

was observed by Brown and Alfred Starling, on June 1st, on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. C. Morton Wadsworth, 369 Hill Road, Parma. The Wadsworths also saw the bird.

I discussed this second bird with Alfred Starling, and asked him if the legs appeared to be normal. He replied in the affirmative. This leads me to believe, that the Parma record was of a different bird than the earlier Byron record, and that two Cattle Egrets had been found west of the Genesee River. — Winston William Brockner, 63 Ardmore Place, Buffalo 13, New York.

A Concentration of Rough-legged Hawks: Late in November 1959 it was seen that Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than usual in northern New York State, and it was soon apparent that a real incursion was taking place. As the winter progressed a concentration of these birds was noted in that portion of Jefferson County lying immediately north of Watertown. This area, in the towns of Brownville, Clayton, Pamela, Orleans, Leray, and Philadelphia, covers approximately 300 square miles and consists mainly of open farm land with an abundance of isolated trees for perching. Since the Rough-leg is primarily a "mouser," it may be presumed that this portion of Jefferson County provided an ample supply of small rodents.

Unsuspecting by nature, the Rough-legged Hawk is easily observed when perched in the open or flying leisurely over fields and meadows. In the area mentioned I observed thirty or more birds on several occasions, with a maximum count of forty-nine on February 8. It is believed that there may have been as many as 200 birds present. The majority were normal or light phase, with perhaps 20 percent being dark phase birds. While these hawks are usually solitary, groups of three or four were occasionally seen.

The Rough-legs remained throughout March and were present in small numbers during early April. It was evident, however, that the northward movement was underway soon after the end of March. — John B. Benknapp, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.

An Unusual Duck in Central New York: While walking the path around Green Lake in Fayetteville on the morning of December 25, 1959, I observed a duck of problematic identity upon two occasions at close range. I first saw the bird at fairly close range when it sprang with grouse-like abruptness from some floating cedar snags along the edge of the deep and unfrozen lake. It flew low across the lake and disappeared along the far shore. Closely observed through my 10 x 50 glasses, this bird was distinctly small, teal-sized, uniformly dark grayish-black above, with no trace of any wing marking whatsoever.

I did not identify the bird at once, although it seemed familiar, and I reflected that its identity would without doubt occur to me as I walked along. Some fifteen minutes later, when I realized I had not identified it, I began to earnestly consider what I had seen, and seen well. I did come to a tentative conclusion, and then wished I had taken more pains while I had the bird in close view. Suddenly, as abruptly startling as before, it arose close-in again, and again flew off low across the lake until about a quarter mile away. The duck then turned, gained some twenty feet and came back past me, whereupon it left the lake and disappeared toward the north. The bird was centered in my glasses almost as its feet left the water, and I noted, as did those with me, that it was attempting to swallow a small fish as it left. I again noted the uniformly unmarked dusky, gray-black upperparts, and this time also a trace of white in front of and behind the eye. The rounded head was almost hooded in appearance due to the small short beak being inserted at right angles below the high forehead. When the duck came past at a higher elevation, I noted the whitish ventor, which shaded without abrupt margin into the dark breast. Although I now believed I knew what I was seeing, it was not until I consulted my library with some care that I decided that I could find no alternative identification. While several expert field observers have suggested that I had seen a female Hooded Merganser, the latter is so unlike my observation that I can only conclude that I failed to communicate what I saw. From familiarity with this bird after watching one in the surf for about ten minutes at Sandy Pond Beach along Lake Ontario with Dr. Ian Nisbet on November 23, 1957, I identified the stranger as "Columbine" the female Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, a duck unusual in central New York State. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse.