

this year than in others. Of course, when anything like the usual amount of warmth comes, the lateness of arrival stops with most species, some even coming earlier than their usual average time, and several interesting anomalies are thus produced. This year, the Blackpoll Warbler (*D. striata*) and the Baybreasted Warbler, (*D. castanea*) as a wave, apparently keep up the late setting in of the first migrants, for the former have so far not been observed by the writer and the latter only in a few stray individuals.

There was also an unusual abundance of Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*) here last spring, a condition reported also from many places in the New England and Middle Atlantic States. They were more common here than other seasons throughout the winter, but in April they appeared in veritable clouds. On April 15th, the writer saw two to three large flocks near the Rifle Range, and on the same day an immense flock covered as it were a large part of Rideauville, individuals being seen on every branch and twig of every tree for quite a distance. And strange to say, these flocks at this time were flying south. On April 27th, Mr. Bedard, the Rifle Range Keeper, saw a flock he estimated at 2,000. And these large flocks were coming and going up to May 6th.

Ottawa, 26th May, 1909.

A REMARKABLE MIGRATION OF YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS.

BY A. B. KLUGH, KINGSTON, ONT.

On the morning of April 17th, 1909, the city of Kingston, Ontario, was alive with Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

From my study window I saw some twenty of them on the trees at the lodge of the park and on going out to investigate I found from one to four on nearly every tree. As a conservative estimate I placed the number of birds in the park at three hundred.

In the grounds of Queen's University I found the same conditions prevailing.

Mr. Edwin Beaupre informed me that the birds were abundant in Princess Street (the main thoroughfare of Kingston) on the telegraph poles and woodwork of the doors and windows of the stores.

Mr. C. L. Hays of the Queen's University Naturalist's Club told me that every tree along University Avenue had at least one bird on it and that on one tree he counted seven.

Mr. R. F. Kelso, another member of the Club, said that every tree along Johnston Street had its Sapsucker, and from various sources I learned that the birds were equally abundant all over the city. The great majority of the birds were males, though here and there a female was to be seen.

A very conservative estimate of the number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the city would be five thousand; in fact Mr. Beaupre believes that there were far more than this present on the morning of April 17th.

For the next few days the Sapsuckers were still very common in the city, and were still so when I left on April 22nd. After this they decreased rapidly in numbers as my father wrote me a few days later and said that only a few were then to be seen.

The Sapsuckers were very busy on the maple trees (mostly *Acer saccharinum*), and in many cases trees which I examined had rings of holes completely round them, but the holes were not close enough together to "girdle" the trees.

The probable cause of this immense wave of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers striking Kingston lies in the strong gale from the north which was blowing on the night of April 16th, the birds apparently dropping as soon as they had crossed the lake.

THE RAPID EXTERMINATION OF THE BALD EAGLE.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS, LONDON, ONT.

There has been a good deal of discussion during the past decade or two concerning the usefulness or otherwise of the various species of birds of prey. As regards the diurnal birds of prey, debate has usually ended in a favorable verdict towards all those that spend the summer in Ontario, with the exception of two species. With reference to this small number which has fallen under the ban, I must say that my faith in the wisdom of the Creator in placing such birds on the earth is too strong to be shaken by any evidence that may be produced to show that somebody has lost a few dollars by these birds in any particular year. However that may be, the subject of this article has never, I think, been condemned as injurious. His daily fare is gleaned mostly from the edges of the large waters, and while his scavenging habits cannot be held up for admiration, yet a substantial plea may be made for the protection of the Bald Eagle on the ground of the added picturesqueness which he gives to the landscape. It is to be deplored that every large bird is a mark for the wanton gunner, and under this head I am sorry to say most of our sportsmen fall, when



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