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BIRD MIGRATION AT POINT PELEE, ONTARIO, IN THE FALL OF 1909.¹

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As may be inferred from the literature, Point Pelee is a very interesting region to the student of bird migration. Descriptions, however, while giving the facts, cannot do the subject justice and fortunate is the observer who has an opportunity of watching the migrating hordes of birds that assemble and cross Lake Erie at this place.

The credit for the discovery of the advantages of this Point for the study of bird migration belongs to W. E. Saunders of London, Ontario, who studied birds there as early as 1882. In 1905, Taverner and Swales began a study of the subject, and the continued visits of these three earnest bird students materialized in June, 1907, when Taverner and Swales published a paper on the bird life of the Point.² This paper is not merely a list but contains also an account of the habits of many species. In August and September, 1907, Taverner, Swales, and others extended to me the hospitality of their camp at the Point, and I spent a few weeks there observing the migration. The time was too brief to permit of much work on this trip, but in September, 1909, on an appropriation

¹ From the University of Michigan Museum.

² Taverner, P. A., and Swales, B. H., annotated List of the Birds of Point Pelee, Wilson Bull., June, 1907, and September, 1908.

made to the University of Michigan Museum for that purpose, by Mr. Bryant Walker, and with the permission of the Canadian government, I was able to spend four weeks there. Owing to the lateness of my start (Sept. 14) I feared I should miss the hawk flight, which, in 1905, occurred September 10 and 11, but conditions favored me and they had not yet commenced to collect on the Point.

I was favored in obtaining permission of Mr. Albert Gardner to reside at his home. Mr. Gardner and his family afforded me every assistance possible, including specimens of many of the birds that came to their game bags during the hunting season. In fact, I should acknowledge my indebtedness to all of the residents on the Point for data and specimens.

A glance at the map of Point Pelee will show that my position near the south end of the big marsh and only two miles from the extreme end of the Point was quite advantageous. All of the water birds followed the beaches to the end of the Point; the land birds followed the line of trees and cleared fields. For a detailed description of the region see the paper by Taverner and Swales cited above. In my notes, which I give in a diary form, I shall give the movements of the more common, as well as of the rarer species.

September 14—I left Walkerville at 7:30 a. m., and after a ride of about two hours arrived at Leamington, which is near the base of the Point. On the way I saw numbers of Sparrow Hawks, and of course expected to see a flight of them. [During my stay on the Point I saw only one pair, an adult male and an adult female. This seemed very singular, as the country to the north of the point was full of them. It should be noted in this connection that no flights of this species have been known to migrate down this Point, although Taverner informs me that he saw flights on the adjacent main land on September 13 and August 14, 1906.]

I left Leamington at 10 a. m., and after a pleasant drive of about eight miles, arrived at Mr. Albert Gardner's. On the way I saw several Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks,

but was told that the flight had not commenced. I also noticed flocks of Crows, Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Sparrows, and Mourning Doves were common. From Leamington to the Gardner place I saw very few birds; a few Crows, Sparrows, a Dove and several Sharp-shinned, and one Cooper's Hawks making up the list. In the afternoon I made a short trip east of Gardner's to the beach and back, and observed an immature male Sparrow Hawk and a Female Broad-winged Hawk. I also patrolled over two miles of the beach on the east side and toward the Point, but saw only the Spotted Sandpiper, a Bald Eagle, a Brown Thrasher, and two Marsh Hawks, both of the latter immature.

September 15—I made a trip to the west beach and found three Spotted Sandpipers. A number of Sharp-shinned Hawks flew over the woods, and twenty-five others were at the end of the Point. Two Cooper's Hawks were also seen, and about fifty Herring Gulls were resting on the sand spit at the end of the Point. On the return trip I saw a Broad-winged Hawk in the woods near the road. [The latter with the one taken September 14 were the only ones seen by the writer.] Other species observed were a Woodcock, and two Bitterns in the marsh. In the afternoon I went up the east beach to the fish camp, and on the way saw a Duck Hawk, a flock of about twenty-five Yellow-legs flying south and high up over the beach, a few Spotted Sandpipers on the beach, one Hummingbird, two King Rails on the marsh side of the beach, and two Green-winged Teal. Albert Gardner shot to-day the first Coot seen and noticed a Whip-poor-will in the door-yard in the early morning.

