

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

FOR the purpose of determining the date of migration, the species migrating, and the numbers that are destroyed by striking a lighthouse during a spring and fall migration, I have for the past two years received all the birds killed by flying against Fire Island Light. This light is of the first order, flashing white every minute; is 168 feet above the level of the sea, and is visible $19\frac{1}{4}$ nautical miles. It is located on the east side of Fire Island Inlet, south side of Long Island, N. Y., north latitude $40^{\circ} 37' 57''$, west longitude $73^{\circ} 13' 9''$.*

I also received from Great West (or Shinnecock) Bay Light part of those that were killed the night of September 30, 1883. This light is also of the first order, but is a fixed white light; is 160 feet above the sea level, and is visible $18\frac{3}{4}$ nautical miles. It is located 45 miles east of Fire Island Light, on the main land, about one mile north of the beach. Fire Island Light is built on the beach, which is separated from the main land by Great South Bay, which is here some six miles wide. I am not aware that a fully identified list of the birds striking any lighthouse has ever been published; the only work of this nature for the United States being the reports of a few light keepers (the birds not being identified), collated and published by Mr. J. A. Allen,† and the reports by Messrs. John A. Harvie Brown, John Cordeaux, and others for the British Islands.‡

The records herewith submitted cover so short a period that nothing can be deduced from them at the present time. I am

* List of Lighthouses, Lighted Beacons, and Floating Lights of the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coasts of the United States. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883.

† Destruction of Birds by Lighthouses. By J. A. Allen. Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. V, p. 131, 1880.

‡ Report on the Migration of Birds in the Autumn of 1879. By John A. Harvie Brown and John Cordeaux. The Zoologist, Vol. IV, May, 1880.

Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1880. By John A. Harvie Brown, F.L.S., F.Z.S., John Cordeaux, and Philip Kermode. London, 1881.

Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1881. By John A. Harvie Brown, Mr. John Cordeaux, Mr. Philip M. C. Kermode, Mr. R. M. Barrington, and A. G. More. London, 1882.

indebted for the notes and birds received during 1882, and in the spring of 1883, to Mr. C. A. Blydenburgh, First Asst. Keeper, and in the autumn of 1883, to Mr. S. R. Hubbard, Keeper of Fire Island Light. They are both deserving of thanks for the pains they have taken to keep accurate records, and also for sending me all the birds it was possible to secure.

SPRING MIGRATION, 1882.

"Some Robins and other small birds came against the tower one night this week; none were killed. I think these were the first small birds of the season."—C. A. B., March 16.

"I have not been able to get a single bird since I wrote to you last. We have had no bad weather since the flight of small birds commenced."—C. A. B., April 18.

"I am sorry to keep you without birds. I see plenty, but the nights are so clear that they do not strike the tower."

May 9. Wind N. E. Rain.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis, 1.	Spizella domestica, 1.
Siurus auricapillus, 1.	Melospiza lincolni, 3.
Zonotrichia leucophrys, 1.	Pipilo erythrophthalmus, 1.
Zonotrichia albicollis, 4.	Tringoides macularius, 1.

"I send you thirteen birds which struck against the tower last night. A great many struck, but these are the only dead ones."—C. A. B., May 10.

"We have had bad weather all the time since I sent you the birds. It has been too rough for small birds to fly."—C. A. B., May 15.

May 18 and 19. Wind N. E. Hazy.

Harporynchus rufus, 1.	Pipilo erythrophthalmus, 1.
Siurus naevius, 3.	Rallus longirostris crepitans, 3.
Geothlypis trichas, 2.	

"I forward you ten birds which struck during the past two nights. Quite a number more struck, but it was impossible to get them. Many fall in the grass at some distance from the foot of the tower, and cannot be found until after they are spoiled."—C. A. B., May 20.

May 20 and 21. Wind N. E. Cloudy and thick.

Harporynchus rufus, 1.	Geothlypis trichas, 2.
Parula americana, 1.	Setophaga ruticilla, 1.

Total in spring migration, 28.

AUTUMN MIGRATION, 1882.

"I begin to hear birds about nights, but we have had no weather to get any yet. If we were to have a foggy night you would hear from me at once."—C. A. B., Aug. 11.

Aug. 13. Wind, not given. Calm and clear.

Dendræca æstiva, young, 1.

Aug. 14. Wind N. Clear.

Siurus naevius, 1.

