

found nesting. On the day that this colony was discovered, June 3, 1940, the nests with one exception held young that were well grown, and in several instances almost fully fledged. The one exception was a nest that contained three fresh eggs. The nests were all characteristic of those built by this species, and were either in the Fort itself, or scattered through the adjoining buildings that originally housed ammunition for the big guns. While no definite information could be obtained as to how many years these birds had been nesting here, indications were that this colony had been long established at this spot, and had apparently merely been overlooked. In his 'Birds of Alabama' (1924), Arthur H. Howell cites as the only breeding record for the State a nest found at Tuscombia on May 15, 1892, and in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' (1931) the breeding range of the Barn Swallow is given as south to northern Alabama.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulfport, Mississippi.*

Migration of Blue Jays.—At Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, and along the adjacent ridges, the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta c. cristata*) occurs in migration from the third week in September until mid-October. The jays may be seen in loose flocks, or in orderly processions, on either side of the ridge, and at any elevation, in numbers varying from twelve to three hundred or more birds. I have noticed each season that jays are on the move by 7 a. m., but by mid-afternoon their flights terminate. As a rule, the birds keep just above the treetops, and seldom is there much fuss or noise; indeed, observers at the lookout must be keenly alert to detect each passing group of jays. At times, an entire group will alight on the trees for a moment of rest. It is then that a Sharp-shinned Hawk may appear suddenly, and plunging into the jays, precipitate a confused scramble of flashing blue feathers and a chorus of screams, which may be the signal for the jays to move on. I have never seen a Blue Jay fall prey to a Sharp-shin. At Point Pelee, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, during the hawk flights of 1905 and 1906, P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales reported migrating jays much harrassed by Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Wilson Bull.*, 19: 142, 1907). In 1939, at Hawk Mountain, the heaviest flight of Sharp-shins on record (8,529 individuals) was coincident with the most remarkable flight of jays that I have known, but very little harrassing was noticed. Prior to the fall of 1939, I have recorded inconsequential numbers of Blue Jays, with the exception of 603 birds counted on September 26, 1935.

During a sixteen-day period beginning September 24, 1939, I made an approximate count of 7,350 Blue Jays. Doubtless many jays slipped by uncounted. The majority of the birds passed through in a constant stream regardless of the weather conditions, from September 30 to October 6. The peak of the migration came on October 1, a day of alternating rain and mist, with raw northerly winds; at least 1,535 birds passed the lookout, even during the rain, in groups of from 100 to 350. Again on October 3, despite obliterating mists during the forenoon, and fresh easterly winds all day, I counted several large flocks at various parts of the Sanctuary, and the far from complete count for the day was 1,250 birds. On October 4 I noticed a curious thing. During the forenoon the 'lookout watch' was taken by Harold Axtell, while I repaired to Dreherstown at the foot of the mountain. Standing on the railroad tracks and looking up to the crest of the ridge, I saw (in the space of fifteen minutes) three groups of jays numbering 85, 25 and 65 birds, respectively, leave the ridge and fly due west high over Dreherstown!

Other observers reported to me "large numbers" of Blue Jays on the adjacent ridges. On our big jay day, October 1, Mrs. E. C. Spaide was observing the hawk

migrations at Point Pelee, and she reports an "enormous" migration of Blue Jays from early morning until 2 p. m.—more jays than she "ever imagined sojourned in Ontario" (Jack-pine Warbler, 17: 115, 1939).

This unusual mass movement of Blue Jays is doubtless significant. A dearth of beechnuts and acorns in the northern forests may be the answer, in part. A sudden population increase may have attended an exceptionally favorable breeding season. In any event, it is interesting that this remarkable migration of Blue Jays was concurrent with the heaviest flight of hawks that we have experienced (22,704 raptors for the season).—MAURICE BROWN, *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 1, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania*.

Fish Crow in Center County, Pennsylvania.—Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd, in his excellent work on the 'Birds of Western Pennsylvania' does not include the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) because it has been "attributed to the eastern part of our region" on records that are "unacceptable" (p. 378).

In 1918, I spent the last week of April and the first two weeks of May at State College, Center County, and observed the Fish Crow every day I was there, usually a pair, but on several occasions I saw four birds and on April 30, a flock of seven birds flew over early in the morning uttering their noisy, characteristic cries. At that time, I was staying with Mr. Richard C. Harlow, who had spent ten years at State College and had never identified the Fish Crow. He doubted my belief at the time that the birds were Fish Crows, but subsequently acknowledged that I was right in my identification. On April 26 and April 30, I found two Fish Crows' nests at State College at widely separated localities, but did not examine them as the date was too early for eggs according to my experience with the birds at Philadelphia. Both nests were typically situated, in tops of pin-oak trees over eighty feet high. At both nests the owners circled overhead crying at my intrusion, a characteristic habit of nesting Fish Crows.

Mr. Thomas D. Burleigh spent four years at State College, 1916–20, and he also never identified the Fish Crows there. Neither he nor Harlow includes the Fish Crow in their respective papers on the breeding birds of Center County (Harlow's, 'The breeding birds of southern Center County, Pennsylvania,' *Auk*, 29: 465–478, 1912; Burleigh's, 'Notes on the breeding birds of State College, Center County, Pennsylvania,' *Wilson Bull.*, 43: 37–54, 1931).

Before I visited State College in 1918, I had over ten years' acquaintance with the Fish Crow at Philadelphia and in southern New Jersey where it is common, and know it positively, as there is no mistaking its cries, which are quite dissimilar to those of the Eastern Crow (*Corvus b. brachyrhynchus*).—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

Short-billed Marsh Wren in the western Adirondacks.—On June 15, 1940, a pair of Short-billed Marsh Wrens, *Cistothorus stellaris*, were seen in a marsh near Wanakena, New York, just within the western border of Adirondack State Park in southeastern St. Lawrence County. The male sang frequently and both birds were kept under observation by 'squeaking' when they would appear briefly from among the rank growth of sedges and other marsh vegetation. The birds showed great concern when I searched for a possible nest, and though none was found I believe they were breeding there.

The flora of this entire region is typical of the higher Adirondacks and is characterized in general by spruce flats, balsam-tamarack bogs, river marshes, and mixed coniferous-hardwood forests. The marsh surrounding Heath Pond, wherein