September 16—Early in the morning I worked out to the end of the Point, and on the way saw flocks of warblers. Those identified were the Myrtle, Black-poll, Bay-breasted, Palm, Black-throated Blue. The Olive-backed Thrush was also seen. These no doubt came to the Point during the night as none were seen the day before. At the end of the Point I saw the same hawks as yesterday, with the addition of the Pigeon Hawk. About two hundred Herring Gulls

were on the sand spit to-day, all facing the east wind, and there were about fifteen Cedar Waxwings in the red cedar trees near the end of the Point.

September 17—Another trip to the end of the Point this morning revealed about the same number of hawks, but none of them seemed to be migrating. They were scattered over the Point, and I found several birds (thrushes) that had been killed by them. About a hundred Gulls were on the sand spit. On the way back I saw one Whip-poor-will and a very few warblers and Red-eyed Vireos. The Wood Pewee was common. In the afternoon Albert Gardner and I made a trip to the east beach, and in small trees and bushes along the sand dune saw flocks of Palm, Black-poll, Black-throated Green Warblers, and, along the edge of the marsh, the Northern Yellow-throat, Long-billed Marsh Wren and flocks of Savanna Sparrows. Other birds observed were one Blue-winged Teal, Bitterns, a few Chipping and Song Sparrows, and several Marsh Hawks soaring over the marsh. These birds had arrived the night before as the ground was barren on the previous day. On the way back we saw six Woodcock in the thicket at the end of the swamp. Albert Gardner said the great flight of them passed in August. This was my first experience with the Savanna Sparrow in this latitude during the fall migration. Taverner saw it near the marsh on September 11, 1905, and in great numbers in the marsh on September 11 and 12, 1906.

September 18—Flocks of White-throated Sparrows were seen in Gardner's yard with Song and Field Sparrows, and the Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen for the first time. All the above species must have migrated to the Point during the night as none were seen the day before. A large flock of Cedar Waxwings was seen flying about the Point, and a Cooper's Hawk came into Gardner's yard and carried off one of the small chickens. In the morning the trees on the Point were full of small birds, some of them being warblers already mentioned, with large numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. There was also an increase in the number of hawks. I saw several

Marsh Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks and Cooper's Hawks, all immature birds. Other birds observed were a Duck Hawk seen, and a Lincoln's Sparrow shot, by W. E. Saunders [the latter specimen being the only one seen by the writer] and the Carolina Wren observed by Wallace.

September 19—To-day the Kinglets were scarce and most of the smaller birds seemed to have left in the night. Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were common, and Mr. Saunders saw an Osprey, a Duck Hawk, and two Whip-poor-wills. There was an increase of hawks, the commonest bird on the Point to-day being the Sharp-shinned Hawk. They commenced migrating this morning and came down the Point by the hundred. Many of them no doubt crossed over, while others spread over the Point and looked for small birds, which were scarce and in hiding.

September 20—Saunders and I walked to the end of the Point before daylight this morning and found the hawks already arriving from the north. Those who have never read an account of these flights should read Taverner and Swales' description in *Wilson Bulletin*, No. 60, p. 92. Saunders climbed the watch tower near the end of the Point, while I walked to the extreme end of the zone of small trees and sat behind a small cedar that concealed all but my head. Faster than I could count them they came singly and from the north (or base of the Point). As the wind was strong most of them flew low and on out to the end, then straight away to the south about in a line with Sandusky. As I sat perfectly still many of these birds flew so close and low that I could touch them with my hand, while many of them seemed tired and alighted on the dead trees and bushes, some within a few feet of where I sat. After a time I also climbed the tower, and as we stood there in plain view we could see hundreds of hawks coming, always from the north, and passing above, below and all around us, often within a few feet of our heads. Most of those observed were Sharp-shinned Hawks in the striped plumage, but we saw at least fifty Marsh Hawks, also immature, two Duck Hawks and two Pigeon Hawks. The hawks came

nearly all the forenoon, and there must have been many thousand of them that passed over the lake, while hundreds turned back and lingered on the Point. [During the three days that this flight continued, and for the rest of my stay, or until October 15, I found the Sharp-shinned common. The later birds were nearly all adults.] I saw one Osprey on this date, and on the east beach one Semipalmated Plover. A flight of Woodcock occurred last night.

