

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.