

securing what warmth that came through here. His flight was slower on cold days and he spent much time in inactivity. Any warmth of the sun nearly always perked him up and if warm enough his activity increased to a point where he would even give forth one or two of his cat-like notes. He survived the worst storm of the winter and he was indeed an out-of-place sight when seen bucking the swirling snow of a blizzard that temporarily covered just about everything exposed to the outside. We could see that the elements were fierce but there was a life-line present and our Catbird was being provided for. We were fearful with one apprehension. At least three prowling neighborhood cats were in the area almost daily and we knew that the Catbird would be lucky to escape being caught. Near mid-February the seemingly inevitable happened — the Catbird was missing and the tracks and feathers found by the foundation of the house told the story. — Fred Hough, Accord.

A Partially Albino Blue Jay: On January 31, 1961 Mrs. Ruth Williams and the writer received a call from the Misses Grace and Florence Kirk of 47 George St., Owego asking us to check the identity of a grayish white bird that had been coming to their feeders regularly since January 16. They believed it to be a Canada Jay. After waiting inside the Kirk house for about an hour and a half we were rewarded with an excellent view of the bird, at a distance of about 15 feet with 7 x 50 binoculars and in good light.

We immediately noticed that the bird in question had a prominent crest. Then by comparing its size, shape, flight pattern and behaviour with that of the Blue Jays visiting the feeders at the same time we soon realized that it was merely a Blue Jay that was lacking in color. We could see no trace of blue anywhere on it. Instead it was predominantly grayish white, gray enough so that the pure white of the wing bars could be readily seen by contrast. The normally black collar was a reddish brown color and the bill was yellowish brown. The feet and eyes were dark. The other Blue Jays behaved normally towards it and showed no particular tendency to attack it. It was still visiting the Kirk feeders as late as March 8, 1961 and had been seen by several of the neighbors. — Mrs. Mildred White, 1 West Front St., Owego.

Barrow's Goldeneye on Oneida Lake: On March 31, 1961, Dr. David Peakall, Jon Bart, and I were scanning a mixed collection of waterfowl on a small crescent of open water along the west side of Fischer's Bay, Oneida Lake. With the 30X Balscope we had optically bagged numerous Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Red-Breasted Mergansers when an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was located along the ice-rimmed edge of open water. Repeated perusal through the scope confirmed the initial identification, and the details of greater extent of black upon the back and sides, the differently-shaped head, the fat crescent pre-ocular patch and, most striking, the black peripectoral bar, were seen and commented upon by the three of us. Despite abundant courtship activities of the adjacent Common Goldeneyes, this bird was never noted to perform any courtship maneuvers on this day or on days of subsequent observation (up to April 5). The bird was found again on April 1; on April 2 it was seen by two different parties somewhat further east on Fischer's Bay (the first bay east of Hitchcock Point at the mouth of Chittenango Creek north of Bridgeport). On this date a female was noted with the male which by head shape but not by bill color could well have been a female Barrow's Goldeneye. This pair of birds remained consistently together, usually resting or feeding at the ice edge of the open water. On April 3 and 4 extensive melting occurred, and the open water area enlarged considerably. On April 5 the pair was seen at two different times, and one observer (who had previous acquaintance with the species) felt that the female accompanying the male was definitely a Barrow's Goldeneye. At the time of the last observation on the afternoon of April 5, this pair of birds and many other waterfowl were scared away from Fischer's Bay by target shooting on the western margin of the bay. A vigorous search on April 6 failed to turn up the birds, and repeated checks thereafter to April 14 were similarly unsuccessful.

This is the first recent (past 20 years) record of this species in this sector of the state, and neither Eaton (**Birds of New York**, 1909) nor Stoner (Ornithology of the Oneida Lake Area, **Roosevelt Wildlife Annals**, V. 2, Nos. 3 and 4, 1932) gives a definite record for Oneida Lake. — Fritz Scheider, 151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8.

Whistling Swans Near Schenectady: The Whistling Swan is a rare visitor in the area around Schenectady, but on March 18, 1961, two adults and an immature were seen by two boys on Glass Pond in Guilderland. Guilderland is located along Route 20 between Schenectady and Albany. News of the find spread, and many members of the Schenectady Bird Club had the opportunity to see the swans. From accounts furnished by residents of that area it would appear that the birds came in on March 15.

The birds left Glass Pond on March 18. SBC members thought that they were perhaps not far away, and so some of the surrounding unfrozen ponds were checked. On March 23 the three swans were sighted again on a small pond along the D&H tracks near Meadowdale. The immature was still there as late as April 19, although the two adults had departed. The Meadowdale ponds, incidentally, had another unusual visitor this April, a Snowy Egret.

Prior to this year, the only other local reports for Whistling Swans have been in April, the last time being in 1956. Records of the Schenectady Bird Club indicate the species has been sighted in at least six different years in April. — Nelle G. Van Vorst, 67 Snowden Avenue, Schenectady.

Crossbill Flight Year in Saranac Lake Area: The winter of 1960-61 was noteworthy for the large flocks of Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills which could be seen daily in the Saranac Lake area. During December, January and February there was a high mortality rate — particularly among the Red Crossbills — due to road kill. The flocks would rise when a car drove through them and then settle again in exactly the same place. They ignored the individuals that had been killed by the car and pecked all around them.

As the season progressed the birds seemed to become more wary or less in need of the grit or salt which had brought them down to the sanded highways.

It is generally conceded that Red Crossbills are attracted to salt such as the calcium chloride mixed with the sand on icy highways but I have not heard this of the White-winged Crossbills or the Pine Siskins which were equally numerous on the roads. On several occasions I observed White-winged Crossbills fighting over places on a snowbank where dogs had urinated. I also observed White-winged Crossbills swallowing small pebbles found on the sanded roads.

Red Crossbills, being either less shy or less quick on the wing, were killed in greater numbers than the other two species mentioned.

Conclusions on "flight year" statistics are almost non-existent; deductions about road kill are contradictory. Have any observers recent data on these subjects? — Harried L. Delafield, 8 Old Military Road, Saranac Lake.