

Fulvous Tree-duck in Cayuga County: While traveling on the New York Thruway we saw briefly a strange bird in a flooded field just east of the Seneca River near Montezuma. Our impression was of a small goose or a long-necked duck of a general buffy coloration.

On the following day, May 18, 1964, the area was re-visited and the identification of Fulvous Tree-duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) confirmed. At a range of 200 ft. the darker upperparts separated from the buffy underparts by a white line along the flanks was clearly seen. The head and neck were buffy and the undertail coverts white. One of us (C.M.A.) has had considerable experience of this species in Africa.

This appears to be first New York State record outside of Long Island; although in view of the recent tendency of this species to occur in the northeast (Baird, Audubon Field Notes 17:6-8) it is not all together surprising. However the date is unusual since most records have been in the late summer or fall.

C.M. Acland and D. B. Peakall, Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse

Crow migration observed along the southeast corner of Lake Ontario: During the springs of 1963 and 1964 a hawk watch was maintained on the southeast corner of Lake Ontario at Derby Hill as part of a study on the migratory habits of these birds. In 1964 notes were also kept on other migrants which passed over the study area. The crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were one of the most commonly observed birds.

Observations were made on sixty-six days between February 17 and May 4 (1964) and a total of 45,000 crows was noted. Although an occasional crow was observed during the middle of February, no significant migration was observed until February 28 when 102 crows flew by. Large numbers of crows continued to be observed during March and much of the month of April. However, the coverage was not as good during April since large numbers of hawks were passing at this time and it was not always possible to count the crows and hawks at the same time.

The highest estimate of migrating crows occurred on March 24 with over 15,000 being observed. Other large estimates were March 5 (3,500), March 7 (11,300), March 14 (5,000), March 21 (1,700), March 28 (1,000), and April 12 (600).

Large flights of crows were associated with winds in a direction south of an east to west line, rising temperatures, and falling barometric pressure; conditions which occur on the west side of a high pressure area or on the east side of an approaching low pressure area. The wind velocity appeared to have little effect on the number of crows migrating providing it was not excessive (over 30-40 miles per hour). On days with relatively strong southeasterly winds the crows often flew low, sometimes passing over the lookout at an elevation of less than five feet above the top of the hill. The crows tended to fly higher when winds were light or when winds were from a westerly direction. Westerly winds are tail winds for birds flying east along the southern shore of the lake.

Usually the crows began flying shortly after dawn and continued until late in the afternoon. The largest movements occurred usually between 1000 and 1200 hours.

It is interesting that fewer crows appear to pass the observation point on the southeast corner of the lake than further to the west at Sodus Bay (Chamberlain. *Kingbird* 13:154-155). A possible explanation may be that the crows move on a broader front near the southeast corner of the lake in order to take advantage of favorable feeding areas inland from our point of observation. Large numbers of crows frequently have been observed to stop and feed in open fields located from one fourth mile to one mile from the shore of the lake. A second possibility is that fewer crows used the flyway along the southern shore of the lake in 1964 than in 1963.

John R. Haugh, Dept. of Zoology, Syracuse University, Syracuse