

Having satisfied ourselves that the bird was positively a Lark Sparrow, we hastened to bring to the scene Margaret Rusk, Roberta Seaman and Walter Spofford. After searching for three-quarters of an hour, and as we were about to give up and depart, we found the bird feeding again at the same spot on the road. The identification was confirmed by Spofford, who knows the bird in the Mississippi Valley. Good views were obtained through the telescope (20X) and Spofford took several photographs. We noted that the bird took readily to perching in trees when it was disturbed, flying up from the road into the tree, then dropping down again to feed.

The day was sunny with clear skies and temperatures in the 70's. The preceding day (May 13th) had southern air streams (10-15 mph) coming into the area, with a low pressure system moving east from the Mississippi Valley. The preceding week had seen a heavy migration of Passeriformes following the end of cold April weather. Migration had been very heavy on Tuesday, May 9th.

The Lark Sparrow is listed as an occasional, quite irregular visitant in upstate New York. This is a first record, so far as we are able to determine, for Onondaga County. — Mr. and Mrs. Michael Thomas, 420 Orchard Road, Syracuse 9.

Little Galloo Island Revisited: On May 25, 1961, after a lapse of four years, I again visited the prodigious gull colony on Little Galloo. The first definite information on this colony at the eastern end of Lake Ontario was obtained sixteen years ago by the late Harry L. Kutz. At that time Kutz estimated 2000 breeding birds, 90% Ring-billed Gulls and the remainder Herring Gulls. In May 1948 at the time of my first visit it was evident that the Ring-billed Gulls were increasing rapidly. In the next few years the colony continued to expand and by 1954 occupied about twenty acres, nearly one-half of the island. During this period estimates of nest density were made, the average being 2100 per acre. On May 22, 1955 there were judged to be 45,000 nests of the Ring-billed Gull on Little Galloo.

My observations indicate that the Herring Gull population has remained nearly stationary, at no time being more than fifty pairs. This species maintains a circular area in the interior of the island against intrusion by the Ring-bills.

On the current trip few birds of any kind were seen after leaving Henderson Harbor. As the boat approached Little Galloo about seventy-five Brant left the water and settled down on the opposite side of the island. On landing it was noted that Black-crowned Night Herons were more numerous than in the past. Many nests were located in the low bushes that fringe the island. At least fifty contained eggs, and a few downy young were seen.

The Ring-billed Gull colony had obviously expanded since 1957. Most of the island, except for the domain of the Herring Gulls, was covered by their nests. This amounted to at least thirty acres, and, using the density figure previously mentioned, a total of 63,000 nests is obtained. Some contained one egg, others two, still others three, while a few held four. There was a sprinkling of young birds, mostly one to three days old.

The amount of food required to maintain this colony during the period the young are being raised must be tremendous. Assuming two surviving young per nest, the total number of birds is in the neighborhood of 250,000. To obtain food the adults scour the shoreline of Lake Ontario for miles, they range inland over the farmlands of southern Jefferson County, and even follow the branches of Sandy Creek well onto the Tug Hill plateau. — John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton St., Gouverneur.