September 21—I was busy with specimens all the forenoon to-day, but in the afternoon I walked to the end of the Point. I found the beach deserted, a single Brown Thrasher only being observed. Saunders told me that the rest of the hawks crossed the lake in the forenoon. In all the region where the day before I saw hundreds I did not see even one. All the small birds had also left the Point the previous night. At the end of the Point a large flock of Herring Gulls were resting on the sand spit. Toward evening I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk coming from the north, and one Downy Woodpecker.

September 22—I made a trip to the Point and found only one Sharp-shinned Hawk, one flicker, and on the east beach one Pectoral Sandpiper. I also made a trip north from Albert Gardner's for a mile and then east to the marsh, seeing two Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Flickers, a few Chipping and Field Sparrows, and one Marsh Hawk.

The Gardner boys went to the big marsh and reported a number of Black Duck, which they estimated at one hundred, about the same number of Wood Duck, ten Bitterns, nine Coots, ten Green Herons, one Black-bellied Plover, fifty Green-winged Teal, twenty Semipalmated Sandpipers, twenty Least Sandpipers, twenty Black-crowned Night Herons, twenty Semipalmated Plovers, thirty Florida Gallinules, one Duck Hawk, ten Sora Rails, one King Rail, two Virginia Rails, one Killdeer, two Great Blue Herons, one hundred fifty Blue-winged Teal, fifty Wilson's Snipe, fifty Crows, three Kingfishers, and fifty Pectoral Sandpipers. The water in the marsh is low, exposing bogs that afford rich feeding ground for all sorts of waders. This is late in the season for many

species, but stragglers of the early migrants are still here, and the advance guard of the later ones have just arrived. Among the former were the Least Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, and Yellow-legs. Those just coming are Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellow-legs and Golden Plover. The Turnstone and Piping Plover are gone.

September 23—I heard the notes of a Screech Owl for the first time today. A trip to the west beach showed that the birds are still scarce on the Point. All that I saw were one Herring Gull, one Mourning Dove, two Great Blue Herons, and one Woodcock. Albert Gardner shot a Wood Duck and reported thirty-five seen. Seven Black Ducks, three Cooper's Hawks, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, and a Coot were also seen.

September 24—This morning I saw a few Red-tailed Hawks soaring about over the house and yard, but slowly working south. Numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks also flew over but in a more direct line. On the beach near the end of the Point there was a small flock of Sanderling the first I have seen since I arrived. Other specimens seen were, two Savanna Sparrows, a Barred Owl (?), a Cooper's Hawk, and about fifty Herring Gulls.

September 25—This morning I found the Point occupied by flocks of Olive-backed, Gray-cheeked, and a few Hermit Thrushes, and a small flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, while in the open were flocks of Juncos, Field and Chipping Sparrows. I also saw about fifty Bob-whites in a patch of buckwheat. Crows also were gathering. On the marsh Maxim Gardner saw about one hundred Coot, three Greater Yellowlegs, two hundred Black Ducks, and eleven Wood Ducks.

September 26—Last night there was a decided movement of sparrows. The White-throated came in large numbers and was to be seen along the fence rows and fields and in the junipers at the edge of the beaches, and in fact, all over the Point. A few warblers also came, and among them I saw two Cape May. A few White-crowned Sparrows were seen, and

a couple of immature Bald Eagles flew up and down the Point. There was also a decided increase in the number of Cooper's Hawks and more Red-tails than I have ever seen before. A flock of about twenty-five of the latter sailed about the Gardner clearing, but worked south and was soon out of sight. There must have been a migration of Whip-poor-wills also, as I saw five in a small area near the tower; here also I saw one Black-throated Blue Warbler and one Cape May. For the past few days the Flickers have been coming down the Point, and to-day are here in considerable numbers. I saw the remains of one killed by a hawk at the end of the Point. I also saw one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the second one seen here. The Olive-backed, Gray-cheeked, and Hermit Thrushes are here in some numbers. Crows are still flocking, but are still farther up the Point near the base. A few Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen to-day.

