

BOOK REVIEW

Birds in Our Lives. Edited by Alfred Stefferud. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, 1966, 561 pp., illus. \$9.00 from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Between Roger Tory Peterson's "What Are Birds For?" and John S. Gottschalk's "We, the People", fifty-two authors contribute general information on what appears to be every facet of the relationship between birds and man. Pigeon raising and falconry, hunting and raising exotic fowl; migration, the role of hawks and owls in rodent control, introduction of foreign species; bird watching, bird photography, birds on stamps and coins, birds in fine arts and literature; what birds do for man; what man has done to birds; conflicts between man and birds with suggestions for alleviating some of them—all these and more are included. Profusely illustrated with black and white drawings by Bob Hines and photographs, it is a book for browsing to introduce people to the complicated interdependence of man and environment and birds. The chapter on Raptors by the Craigheads should be read by some other branches of the government and by the conservation departments of some states.

The entire last section is devoted to problems of future survival of birds. In the final chapter Mr. Gottschalk points out that "We, the people" will determine what happens to birds in our lives in the future, and that "we, the people" means each one of us who is interested in birds taking responsibility to help save habitat threatened by dams, road-building, urban sprawl; to urge laws for the control of pesticide use, water pollution and air pollution; to keep the need for wild areas in addition to "boardwalks, bandstands and ball diamonds" before the planners. DWM

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

August 16–November 30

DAVID B. PEAKALL

It was a fall without any spectacular waves of migrants. Above normal numbers of White-crowned Sparrows were noted in the central and eastern parts of the state, with a maximum of 160 counted in Region 5 on October 13, 80 in Region 9 on October 15, a flock of 100 on the coast on October 22 and 46 banded by "Operation Recovery" on that date. The data from the chain of coastal banding stations, excellently summarized in Davis and Heath's report, is an impressive addition to our knowledge. It should be read in conjunction with Wilcox's article on this subject (*Kingbird* 15:205, 1965). It seems to me to be important to give some indication of numbers, and although less detailed than the banding data from Long Island Scheider's tabulation of warbler migration in central New York will give future workers some idea of the magnitude of migration in the mid-sixties.

The unprecedented flight of Purple Sandpipers along the Shores of Lake Ontario (see Field Notes) reminds one again of the oceanic nature of the Great Lakes. A number of species are almost unknown away from

the coast except for a small, but regular, passage along the shores of Lake Ontario. A glance at the map suggests two possible routes into the Great Lakes for oceanic species breeding in the north; the relatively short overland route from the southern end of James Bay (the inlet at the southern end of Hudson Bay) which is almost due north of Lake Ontario, and secondly down the St. Lawrence River.

The number of fall occurrences along Lake Ontario of some "oceanic" species and a comment on their breeding range are tabulated below. The ranges are taken from either Synder's *Arctic Birds of Canada* (1957) or Fisher and Lockley's *Sea-birds* (1954).

	Number of fall records along U.S. side of Lake Ontario, 1962-66.	Comments on breeding from Snyder (1957) or Fisher and Lockley (1954)
Leach's Petrel	0	"does not range further north than Labrador"
Gannet	4	"does not range further north than the mouth of the St. Lawrence"
Common Eider	2	"the Hudson Bay population remains there year round"
King Eider	20	"in the east there is little evidence that King Eiders winter far to the north"
Purple Sandpiper	< 80	"breeds in Hudson Bay and to the east in Arctic Canada"
Pomarine Jaeger	11	"apparently the least numerous of the three jaegers for the Canadian arctic as a whole . . . breeds on islands north of Hudson Bay but not in the bay itself".
Parasitic Jaeger	61	"probably the most plentiful of the jaegers, nests in Hudson Bay"
Long-tailed Jaeger	0	"approximately equal to the Parasitic in total population . . . is not known to breed in the sub-arctic.
Kittiwake	13	"nests on islands at the mouth of both Hudson Bay and St. Lawrence River"

Some correspondence between breeding range and occurrence in the Great Lakes can be seen. Leach's Petrel is unknown and the Gannet very scarce; both of these species would have to arrive by the St. Lawrence route since they do not breed in the arctic. The rarity of the Common Eider in comparison with the King Eider can be correlated to the sedentary nature of the Common Eider in the Hudson Bay area—the sub-specific name of the race breeding there is "sedentaria".

With the jaegers, the Parasitic (by far the commonest in the Great Lakes) is the only one that breeds in Hudson Bay itself; the Pomarine (scarcer but regular) breeds on islands to the north of Hudson Bay and the Long-tailed (unknown) is the most northern of the jaegers. There are suggestions of an overland flight of jaegers from the south-east corner of Lake Ontario as individuals have been seen heading inland from the lake in this area (*Kingbird* 15:27, 1965 and Region 5 report this issue). This route would correspond to that apparently used by Brant in much larger numbers (*Kingbird* 16:26, 1966). There are very few inland records of jaegers (*Kingbird* 16:25, 1966) but this is not surprising in view of the comparatively small numbers involved.

Rarities reported include Black-headed and Sabine's Gulls (Region 1), Gannet (Region 2), Eared Grebe (Regions 2, 5, & 10), Marbled Godwit and Avocet (Region 3), Sandhill Crane (Region 4), Western Kingbird (Region 6) Yellow Rail, Lark Bunting and Harris' Sparrow (Region 10).

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210..

Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr-arrival, arrived; Co-County; imm-immature; L-Lake; max-maximum one day count; mob-many observers; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; Rd-Road.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ALICE E. AND EDWARD C. ULRICH

As in the earlier part of the year, temperature and precipitation for the period from mid-August to November 4 remained below normal. On that day a storm blanketed the countryside in the Buffalo area with a heavy covering of snow. The stationary storm with squally front kept many flocks of Whistling Swans close for observation in the shelter of the onshore waters and inland lakes. The largest number, 250, was reported from Chautauqua Lake. One of the later side effects of this storm was the good roadside observations of the many land birds which sought food in the grit and grass of the highway edges.

The weather moderated later in November and removed all evidence of the early snow. During the last days of the month a sudden temperature drop and very heavy snowfall gave Western New York its coldest weather of the fall and the first touch of winter.

In an old orchard at Shale Creek Nature Center in Chestnut Ridge Park, David Bigelow found a Cedar Waxwing's nest with two fully feathered young in it on Oct 1, twenty days later than any previously recorded nesting record of this species in the Region.

Of unusual interest is the inland record of a Long-billed Dowitcher at Eden Pond, and also the record of a Black-headed Gull at Bird Island Pier on the Niagara River. There are few fall records of Rough-legged Hawks and very few of northern finches.

Abbreviations used: Alleg-Allegany; Belm-Belmont, Alleg Co; BeISPk-Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island, Erie Co; Bflo-Buffalo; BIP-Bird Island Pier, Buffalo Harbor; Chau-Chautauqua; CPk-Como Park, Lancaster; CRPk-Chestnut Ridge Park, Erie Co.; FLC-Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo; HTPk-Hamburg Town