

that it ventured to cross either the eight miles of open water across Long Island Sound from Connecticut or the three miles from Plum Island to the west. That it succeeded in making such a crossing makes one wonder about the validity of the careful computations of "wing loading capacity" in the literature, based on planimetric measurements of tracings of complete (*i.e.*, fully feathered) wings.

The warbler was netted and banded under the permits issued to Helen Hays, Chairman of the American Museum of Natural History's Great Gull Island Project. I am indebted to Noble S. Proctor for information on the breeding range of the Yellow-rumped Warbler in Connecticut.

This is contribution no. 65 from the Great Gull Island Project, American Museum of Natural History.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Spectacular Flight of Purple Finches at Derby Hill: White and Norway Spruce in the winter of 1984-85 had an extremely abundant cone crop. Southern Onondaga and Madison Counties, northern Cortland and Chenango Counties had hundreds of acres planted with these trees in the 1930's. There are also Larch, Red Pine and mixed deciduous trees.

This entire area was used heavily this winter by several finch species. Predominant were White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins. There were also Red Crossbills, Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks. Almost none of these species visited feeding stations, probably because of the natural food available. It was not unusual to see many small flocks of 20-30 Purple Finches feeding in the cones. Concentrations of finches must have occurred in other areas as well, where cones were abundant.

On 18 April 1985 weather predictions were perfect for a hawk flight at Derby Hill. But the front did not move. The weather continued overcast with rain and light southeast winds. The only birds moving were flocks of finches. Most of the observers watched for flocks to point out to Scheider who counted the flocks and kept the total count. By noon the weather broke enough for some hawks to migrate, and still flocks of 50 to 200 Purple Finches kept coming. The peak flight was between 1130 and 1500 hours. By late afternoon, Scheider's count was 7700. There had been 500 Purple Finches before his arrival, making a total for the day of 8200. Previous high reported was 600, Riis Park, 17 November 1973 (Bull 1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., p. 44). Gerry Smith, the Derby Hill observer, reported there were essentially no Purple Finches either the day before or after this flight.

During the entire day there were no more than 30 Pine Siskins, one small flock of Evening Grosbeaks and no crossbills.

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