

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Rough-legged Hawk Migration in James Bay Area.** — While visiting Hannah Bay, on the Ontario shore of southern James Bay, on October 15, 1949, the writer observed a definite migration of the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). The birds were passing, singly, at the rate of about one every five minutes, in a southwestward direction. The flight continued during the afternoon spent in the area by the writer.

The birds were following the shore-line and were first observed from a boat while the writer was approaching the shore to enter the Harricanaw River, after a trip across southern James Bay. No hawks were seen either over the open bay or any distance inland during a voyage of about five miles up the river.

When the attention of Constable P. Holmes, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was drawn to the migration, he stated that he had seen the same kind of hawks migrating during the previous week (week of October 2) along the shores of Cabbage Willows Bay, Quebec, where he was then stationed, some thirty-six miles northeast of the mouth of the Harricanaw. The writer left Hannah Bay early on the morning of October 16, 1949, but Constable Holmes remained there all that day and observed that the hawk flight continued throughout the day. No observations were made after October 16 because Constable Holmes did not remain in the area after that date.

When the hawk flight commenced or when it terminated is not known. There was, however, a noticeable southwestward flight, both at Cabbage Willows Bay and at Hannah Bay, on the dates indicated.

At the time of observation, the flight consisted of Rough-legged Hawks only. A lone Bald Eagle was the only other species seen at that time that might have been in migration.

The origin of the hawks in this particular migration is, of course, not known, but it may be that the Rough-legged Hawks breeding east and northeast of James Bay, in the Ungava Peninsula, migrate southward along the east coast of Hudson and James Bays. The birds we saw certainly came from the northeast to our observation points and continued along the coast in a southwestward direction. — GEO. M. STIRRETT, Kingston, Ontario.

**1952 Cooperative Study of Fall Migration.** — In the autumn of 1952, observers all over the United States will be training telescopes on the moon to obtain counts of migrating birds passing before its disc. These counts will be used to determine the volume and direction of night migration at different times and places. By the analysis of such data, it will be possible to map the flow of migration, to study the effects of weather, and to determine the hour-to-hour pattern of activity. The methods to be employed, and some of the surprising results already achieved by them have been described in a recent paper by George H. Lowery, Jr. ("A Quantitative Study of the Nocturnal Migration of Birds," University of Kansas Publications, Museum of Natural History, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 361-472).

In a previous cooperative effort in the spring of 1948, brief and inconclusive observations were made at Pt. Pelee and at Toronto. Otherwise Canada was not represented. It is hoped that this year Canadian observers will be able to join with observers in the United States in saturating the continent with stations. The observational procedure is a simple one. Any one who has access to a small telescope, or to a large one, can participate. Interested persons are urged to write at once for further details to ROBERT J. NEWMAN at the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Early spring occurrence of the Tree Swallow at Ottawa, Ontario.** — On March 25, 1952, a companion and I observed from Billings Bridge a bird that appeared to be a swallow. When first seen it was several hundred feet downstream from the bridge and was flitting here and there over open places that had developed in the disintegrating ice of the Rideau River. With the aid of binoculars the bird was kept under observation for ten minutes or more. Suddenly it flew toward the bridge, thus coming to close range and providing an opportunity for us to observe it in detail and to identify it. Its iridescent blue upper-parts, pure white under-parts and shallowly notched tail were clearly seen as the swallow flitted near us. It was identified with certainty as a Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). In my experience this species is not usually found at Ottawa at such an early date. — CHAS. H. BENNETT, Ottawa.





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