September 27—This morning the Point was full of small birds. I noted a few warblers (Myrtle and Bay-breasted)' numbers of Phoebes, and an increase in all kinds of sparrows. I went into the marsh with Albert Gardner and on the mud bogs saw numbers of Wilson's Snipe, two Red-backed Sandpipers, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers, one Semipalmated Plover, four Bitterns, fifty Coots, twenty Killdeers, nine Blue-winged Teal, thirty Green-winged Teal, about one hundred Black Ducks, ten Wood Ducks. Other birds seen to-day were ten Red-tailed Hawks, several Marsh Hawks, a few Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, one Kingfisher, and a flock of about thirty Goldfinches.

September 28—Last night seemed a favorable one for migration, and the small birds mostly moved on. Today the Point was silent and deserted where yesterday it teemed with bird life. I saw only one Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Albert Gardner saw a Brown Creeper.

September 29—A trip to the end of the Point and return gave me some interesting records. At the end of the Point I saw a fine Duck Hawk and about two hundred Herring Gulls. In the low thick red cedars near the end were a few Black-

throated Blue, Myrtle and Magnolia Warblers, small flocks of Golden-crowned Kinglets. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were common everywhere. I also saw one Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a few Savanna Sparrows. On the way back I shot three Cooper's Hawks. One of them was an adult male, the first adult bird I have seen. A duck hunter secured a Golden Plover on the beach, and Albert Gardner reported ten Ruddy Ducks, one Pintail, and a few Wilson Snipe in the marsh.

September 30—There was a decided increase in the warblers today. In addition to those seen yesterday, I noted Canadian, Cape May and the first Redstarts. On the east beach I also saw flocks of Palm Warblers feeding in low willow bushes along an old fence. They also lit and fed on the ground and were very tame. White-throated Sparrows were everywhere in the bushes along the Point and in the clearing south of the Fish Camp. Mr. Grubb saw an Owl in the clearing. As it flew from the ground, it may have been a Short-eared. I also saw a few thrushes, all four of the species that have been so common here on the Point and which seem to furnish the bulk of the food of the migrating hawks. The earliest ones are the Wilson and Olive-backed, then come the Gray-cheeked, and last but by no means least the Hermit.

An accurate account of the migration of these species at this place will be found in "Birds of Point Pelee" Wilson Bulletin, No. 64. pp. 113-114.

October 1—On a walk to the end of the Point to-day I saw several Cooper's and two Sharp-shinned Hawks, also a couple of Short-eared Owls. This is the second record of the latter species for the Point, although an owl has been seen several times in the marshes by the Gardners that no doubt was this species. It was noted by Saunders, November 20-23, 1908. The ones I saw were at the extreme end of the Point, where one flew about much as the gulls were doing. A few of the Herring Gulls seemed inclined to attack the owl and drove it back to the shelter of the Point. For the first time I have seen a flock of Blue Jays (fifteen of them) that acted as though about to migrate. In fact this species has been very rare on

the Point since my arrival and has only now made its appearance in flocks, which fly up and down the Point. A flock of Palm Warblers was seen; also a few Black-throated Green Warblers, while the Point was covered with Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets. A few Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and a Scarlet Tanager were also seen.

At the marsh the Gardner brothers shot three Red-backed Sandpipers and one White-rumped Sandpiper, the latter the first one recorded from the Point. (Not given in Taverner's list.) They also saw Greater Yellowlegs, three Pintails, three Ruddy Ducks, one Cardinal, and one Red-breasted Merganser. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the White-throated Sparrows are now seen in numbers.

