

of New York." Kenneth Parkes (**Birds of New York State and Their Taxonomy**), in summarizing information on distribution acquired since Eaton's book was published, found this statement to be still true, with only a few sight records since those listed by Eaton. A few specimens taken in the state are in museum collections. Parkes states that "observers in the warmer parts of the state should be on the alert for this species." The last preceding record was apparently that of a pair in Dutchess County on May 2, 1960 (**Kingbird**, July, 1960, p. 77). One wonders whether the present record was one of those two birds). — Mrs. Henry Thurston, Claverack.

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**Ruffed Grouse Eating a Snake:** In October, 1959, a Ruffed Grouse was shot at Dry Hill near Watertown. It had eaten a DeKay's snake (*Storeria dekayi*) about nine inches long. The head and part of the body of the snake were in the gizzard of the grouse, and digestion had just started. The tail of the snake was in the crop of the bird. The gizzard was cut open to show the snake inside, and the snake



**Gizzard of Ruffed Grouse containing snake.**

Photo by Cecil Dake

and gizzard have been preserved in the Science Department of Case Junior High School in Watertown.

While there are other published records of a Grouse having eaten a snake, this seems unusual enough as a food item for this species to be worth recording again. — Frank A. Clinch, 173 Haley Street, Watertown.

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**An Albany Airport Ceilometer Disaster in 1956:** Birds and airports don't always mix. There have been more than just a few cases in which small land birds, migrating at night, have been lured en masse to their destruction by airport ceilometers. The exact cause of such disasters is perhaps still a matter of speculation. Such an occurrence took place at the Albany Airport during the fall migration of 1956, and although an account of this particular episode has been published elsewhere, many readers may not have heretofore been aware of it.