

Cackling Goose in the Cayuga Lake Basin: On Thursday, October 1, 1959, a wild Canada Goose dropped in on the pond at Sapsucker Woods and attempted to join our six captive Canadas, but was kept at a distance by the six. The following day a total of 21 wild geese were on the pond, and by late afternoon they were feeding with the captive waterfowl under the Laboratory windows. It was immediately evident that one goose was far smaller and darker than the others and had a relatively shorter neck. Its bill was particularly noticeable as it was stubby and gave the head quite a different profile from those of the other geese.

This small goose remained with us for two weeks, and it was seen by numerous observers at a distance of a few feet as it grazed under the windows. I have had considerable experience with the Cackling Goose both on its nesting ground in Alaska and its wintering ground in California, and I had no hesitancy in identifying this bird as a perfectly typical example of the small dark race of the Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis minima*, which nests in Alaska and normally winters in the Sacramento Valley. It was certainly far out of its migration path, and we would like to think that word of our Refuge at Sapsucker Woods is really getting around!

The wild geese left the pond each day to feed in neighboring fields. On October 17 the Cackler returned limping; the following day it was missing, and it did not appear again.

Fritz Scheider reports that on November 22 a similar Cackling Goose appeared at Howland's Island Game Management Area where several weeks earlier he had also seen an apparent Richardson's Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*). These are the first reports of the Cackling Goose in the Finger Lakes region — Arthur A. Allen, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

Dovekie in Saratoga County: Periodically the Schenectady Bird Club schedules field trips to Saratoga Lake, just east of the famed racetrack resort in Saratoga County. Such a trip was conducted last November 15 in distinctly uncomfortable weather conditions. A northwest wind was blowing at 20 to 25 mph, with gusts a bit higher. The temperature was about 34 degrees, and the skies were overcast. The previous day had been unusually mild with temperatures in the fifties brought about by a SSE wind.

The number of species of waterbirds observed was rather disappointing. It was while most of us had our binoculars trained on two White-winged Scoters near Snake Hill along the east shore that one member of the group observed a small chubby black and white bird which had alighted on the water not more than 70 feet away. Great was the joy and astonishment among the seven observers when the bird turned out to be a Dovekie. It remained on the water for not more than a minute, then took off in a south-southeasterly direction and was soon lost behind some trees along the shore. To one who has had the privilege many times in the past of observing Dovekies and other alcids wintering off Cape Ann in Massachusetts, it was with utter amazement that this seabird was found so far from the coast. The puzzle is deepened by the fact that no on-shore storms occurred along the north Atlantic Coast during the previous days, which might have blown the Dovekie inland. A perusal of records proved this to be the first documented observation of the species in this area — Gus Angst, Rosendale Road, Schenectady.

Snow Geese in Rensselaer County: On Sunday, November 8, 1959, Rensselaer County's Tomhannock Reservoir was the scene of a movement of Snow Geese which was unusually large for this area. During that day the Schenectady Bird Club held its annual trip there, and three different groups of observers were at large in the area. The tardiness of one group was rewarded in midmorning with the sighting of at least 57 Snow Geese at a moderate altitude near the southern end of the lake. Then at about noon (just as the first group was describing its success to the second) a second flock of some 400 Snow Geese, arranged in a highly unsymmetrical V with a few additional birds flying inside, was sighted almost overhead. They were so high that their calls could hardly be heard, and without binoculars it was difficult to distinguish single birds in the line. As a very rough estimate, the birds were at an altitude of about a mile or more. Later in the afternoon a third group of observers sighted first a flock of about 250 geese in two unsymmetrical V's, and as these were almost out of sight, a third V of 150 birds, all at about the same height as the large flock of 400.