October 2—Today I went to the marsh with Albert Gardner and Saunders. The following records were secured: three Golden Plovers, about one hundred Green-winged Teal, fifty Blue-winged Teal, eleven Black Ducks and ten Wood Ducks. On the mud bogs we saw numbers of Red-backed Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe and about twenty Killdeer. Saunders shot a fine Connecticut Warbler, and I saw a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (about twenty) in the same place. Large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds were seen today and about fifty Sharp-shinned Hawks. Mr. Saunders also reported seeing about five hundred Bonaparte's Gulls, about two hundred Herring Gulls and ten Common Terns at the end of the Point.

October 3—The bird life on the Point was apparently about the same today as yesterday. About two hundred Bonaparte's Gulls and the same number of Herring Gulls, and about one-hundred and twenty Cowbirds were observed. A fine Duck Hawk was also seen perched on the roof of the Life Saving Station. This bird was so tame that Taverner made photographs of it at close range.

October 4—Two Pipits were seen on the sand spit at the end of the Point today, also numbers of adult Cooper's Hawks and adult Sharp-shinned Hawks. A few Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were seen flying down the Point, and I saw one Eagle and a Duck Hawk. The Woodcocks are quite com-

mon. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is now the most common bird on the Point and there are numbers of the Golden-crowned also. A flock of about sixty Blue Jays went down the Point, but came back, as did also about a thousand Red-winged Blackbirds. In the big marsh about one hundred Mallards, ten Green-winged Teal, forty-two Coots, four Bitterns, twenty-two Wood Ducks, and eight Sanderling were reported. Six Henslow's Sparrows were seen in a low marsh near Gardner's.

October 5—On a trip to the end of the Point this morning numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were seen. On the sand spit were two Pipits, and at the extreme end ten Sanderlings and about one hundred Herring Gulls. In the juniper bushes near the end of the tree limit I flushed three Short-eared Owls, and in the lower cedars I saw a Palm Warbler. On the Point the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is still rather common, and the Jays and Crows are gathering in flocks. A large wave of song and other sparrows came last night. Saunders shot an Orange-crowned Warbler near Gardner's house. [This is the only one noted during my stay, and it seems to be a rare migrant in this region.]

October 6—At the end of the Point to-day there were large flocks of Crows and Jays that flew down and back, but did not cross the lake. The Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were about the same as yesterday and nearly all adults. The Short-eared Owls have gone as have also many of the Song and White-throated Sparrows. A large flock of English Sparrows came to the end of the Point and acted like the other migrating birds. Taverner told me that this species had been seen to cross over to Pelee island and no doubt crossed the lake. Numbers of Myrtle Warblers were seen; also twenty-five Phœbes, fifty Common Terns and five Sanderlings. A steady movement of hawks was observed nearly all day, but was more noticeable in the forenoon, as was usually the case with this species. Two fine Red-shouldered Hawks, a few Red-tailed Hawks and a Bald Eagle came soaring over the Gardner clearing. In the evening I saw two Robins, two Bluebirds, and

three Woodcocks. A Great Blue Heron was recorded by Mr. Grubb and three Horned Grebes by Swales.

October 7—On a trip to the end of the Point with Swales and Taverner a small flight of Sharp-shinned, a large number of Cooper's, and one Red-shouldered Hawk were seen. The most of these birds were adults and in beautiful plumage. One Bald Eagle was seen, and at the sand spit a few Herring Gulls and one Common Tern. Other birds seen today were Brown Creepers, eight Hermit Thrushes, ten Sanderling, twenty-five Myrtle Warblers, and five Woodcocks.

October 8—Many hawks, principally Cooper's and Sharp-shinned were also seen today. In the afternoon I saw both species all over the Point. Two immature Eagles soared over Gardner's clearing. Flocks of Field, Song, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were common about the clearings and the low bushes on the Point, and I saw one Henslow's Sparrow in a low meadow east of Gardner's. Juncos were also common about bushy clearings, and at evening I saw a Night Hawk soaring about at the edge of Gardner's clearing near low timber.

