

Erie shore from the north, from the direction of Lake Ontario, all bearing fish, and flew on toward the island, and as the writer drove eastward along the shore road near Lowbanks, others reached the lake from the north and then turned westward in the direction of the island. The shortest airline distance from Mohawk Island to Lake Ontario is twenty-five miles; the round trip therefore requires a flight of at least fifty miles, and as they frequent a long stretch of the Ontario shore many must travel seventy-five miles or more.

A possible clue to the cause of these long flights was noticed on May 16, 1941. Several terns among a party of about forty were displaying on the pier at the Horticultural Experiment Station at Vineland Station, some, presumably males, presenting fish to others with much posturing. When the flock was startled a couple of fish left on the pier were found to be gaspereau or alewife *Pomolobus pseudo-harengus* (Wilson). This fish is very abundant in Lake Ontario, where the waters along the southern shore are often covered with dead and dying individuals in June. Most of these are too large to be eaten by terns, but sufficient smaller ones are present to form a very easily obtainable food supply. According to Hubbs and Lagler (Fishes of the Great Lakes Region. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 26, 1947.) this species has only recently entered Lake Erie.

Parties of juvenile terns still being fed by their parents sometimes appear along the shore of Lincoln County in August. It would be interesting to know whether they come from the Mohawk Island colony or from breeding grounds in eastern Lake Ontario.

While the writer was at the Erie shore opposite Mohawk Island, three gulls approached from the north and continued toward the island. One was a herring gull *Larus argentatus* Pontopp. but the others were too distant to be identified. According to Gamble there were about nine nests of the herring gull and at least 125 nests of the ring-billed gull *Larus delawarensis* Ord on the island in 1948. Both are very common on Lake Ontario and probably also make feeding flights across the Niagara Peninsula. — WM. L. PUTMAN, Vineland Station, Ont.

Red Crossbills Collected In The Ottawa District. — On January 21, 1948 I set out for Pakenham village hoping to find red

crossbills which had been reported there and, if possible, to collect specimens. Miss Verna Ross and Miss Mary Stuart accompanied me. In the Burnt Lands in Carleton County, twenty-two miles from the city of Ottawa, two red crossbills flew down into the road in front of my car.

When I got out the birds left the road to perch in the highest points of the conifers at the roadside. Several males were singing. The birds seemed fairly tame and returned to the roadway several times presumably to get gravel. Two dozen birds were feeding on the cones of the pines and spruces in the vicinity. The majority were red crossbills.

I collected a pair of red crossbills and a male white-winged crossbill for the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, and an adult male, immature male, and adult female red crossbill for my own collection. The red crossbills collected were Eastern Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra minor*.

On the following day Mr. Hoyes Lloyd visited the same spot with me and collected a pair of white-winged crossbills. No red crossbills were observed.

A week later, January 29, Dr. Oliver Hewitt and I again visited the Burnt Lands. We saw one pair of red crossbills on the road, either getting salt or gravel. They flew into a tree by the roadside where the male sang for five minutes. Both then flew into the thick bush. We searched the woods but were unable to find the birds again, either then or on subsequent visits to the Burnt Lands. — A. E. BOURGUIGNON, Ottawa.

Pintail and Ring-Necked Duck Breeding in the Ottawa Region — Numerous recently published notes indicate that both Pintail *Anas acuta tzitzihua*, and Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*, are extending their ranges or re-establishing breeding populations in the eastern provinces and north-eastern states. However, positive breeding records of these species in the east are still worthy of publication.

On May 18, 1948, I flushed a female Pintail from her nest on the edge of MacLaren Lake, a land-locked bay on the north side of the Ottawa River in the Province of Quebec, about 10 miles east of the city of Ottawa. The nest contained seven fresh eggs.

The drake Pintail was still in attendance on the female. On May 20, I found the nest deserted and the contents destroyed, apparently by crows. There was no evidence of re-nesting in that area by the Pintail.

On June 29, 1948, Mr. Rowley W. Frith and I spent two hours in the western part of Lochaber Bay, also on the north side of the Ottawa River, about 30 miles below Ottawa. This shallow bay supports a heavy growth of *Scirpus fluviatilis*. Two female Ring-necked Ducks were seen to behave as though they had broods. Finally one brood of five very small downy young was discovered. On the following day I located three female Ring-necked Ducks with broods of 5, 4 and 8. The cover was so dense that some of the young may have been missed.

On June 3, 1949, I again visited Lochaber Bay in an attempt to locate a nest. Five

drake Ring-necked Ducks and six females were seen. Four of the drakes were together in the centre of the marsh, and I believe that four of the females may have been incubating full clutches of eggs. The fifth drake was in attendance on a female at the east end of the marsh. After careful observation of the pair, the shore was searched and a nest with 5 eggs was found on a grassy hummock surrounded by shallow water. The water level was high on June 3, and the water could be expected to recede somewhat before the time of hatching.

While the Ring-necked Duck may have been breeding unobserved in the Ottawa region for some years, its appearance as a breeding bird on Lochaber Bay is recent. It was not found there in 1944 or in 1947, when observations were made in that area. — OLIVER H. HEWITT, Dept. of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

BOOK REVIEW

American Wild Flowers, by Harold Moldenke, Curator, New York Botanical Garden. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., New York and Toronto. 1949, pp. 453, illustrated with 88 photographs in full colour and 67 in gravure. Price, \$8.75.

AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS is the first of a series: THE NEW ILLUSTRATED NATURALIST and will be followed by other books on spiders, butterflies, birds and on many other subjects.

The present volume will meet the need for a popular and well-illustrated book on "all" the well-known wild flowers of United States and Canada. Of the 32,000 species of flowering plants said to occur in North America north of Rio Grande, Dr. Moldenke has selected a couple of thousand of the most popular and best known species, varieties and named forms. This number includes not only native plants, but also naturalized exotics. In each of the fifty chapters one or more, not always very closely related families are treated and within each family the best known genera are described and enumerated. Within the genus representative individual species are described together with their

distribution. Common as well as scientific names are given. For the former, Dr. Moldenke, to avoid the difficulty of selecting common names from the great diversity of regional vernacular names, has adopted those of "Standardized Plant Names", Edition 1942. This obviously has some advantages but in a number of cases leads to names and combinations that to those not familiar with the "Standardized list" may at first appear somewhat puzzling. A few random samples: Wildallamandas (*Urechites*), Californiapea (*Lathyrus californicus*), dwarfirises (*Iris* or *Neubeckia*), or the more obvious, but equally strange: Venuslookingglasses (*Triodanis*—to most botanists known as *Specularia*) and Dogtoothviolet (*Erythronium*). The photographs are excellent and well chosen and the reproduction good for this type of book although the reproduction of the colour plates is inferior to that in Torsten Lagerberg's: "VILDA VAXTER I NORDEN", which is currently being published in Sweden.

At the end, there is a Select Bibliography and an index to common and technical names. —A. E. PORSILD.



Hewitt, O H. 1950. "Pintail and Ring-necked Duck breeding in the Ottawa region." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 64(1), 52–53.

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