

THE SHARP-SHINNED HAWK MIGRATION.

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Point Pelee is a place of surprises. One never knows what to expect, but can always feel sure that there will be something doing in the bird line, and frequently that something is of unexpected and absorbing interest.

My visit of September 18th, 19th and 20th happened to be just the very time to see the celebrated Sharp-shinned Hawk migration from its inception, and thereby to realize more easily the effect it has on other bird life. When we arrived on the 17th, we were told that the hawk flight was not "on" and on the next morning, we found that this was quite true. There were, of course, a few hawks drifting down from the north and crossing the lake, as there always are in fall but there were not a very great many, while on the other hand there were large numbers of small birds. We recorded, that day, 68 species of birds, of which four were hawks, and among these were 100 Sharp-shins, which always comprise the bulk of the early flight. Other birds were there in numbers; for instance, we recorded 300 Waxwings, 150 White-throated Sparrows, 100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 80 Flickers and 50 Olive-backed Thrushes.

The wind, that night, was strong from the west and the temperature rather high. The next morning, we found the hawks very much augmented in numbers, recording six species, in the following numbers, 250 Sharp-shins, 10 Marsh, 10 Cooper's, 2 Pigeon, 1 Duck, and 1 Osprey. The results of the presence of so many Sharp-shins was strikingly visible among the small birds, reminding us forcibly of the old automobile joke, which stated that the quick were those that got out of the way of the automobile, and the dead were those that did not. Some of the birds were apparently wise and got out of the way.

Although the Ruby-crowned migration was just beginning, we saw none after the first day. The White-throated Sparrows dropped from 150 to 20, and the Olive-backed Thrush, which divides with the Cuckoo the doubtful honor of being the favorite food of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, also dropped to 20, and there was a similar diminution in the numbers of almost every species, while the total number of species observed, which was 68 on the first day, was 31 on the second day.

On the third day the conditions became extreme. I was in the observatory from 6 until nearly 10. The Hawk flight began about 6.15 and was unabated when I left. The rate of flight can be imagined by the fact, that when I undertook to count 100 passing me, the task occupied only eleven minutes. A few of