October 9—But few hawks were seen today, most of them having apparently passed on. Those that remained roamed over the Point catching the Thrushes, and one (a Cooper's) came to Gardner's yard for a chicken. Bald Eagles were seen and a large flock of Crows (about one hundred) went down the Point and back several times during the day. A flock of about seventy-five Blue Jays flew back and forth; large flocks of sparrows of all kinds were scattered over the Point. Large flocks of blackbirds, mostly Redwings, went down to the Point early in the morning, and one flock of Bluebirds was seen. One lone Sanderling was observed at the end of the Point.

October 10—Conditions remained about the same today. The same (?) large flock of Crows flew up and down, and a few Cooper's Hawks were seen. Numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks roamed over the Point, but the Kinglets were not as common although the sparrows seemed about the same as on

the previous day. A large flock of Goldfinches was noted and about one hundred Herring Gulls at the end of the sand spit.

October 11—A trip across to the east beach and north to the big pond showed that the birds were very scarce today. A few Song, Swamp, and Savanna with some White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and a few Palm Warblers were seen.

At the pond I saw five Red-head Ducks, one Green-winged Teal, one Kingfisher, five Red-backed Sandpipers, ten Marsh Hawks, fifty-five Coots, six Bitterns, fifty Black Ducks, one Sora Rail, and thirteen Wood Ducks. Gardner saw twenty five Golden Plover, four Great Blue Herons, four Sanderlings, two Shovellers, and twelve Wilson's Snipe. The hawks are nearly all gone from the Point to-day, except the Marsh Hawks, ten of which were seen at the big marsh.

October 12—A trip to the end of the Point to-day revealed very few birds. A few White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, House Wrens and Winter Wrens, Kinglets, and three Palm Warblers were noted. At the end of the cedars I shot an immature female Cooper's Hawk, but saw only one Sharp-shinned Hawk. A large flock of about three hundred Tree Swallows came (flying low to keep out of the wind as much as possible) to the end of the Point, but after they passed the shelter of the cedars the wind blew them back and they lit in the edge of the clearing on low bushes and on mullein stalks. When I scared them up they flew again toward the end of the Point but came back and went off up the Point probably to the big marsh where the Gardner boys saw them.

October 13—I made another trip to the end of the Point today, where I saw a large flock of Tree Swallows. The wind blew so hard that the birds kept along the east side of the Point out of the wind a little, where they lit on the beach and seemed to be picking up food from the sand. Dozens of them lit within a few feet of me, and they seemed rather exhausted with the cold and wind and probably with insufficient food. After feeding a short time they all flew back to the edge of the clearing, where they lit on weeds and low bushes and

seemed stupid and dull. I saw one immature male Cooper's Hawk and a few kinglets. Sparrows are very common, I identified large flocks of Field, White-throated, and White-crowned. In the big marsh the Gardner brothers saw sixteen Greater Yellow-legs and shot several. They also saw two Golden Plover, about two hundred Mallards, twenty-five Black-crowned Night Herons, twelve Wilson's Snipe, one hundred Coots, seventy-five Redhead Ducks, six Bitterns, five hundred Black Ducks, twelve Wood Ducks, one hundred Pintails, five hundred Baldpate, and seven Red-backed Sandpipers. This cold, windy weather is hurrying the ducks and waders here from the north and northwest. Albert Gardner says the Wood Ducks are generally gone before this date, and it is late also for the Night Herons. It would also seem late for the Tree Swallows which are dependent on flying insects for their food. The wind has blown so hard here for five days that they cannot find insects in the air, and it is also cold.

October 14—There seemed to be no movement of birds last night. The day's records are as follows: Twenty-five Greater Yellow-legs twenty-five Golden Plovers, twelve Wilson's Snipe, two hundred Coot, one Lesser Scaup, one Woodcock, four Bitterns, one hundred Great Blue Herons, three hundred Mallards, six Black-crowned Night Herons, twelve Marsh Hawks, one hundred Redhead Ducks, fifty Black Ducks, twenty Pintails, one hundred Baldpates, two Tree Swallows, one Short-eared Owl, one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, one Cooper's Hawk, one Sora Rail, one Osprey, one Long-billed Marsh Wren, one Sharp-shinned Hawk, one Robin, one Flicker, three Meadowlarks, and six Goldfinches.

