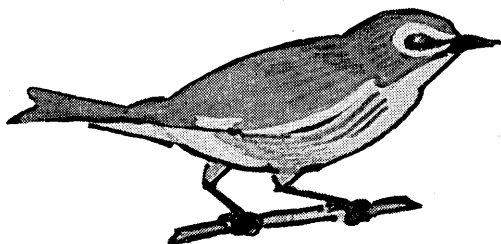


FIELD NOTES

A Strange Warbler in Central New York: On May 14, 1962 a strange warbler was found by Mrs. Estoff and Mrs. Propst in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. It was observed later the same day by Dr. Peakall and Mrs. Propst. The following description was taken down by the authors at the time. In shape and habits a typical wood-warbler, it was observed in good light for half-an-hour at ranges down to fifty feet. The main features of the bird are clearly shown in the black and white drawings made by Mrs. Propst.



The crown and neck were greyish-olive shading gradually into the olive of the back and tail. Wings unmarked olive except for small but noticeable white mark and edge. Black facial mask bordered with white, throat yellow fading to greyish on the breast with some rather indistinct greyish streaks on the sides of the breast. Lower breast and undertail coverts white. No song or call was heard. Despite its distinctive appearance the bird does not fit the description of any member of the family nor indeed of any other family as far as we were able to determine. Our conclusion was that it was a hybrid, possibly Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) from the wing pattern and Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) from the black mask and general coloration. The authors would welcome any comments.

The wood-warblers probably contain more oddities than any other family. There are two species, the Carbonated and Blue Mountain Warblers, that are known only from the plates of early workers. Apart from these mysterious, one might almost say mythological birds, there are a number of records of hybrids. Gray (Bird hybrids, Edinburgh, 1958) lists nine pairs of species that are considered to have hybridised. The Blue-winged/Golden-winged complex is wide-spread and well-known. Also well-known, but very rare, is Sutton's Warbler which is considered to be a hybrid between the Yellow-throated and Parula Warblers. The Cincinnati Warbler is known from two specimens (collected as far apart as 1880 & 1948) and is considered to be a hybrid between Blue-winged and Kentucky Warblers. Hybridisation has also been reported on several occasions between Hermit and Townsend's Warblers and also Audubon's and Myrtle. The other hybrids are less well-known and documented. Besides these records based on specimens there is a sight record of a bird considered to be a Magnolia/Black-throated Green hybrid from Massachusetts in 1955.

—Jean Propst, 726 Fellows Avenue, Syracuse — David B. Peakall, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse 10.

Fall Hawk Migrations of Region 10: At the Federation's Convention in May 1962 Harold Mitchell of Buffalo, suggested holding a state wide hawk survey with hopes of gaining information of flyways within New York State, and possibly of cross flights to other states. With this in mind John J. Elliott, editor of region 10, suggested that I try to collect such data for his region, submitting it as a supplement to his report. All hawk and eagle records have been deleted from his regional report and will be found here. Although it was my intention to give a picture of the hawk migrations for all of region 10, lack of reports from upland areas limits me to Long Island.

Following the passing of a cool front in late August, E. Levine recorded an early Pigeon Hawk. From then on each passing cool front brought increasing numbers of migrants of various species, including hawks. September produced a number of excellent flight days which, unfortunately, occurred on week days when most of us must pursue other matters and therefore went mainly unobserved. Irwin Alperin, marine biologist of the N.Y. State Conservation Dept. was able to make some observations during his regular chores along Long Island's barrier beaches. On Sept. 20th. at Smith Point he recorded 15 Pigeon Hawks and 45 Sparrow Hawks. On the previous day, he recorded the season's high of 24 Ospreys. His observations indicated continuous daily movements of the above species, with Peregrine Falcons appearing at the beginning of October.

On Oct. 13th at Jones Beach a truly fine flight of falcons occurred, with the sharp eyed among us spotting seven Sharp-shinned Hawks coming through with the others. I estimated that for the day, from around 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., upwards of 300 Sparrow Hawks, 110 Pigeon Hawks, eight Peregrine Falcons, several Ospreys and Marsh Hawks along with the accipiters were seen. This flight was observed at the east bath house on the north side of the road. Interestingly, the next day the winds shifted from Northwest to Northeast and hawk migration was still noticeable, but at a very high altitude. These birds could easily have passed unseen. Such high migration has been observed before and needs further study. Through the remainder of the period migration was much in evidence but not nearly on the scale of that Oct. 13th.

Buteos, other than the Rough-legged Hawk, are rare on the beaches but I did see a Red-tailed Hawk at Jones Beach on Nov. 12 and J. Elliott reported one at Freeport on Nov. 7th. Approximately six-seven Rough-legged Hawks were seen through Nov., all passing through indicating these birds might be regular migrants in late fall. They are known as winter residents mostly. One was reported from Montauk on Nov. 10th. (G. Raunor). At Dix Hills, comparatively inland, two Bald Eagles were seen on Sept. 25th., a rare sighting.

Of really unusual occurrence was the appearance in Hempstead Lake Park of a "large black bird with a big beak" as reported to Mr. Ed. Morgan of the Tackapusha Preserve in Seaford. Investigation proved the bird to be an immature Bald Eagle. This bird, first reported Nov. 19th., was observed by many people and was noted to be wearing a band on its right leg. On Dec 13th Al Wollin reported seeing an adult Bald Eagle sitting in the same tree with the immature bird. The adult was also seen by other observers.

Some experienced observers believe that many of the Peregrines seen from Fire Island by-pass the Jones Beach strip and do not hit land until well on to New Jersey. What of the smaller hawks, which have been seen several miles out to sea? Do they cross the large body of water to reach New Jersey or do they seek a narrower crossing? These questions could probably be answered by an organized watch along the coastal strip, an interesting project for the future.

Cornelius J. Ward, 804 South Ocean Avenue, Freeport, Long Island

Carolina Chickadees: About September 1st, of this year, I noticed five chickadees flying about the sunflower feeder in a rather unusual manner. I had been watching for the return of the blackcaps (*Parus atricapillus*) to the feeder from their summer nesting period in our woodlot, and supposed that the parents had brought their young with them, since two of the birds were noticeably smaller than the others.

The larger ones knew their way to the seeds, but the smaller ones were obviously new to it as they tried to pull the seeds through the hardware cloth basket instead of going to the small openings at the top corners.

I began to notice also that the smaller birds were trying to drive the larger ones away. This seemed a little strange as I had never seen our regular blackcaps act in this aggressive manner. Not only did the smaller pair drive the others away from the feeder while they themselves were there, but they would fly in from nearby bushes or trees whenever the larger ones approached the basket. Only occasionally were the