- Aug. 20. Wind N., fresh. Clear.
Ammodromus maritimus, 1.
- Sept. 3. Wind S. W., fresh. Foggy.
Dendroica pinus, 1. Gulls, sp. ? 3. (Probably Terns of some kind. The birds were not sent to me.)
- Sept. 9. Wind S. E., light. Thick.
Dendroica striata, 3. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 1.
Siurus auricapillus, 2. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*, 1.
Siurus naevius, 6. *Porzana carolina*, 1.
Geothlypis trichas, 2. *Porzana carolina*, 1.
Setophaga ruticilla, 1.
- Sept. 10. Wind S. E., light. Thick.
Dolichonyx oryzivorus, 1. *Porzana carolina*, 1.
- Sept. 13. Wind, not stated. Weather, not stated.
Geothlypis trichas, 1.
- Sept. 16. Wind N. E., moderate. Clear.
Siurus naevius, 1. *Ampelis cedrorum*, 1.
- Sept. 20. Wind S. E., moderate. Hazy.
Hylocichla ustulata pallasi, 1. *Setophaga ruticilla*, 2.
Mniotilta varia, 1. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 21.
Parula americana, 8. *Lanivireo flavifrons*, 1.
Dendroica aestiva, 1. *Vireo noveboracensis*, 2.
Dendroica maculosa, 1. *Melospiza palustris*, 1.
Dendroica discolor, 1. *Ampelis cedrorum*, 1.
Siurus auricapillus, 1. *Porzana carolina*, 3.
Siurus naevius, 1. Sp. ? 22. (Birds not sent to me.)
Geothlypis trichas, 8.
- Sept. 21. Wind S. E., moderate. Rain.
Parula americana, 1. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 3.
- Sept. 24. Wind, ? Weather, ?
Siurus naevius, 1. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 1.
- Sept. 25. Wind N. E., blowing hard. Rain.
 Sp. ? 3. Birds not sent to me.
- Oct. 6. Wind, E., moderate. Hazy.
Vireosylvia olivacea, 1. Sp. ? 2 (Birds not sent to me.)
Melospiza fasciata, 1.
- Oct. 11. Wind N. E., moderate. Thick.
Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni, 2. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 2.
Galeoscoptes carolinensis, 1. *Lanivireo solitarius*, 1.
Anthus ludovicianus, 1. *Chrysomitris pinus*, 1.
Parula americana, 4. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*, 6.
Dendroica coronata, 4. *Melospiza palustris*, 5.
Dendroica striata, 2. Sp. ? 6. (Birds not sent to me.)
Geothlypis trichas, 6.
- Oct. 12. Wind N. E., fresh. Cloudy.
Dendroica coronata, 1.

"There are a great many birds on the wing now, and if we could have a foggy night I could get you plenty."—C. A. B., Oct. 13.

Oct. 13.	Wind N. E., fresh.	Rain.	
<i>Dendroeca coronata</i> ,	2.		<i>Passerculus sandwichensis savanna</i> ,
<i>Dendroeca striata</i> ,	1.		1.
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> ,	1.		<i>Melospiza fasciata</i> ,
<i>Vireosylvia olivacea</i> ,	1.		1.
Oct. 15.	Wind N. E., fresh.	Cloudy.	
			<i>Sterna fluviatilis</i> ,
			1.
Oct. 18.	Wind N., moderate.	Hazy.	
			<i>Vireosylvia olivacea</i> ,
			1.
"A number of Big Yellow-legs passed last night."—C. A. B., Oct. 19.			
Oct. 20.	Wind N. E., moderate.	Cloudy.	
			<i>Dendroeca striata</i> ,
			1.
Oct. 21.	Wind? Weather?		
			<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> ,
			1.
Nov. 5.	Wind N. E., fresh.	Cloudy.	
			<i>Chrysomitris pinus</i> ,
			1.
Nov. 10.	Wind N. E., moderate.	Hazy.	
<i>Dendroeca cærulescens</i> ,	1.		<i>Passerculus sandwichensis savanna</i> ,
<i>Dendroeca coronata</i> ,	11.		1.
Nov. 12.	Wind N. W., fresh.	Cloudy.	
			<i>Podiceps holboelli</i> ,
			1.
Nov. 16.	Wind N. E., moderate.	Cloudy and rainy.	
<i>Spizella montana</i> ,	1.		<i>Passerella iliaca</i> ,
			2.
Nov. 30.	Wind? Weather?		
			<i>Harelda glacialis</i> ,
			1.
Dec. 2.	Wind N. W.	Hazy.	
<i>Regulus satrapa</i> ,	1.		<i>Junco hyemalis</i> ,
			36.
Dec. 10.	Wind N. E., moderate.	Rain.	
			<i>Harelda glacialis</i> ,
			1.
Total in Autumn migration, 228.			
	Total in Spring migration,		28
	Total in Autumn migration,		228
	Total for year,		256
	Species in Spring,		14
	Species in Autumn,		38

SPRING MIGRATION, 1883.

Jan. 4.	Wind N., fresh.	Snowy.	
			Ducks, sp. ? 2. (Birds not sent to me.)
Jan. 5.	Wind N. E., fresh.	Snowy.	
			<i>Clangula glaucium americana</i> ,
			1.
Jan. 13.	Wind S. W., fresh.	Rainy.	
			Scoter, sp? 1. (Bird not sent to me.)
			<i>Clangula glaucium americana</i> ,
			1.
Jan. 24.	Wind W., moderate.	Cloudy.	
			<i>Mergus serrator</i> ,
			1.
Feb. 14.	Wind? blowing hard.		
			<i>Plectrophanes nivalis</i> ,
			1.

