting from the juvenile form to the first year adult form. This is a somewhat slower procedure than in Pheasant chicks of the same age. The body feathers arrive first, and they grow slowly while the primary feathers of the wings develop fully. Then the "forest strewn-floor" pattern that we have come to recognize comes into full bloom over the backs of the birds. The breast feathers come in much lighter in color than in the juvenile stage. Feathers begin to appear on the lower legs, and webbing on the toes becomes evident.

At age four months the birds were still relatively tame, and after some coaxing they could be picked up and held. Their consumption of food was tremendous, indicating a higher metabolism than a Pheasant would perhaps have. I make this comparison with Pheasants because I have raised many of them. The birds were kept in a large enclosed area (the old Pheasant yard) where they had as companions two old Canada Geese. After an initial period of resentment on the part of the Geese, the five birds got along well. The food of the Grouse consisted of grasshoppers, worms, varied insects, apples, wild grapes (fruits are taken to them), sweet corn on the cob, and turkey mash in pellet form. They still did not seem to require much water, even on the hottest and driest days. They were more prone to dusting than Pheasants in similar circumstances and delighted in stretching full length in a dust wallow in the bright sun.

As I mentioned earlier the birds would, during the early part of their captivity, run and hide and remain motionless for several minutes at the sound of our dog's