The Great Blue Herons were migrating in a great flock and must have come from the north as only a few of this species have been seen about the marsh. The Red-head Duck with the Canvas-back and Scaup are the last ones to arrive, and the duck hunters say that when they come the shooting, as far as the other species are concerned, is nearly over. No Wood Ducks were seen.

October 15—As soon as it was daylight this morning I could see the flocks of blackbirds, mostly Redwings, but some flocks of Bronzed Grackle, coming from the north and passing over the house in an almost continuous stream. Large numbers of Meadowlarks, about five hundred, singly and in flocks also, passed over. Later in the morning there were large numbers of hawks, one hundred Sharp-shinned, twenty Cooper's, eight Red-tailed, and one Rough-legged. Later I made a trip to the end of the Point where I found the kinglets common, also the Hermit Thrushes, Winter Wrens, and a few flocks of Bay-breasted Warblers. In the clearing below Grubb's fish house there were large flocks of Meadowlarks, and I saw one adult male Marsh Hawk, the only one that I observed during my stay. The rest were either females or young. A flock of five hundred or more Bluebirds occupied the Grubb clearing and were on the ground, or on the wild rose bushes and weed stalks. At the sand spit I saw about fifty Herring Gulls and six Sanderling. Over all the Point there were flocks of sparrows, mostly White-throated and Field, but many Vesper and Song, and some White-crowned. Near Grubb's clearing I saw a Turkey Vulture soaring about over the trees, and with the glass could plainly see his naked red head and neck. This seems to be a rare species on the Point. To-day the Flickers were very common again, and other records were secured as follows: a few Jays, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and at evening a Nighthawk. About three hundred Crows flew up and down the Point all day. A large flock of Goldfinches was seen near the clearing. One Kingfisher, six Towhees, twenty Winter Wrens, three Whip-poor-wills, one Black-billed Cuckoo were also observed. Albert Gardner saw three Killdeer, twenty Black Ducks and one hundred Baldpates in the big marsh. Juncos are common here now, and the Olive-backed and Hermit Thrushes as well.

October 16—The bird life on the Point today was much the same as yesterday. Flocks of blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Bluebirds, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, one Red-tailed, and one Rough-legged Hawk were seen. Hundreds of Crows flew up

and down the Point several times. The sparrows were not much in evidence today, most of them apparently having gone south during the night. I saw a large number of Towhees, and three species of thrushes were common again. The Hermit was the most common, the Olive-backed next and the Grey-cheeked least abundant. I also saw a few Brown Thrashers and Catbirds, and one Northern Yellow-throat on the ground under the cedars at the end of the Point. I shot a Duck Hawk at the end of the Point, and one Bonaparte's Gull from a flock of about thirty. I also shot a Pectoral Sandpiper and saw six Sanderling and one Pigeon Hawk. I saw the first Fox Sparrow that I had seen here, and a few Tree Swallows flew along the beach. Other records were seven Mourning Doves, six Phoebes, one hundred Goldfinches, one Blue Jay, five Black-billed Cuckoos. In the big marsh Albert Gardner saw six Marsh Hawks, twenty Mallards, twenty Green-winged Teal, six Horned Grebes, one Lesser Scaup, two Bitterns, twenty Black Ducks, twelve Pintails, twenty Ruddy Ducks, two Golden Plovers, one hundred Baldpates, one Bald Eagle, and two Great Blue Herons.

This was my last day's work at Point Pelee, and, while it had been a very busy and strenuous thirty-three days, it was an experience that can but remain a delightful memory in the mind of an enthusiastic bird-lover. The phenomena of migration are interesting enough wherever studied, but the interest is greatly increased when they are observed in such a locality as Point Pelee, where the migrating hoards are concentrated in a small area that can be readily covered by a single observer.



Wood, Norman Asa. 1910. "Bird Migration at Point Pelee, Ontario, in the Fall of 1909." *The Wilson bulletin* 22(2), 63-78.

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