

## INCURSION OF BRUNNICH'S MURRE IN NORTHERN NEW YORK

During the week following the severe wind storm of November 25, 1950 a number of "strange, penguin-like" birds were found at widely scattered points in northern New York. Although variously identified, the writer is of the opinion that most, if not all, of these birds were Brunnich's Murres. A number were captured alive, since this species is unable to take off from land. Officials of the State Conservation Department directed that all birds found alive be released on open water. Several so released died within a short time and it is believed that few if any survived.

Definite records were secured concerning twenty-six birds, distributed as follows: Jefferson County, 11, St. Lawrence County, 9, Herkimer County, 4, Lewis County, 1, Oswego County, 1. It is known that other birds were found, regarding which accurate data could not be secured. Since this area is sparsely populated many Murres were doubtless missed completely. It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that several hundred Brunnich's Murres were deposited in this part of the state as a result of the storm.

The birds are presumed to have come from the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, their path being up the St. Lawrence River Valley. The wind on November 25 reached velocities up to seventy-five miles per hour, and was generally east or northeast. Ornithological history discloses other instances in which oceanic birds have been deposited far inland by severe windstorms. The so-called "West Indian Hurricane" is well known for its ability to carry southern birds far north of their habitat.

The outstanding feature of the recent incursion of

Murres is the large number of birds of one species which were driven hundreds of miles from their native habitat -- John B. Belknap, Gouverneur, N. Y. (Ed. Note: Almost every regional report mentioned some incursion of these birds . The majority being reported from Mr. Belknap's Northern New York area.)

#### FOURTH ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs annual meeting will take place in Buffalo, N. Y., April 7th and 8th. The Hotel Markeen at Main and Utica Streets has been chosen as the housing hotel and the meetings will be at the Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park. Tentative schedule of events follows:

Saturday Morning -

Registration: Buffalo Museum of Science

Morning Session: Meeting of Council of Delegates

Optional: 1. Tours of the Museum

2. Field Trips

Noon: Lunch at Museum cafeteria.

Saturday Afternoon -

General and Scientific Session 1:30 - 5:00 at Buffalo Museum.

Saturday Evening -

Banquet at Hotel Markeen

Speaker: Mr. Robert Hermes -

“Birds of the outer St. Lawrence River”

Sunday -

All day field trip along Niagara Frontier into Canada and thence to Wolcottsville, New York and Oak Orchard Swamp. Box lunches will be available.