

For many years the Flicker did not increase in numbers, but for three seasons more have returned and excess in numbers betrays a serious fault in this good bird. Under these conditions he is guilty of nurturing family feuds and robs the nests of his fellows that have located near him. So fighting Flickers are adding to the sorrows of a battling world.

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SOME PECULIARITIES OF THE 1915 SPRING MIGRATION IN NORTHERN OHIO.

If one ever had any doubts about the correlation of bird movements with waves of temperature the past migration season would furnish conclusive proof that there is. During the unseasonable warm wave of the second week of February the first migrants appeared, fully two weeks ahead of schedule. This was on February 13 to 15. The second wave was on February 19 to 21, the third not until March 13 to 14, the fourth on March 20 to 23, the fifth April 4 to 7, the sixth April 10 to 12, the seventh April 16 to 20, the eighth April 24 to 28, the ninth May 2 to 6, the tenth May 10 to 17, and the last, composed of a great host of migrating warblers and thrushes, May 21 to June 1. Most of these waves were unusually well-defined, but of course there were scattering records which could not be correlated with anything, as usual. These scattering records may be due to oversight because the individuals were few, or they may be due to the spilling over of a few individuals, the crest of whose wave of migration has halted a short distance to the south of this station.

The Ruddy Duck arrived 20 days before its schedule; the Cowbird 24 days; Red-headed Woodpecker 22 days; Yellow-legs 20 days; Henslow's Sparrow 19 days; Song Sparrow 18 days; Yellow-billed Cuckoo 17 days; Lincoln's Sparrow 16 days; Crow, Robin, Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 15 days; Meadow-lark, Bronzed Grackle, Cape May Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, 13 days; Philadelphia Vireo and Red-eyed Vireo 12 days; Wood Pewee 11 days; Blackburnian Warbler, Whippoorwill, House Wren, and Rough-winged Swallow 10 days; Killdeer, Catbird, and Least Flycatcher 9 days; Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler 8 days; Orchard Oriole, Water-Thrush, and Crested Flycatcher 7 days; and Spotted Sandpiper 6 days ahead of schedule. The average range either side of the median may be assumed to be five days, as it so works out from year to year.

The Swamp Sparrow was 23 days late; Fox Sparrow and Belted Kingfisher 17; Phoebe and Towhee 14; Northern Parula Warbler 11;

Vesper Sparrow 10; Hermit Thrush, Tree Swallow, and Nighthawk 9; Chipping Sparrow, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Dickcissel 8; Woodcock and Brown Thrasher 7; and Mourning Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler 6 days behind schedule.

There were thus 53 species which were more than five days either too early or too late in their arrivals, or almost 33% of the species involved. No account is here taken of the Water Birds, because there is much less certainty that accurate records were made of their movements. It is worth noting that most of the species which arrived ahead of their schedule belonged to the earlier parts of the migration, and that about half of those which arrived behind schedule belonged to the late waves.

The largest warbler and thrush migration usually occurs about the middle of May, but this year the heaviest movement was on the 21st and 22nd of May, with many of them remaining until the first of June, due to chilly and rainy or cloudy weather.

Vegetation was as far advanced in the middle of April as it usually is in the middle of May, but apparently there was not a correspondingly early development of insect life, although there were considerable numbers of insects associated with the foliage. While this unseasonable advance of vegetation was clearly not a purely local phenomenon, since much the same sequence of weather had prevailed southward into the Gulf states, it could hardly be expected that the birds which normally reach the southern border of the United States about the middle of April would have felt the pull of the unseasonable conditions in the Lake Region, and hence would not keep up with the vegetation and development of insect life. This would account for the marked paucity of birds during the warmth of the first two weeks of April when conditions seemed to be unusually favorable for birds of the warbler type.

We have to sorrowfully record the absence of Chickadee and Carolina Wren. The woods seem comparatively cheerless without them. No reason can be assigned for the disappearance of the Chickadee, and none that is satisfactory for that of the Carolina Wren. On the other hand, there have come to the region during the migrations Gadwall, Golden Plover, Bewick's Wren, and Mockingbird. Of course the Gadwall is found in the immediate vicinity of Lake Erie, but it was never before recorded for the Oberlin Water Works reservoir. There were two Mockingbirds, one of them in full song, and they are still with us. A ten-day war on the English Sparrow has resulted in the presence of more native birds in the village.

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