- Feb. 27. Wind N. W., fresh. Snowy.
 Sp. ? 1. (Bird not sent to me.)
Plectrophanes nivalis, 1.
- March 3. Wind N. W., fresh. Clear.
Fulix marila, 3.
- April 4. Wind S. W., fresh. Showery.
- Passerella iliaca*, 3. *Junco hyemalis*, 1.
- Melospiza fasciata*, 1. *Merula migratoria*, 2.
- April 7. Wind N., moderate. Cloudy.
Sayornis fuscus, 2.
- April 11. Wind N. E., fresh. Foggy.
Cedemia americana, 1.
- April 14. Wind S. E., moderate. Cloudy.
Passerculus sandwichensis savanna, 2.
- May 14. Wind S. E. Rain and light fog.
- May 15. "Wind N. E. to N. Rain and fog. Cleared off at 11 P. M.
 No birds struck after the fog cleared away; although I saw a great many
 flying in the rays of the light, they did not strike hard enough to be
 killed."—C. A. B.
- Siurus auricapillus*, 2. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 1.
- Siurus nævius*, 1. *Pyranga rubra*, 3.
- Geothlypis trichas*, 5. *Totanus melanoleucus*, 1.
- Myiodiodes canadensis*, 1. Sp. ? 7. (Birds stolen in transit.)
- Total in spring migration, 45.

AUTUMN MIGRATION, 1883.

"I see that small birds are on their course, but they want a thick night
 to strike."—S. R. H., Aug. 22.

Aug. 29. Wind E. N. E. Cloudy.

Siurus nævius, 1.

"This is the only bird which struck last night that was killed."—S. R.
 H., Aug. 30.

Sept. 1. Wind, not stated. Weather, not stated.

Dendroeca pinus, 1.

Sept. 9. Wind N. E., fresh. Clear.

Hylocichla unalascæ pallasi, 1. *Geothlypis trichas*, 1.

Siurus nævius, 1.

Sept. 13. Wind N. E., strong. Rain.

Parula americana, 1. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 1.

Siurus auricapillus, 1.

"There don't appear to be any birds on the course."—S. R. H.

Sept. 29. Wind N. E., moderate. Cloudy.

Hylocichla fuscescens, 3. *Siurus auricapillus*, 5.

Hylocichla aliciaæ, 8. *Geothlypis trichas*, 4.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni, 3. *Vireosylvia olivacea*, 9.

Dendroeca striata, 5. *Pyranga rubra*, 1.

Dendroeca blackburniæ, 1. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, 1.

Dendroeca vires, 2. *Rallus virginianus*, 1.

"I did not know as any more would strike. I have never in my stay here seen so few birds strike in a fall."—S. R. H., Sept. 29.

Sept. 30. Wind varying N. to E. Thick to rain.

<i>Hylocichla fuscescens</i> , 29.	<i>Pyrranga rubra</i> , 7.
<i>Parula americana</i> , 2.	<i>Sayornis fuscus</i> , 2.
<i>Dendroeca striata</i> , 230.	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> , 1.
<i>Siurus auricapillus</i> , 3.	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i> , 1.
<i>Oporornis agilis</i> , 16.	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> , 9.
<i>Vireo noveboracensis</i> , 20.	<i>Charadrius dominicus</i> , 1.

"I send you a box of birds which struck Sunday night, Sept. 30. It is the first regular flight this fall, when the weather has been favorable for them to strike. I send one bird I don't remember to have ever seen strike before, viz., a Kingfisher."—S. R. H., Oct. 1.

Oct. 4. Wind N. W., moderate. Hazy.

<i>Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni</i> , 1.	<i>Vireosylvia olivacea</i> , 6.
<i>Parula americana</i> , 2.	<i>Pyrranga rubra</i> , 1.

Oct. 12. Wind N. E., fresh. Storming.

<i>Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni</i> , 25.	<i>Pyrranga rubra</i> , 7.
<i>Dendroeca caerulescens</i> , 48.	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis savanna</i> , 17.
<i>Oporornis agilis</i> , 18.	
<i>Vireosylvia olivacea</i> , 15.	

Nov. 11. Wind, not stated. Thick fog and rain.

<i>Regulus calendula</i> , 3.	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i> , 1.
<i>Junco hyemalis</i> , 1.	

Total in Autumn migration, 517,

Total in Spring migration,	45
Total in Autumn migration,	517
Total for year,	562
Species in Spring,	21
Species in Autumn,	27

AUTUMN MIGRATION, 1883.

Shinnecock Bay Light.

Sept. 30. Wind N. to E., varying. Thick to rain.

<i>Hylocichla fuscescens</i> , 1.	<i>Oporornis agilis</i> , 3.
<i>Hylocichla aliciae</i> , 2.	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> , 1.
<i>Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni</i> , 1.	<i>Vireosylvia olivacea</i> , 4.
<i>Parula americana</i> , 1.	<i>Pyrranga rubra</i> , 2.
<i>Dendroeca striata</i> , 59.	Sp. ? about 85. (Birds not sent to me.)
<i>Siurus auricapillus</i> , 1.	

Total, 160.

"I send you 75 birds. — About 160 struck Sunday night, Sept. 30, but a great many were spoiled by the rain-storm."—L. G. Squires, Oct. 1.