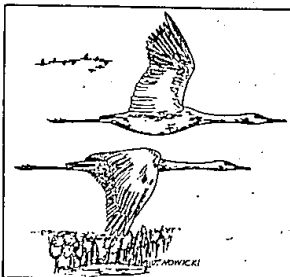


Young birds begin winging south

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

Summer's end is drawing near, and the season's



A sandhill crane, illuminated by a setting sun already highlighting fall colors, is an unforgettable sight.

crop of young birds has begun to flock together already. Along with the adults, young birds are getting ready to fly south for the winter.

Migration to southern climes is an annual event that has been continuing for thousands of years. Most of our summer residents only come north to nest and raise young. Once that is complete, they fly to Florida, Louisiana, or even South America.

Birds from northern Canada will join our Michigan migrants as they start their long southern journey. Many song birds — warblers, sparrows, thrushes and blackbirds — will follow landmarks such as the Great Lakes, using them like we use a road map.

SEVERAL PLACES along the way serve as gathering places where the birds congregate before proceeding. Pt. Pelee in southern Ontario is one.

A large variety of birds will concentrate at the point waiting for suitable weather in which to cross Lake Erie.

Another favorite place of mine in fall is the Michigan Audubon Society Haeble Sanctuary west of Ann Arbor. This is where the large sandhill crane from northern Canada congregates during October.

At this large marsh near the Waterloo Recreation Area, sandhill cranes, who feed in the surrounding farmlands, begin to fly into the marsh just before sunset.

A good place to spot sandhill cranes in October is the Audubon Society's Haeble Sanctuary west of Ann Arbor in the Waterloo State Recreation Area.

Sandhill cranes stand five feet tall and have a wingspan of more than six feet. They fly with their necks extended straight forward (herons, egrets, and bitterns fly with their neck in an "S" shape) in large line formations.

THE ONLY observation point of the sanctuary is strategically located on a hill, so you can see the birds as they land in the depressed marsh to the east.

About 4 p.m. on an average day in October, the birds begin arriving in flocks of five to 150. They approach the marsh from all directions — some will even fly directly overhead.

They approach low enough so you can see the red patch on their forehead and the gray color of the body feathers.

Often times though, you will hear the resonant chortle call of the birds as they communicate with each other before you see them.

ALTHOUGH THE birds are large and you can see them very easily with the naked eye, bring a pair of binoculars so you can see some of the other species of wildlife in the marsh. Several species of ducks and geese can be seen feeding in the open marsh water. White-tailed deer are often seen on the edges of the marsh, too.

As sunset approaches, the number of birds entering the marsh dwindles to just a few. But during the past couple of hours, as many as 600 birds may have entered the marsh for a good night's rest.

This same event happens each day in October, but when November's cold temperatures arrive, the sandhill cranes will continue their migration to the southern states.

If you would like information on the location of the sanctuary, contact the Detroit Audubon Society at 545-2929.

State court group elects Joan Young

Oakland County's Circuit Court administrator has been elected president of the Michigan Association of Circuit Court Administrators (MCAA) for 1984-85.

MCAA's new president is Joan E. Young, court administrator/judicial assistant for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court.

Before her appointment as court administrator in 1982, the Birmingham resident was deputy court administrator.

A member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1974, Young is a member of

the group's Administration of Trial Courts Committee and serves on its Energy Conservation Task Force.

She chaired the Membership/New Lawyer Admissions Committee and Trial Court Committee of Oakland County Bar Association. She also was a founding member of the Women's Bar Association of Oakland County.

Active in efforts to improve efficiency in the courts, Young serves on the Circuit Court Forms Committee which is reviewing and unifying court forms throughout the state.



Joan E. Young pushes improvements

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