

house and the owners of such homes cannot be censured if they place the blame on the woodpeckers alone, not knowing the real culprits. It might be good conservation practice to see that builders and home-owners know the real cause and take steps to eliminate the insects rather than the woodpeckers. All instances of woodpecker damage in our areas should be examined, if possible, and home-owners should take reasonable precautions, where possible, to prevent future damage both to houses and to the woodpeckers.

Woodpeckers, usually the Hairy Woodpecker or the Flicker, have been known to use a house for a drumming post to the understandable annoyance of the occupants. Such action, however, would not lead to the severe and extensive damage shown in the photograph. — E. M. Reilly, Jr., Curator, Zoology, N. Y. S. Museum, Albany 1, N. Y.

Yellow-nosed Albatross off Long Island: On Sunday, May 29, 1960, a Yellow-nosed Albatross was observed about a mile and a half off the Jones Beach water tower, along the southern shore of Long Island. The bird was seen by some forty or fifty persons in two chartered boats on a scheduled Linnaean Society sea trip for pelagic birds.

When the albatross was discovered by the first boat, a radio message was sent to the second boat, some five miles away at the time. When the bird was first seen, it was on the water with Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls and resembled the latter in pattern. It was repeatedly flushed by the boats, upon which its wing-spread, estimated at seven feet, could be observed at extremely close range. While in the air the albatross, an adult, was harassed by some of the gulls. Colored photographs, both still and moving, were made of the rarity by several of the observers. The bird was under observation for about an hour, and when the boats turned homeward it was still sitting on the water. Besides the albatross the ocean was alive with birds of a great variety of species (see Region 10, this issue). Chumming over the side brought many of these into close range.

An ocean trip by several Long Island bird clubs just six days later, Saturday, June 4, revealed no evidence of the albatross. The ocean was destitute of birds and except for an epidemic of mal de mer the net result was a half dozen Wilson's Petrels!

The normal range of the Yellow-nosed Albatross is restricted to the south Atlantic and Indian Oceans and to the seas near Australia. There have, however, been three or four previous North American records for the species, as indicated by the Fifth Edition of the AOU Checklist. This is apparently the first reported occurrence of any species of albatross in New York State waters. — John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island.

Cattle Egret reaches Western New York: What is regarded as possibly the first record for the Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) in western New York, was observed by Gail Seamans and Richard G. Beebe, of Batavia, on May 29, 1960, west of the village of Byron, (Route 262 and Bank Street Road). They immediately notified Mrs. O. L. Pixley, of Batavia, who in turn telephoned Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich, in Buffalo. The Ulrichs advised us of this record on the same day. On the next day, May 30th, after a short search, and returning to the pond where the bird was supposed to be seen, I found the bird on the margin of the small farm pond.

It was an all white bird about the size of a Green Heron. The top of the head, over the back, and breast feathers were tinged by a brownish rust wash. One leg appeared to be injured.

While watching the bird, I talked to Mrs. Beach, wife of the man operating the farm where the Egret was discovered. She informed me that the white bird had been there for "about four weeks".

I had previously seen the Cattle Egret, at the "Coal Pocket Area" near Schenectady, on May 25, 1957. This was the first inland New York State record, and was seen by many attending the annual Federation meeting in Schenectady that year.

Another Cattle Egret was reported in John W. Brown's, "Birds Afield" column, published in the Rochester Times-Union newspaper, on June 2, 1960. This bird