

**Bohemian Waxwings at Watertown:** Bohemian Waxwings were found in Thompson Park, in Watertown about the first week of January, 1962. I did not see any until January 14 when there were eight. During the next few weeks several persons saw the Bohemian Waxwings, and some reported the number to be 30 to 25. There was also a flock of Cedar Waxwings in which no Bohemian Waxwings could be found. Some days no Waxwings could be found. This probably was due to the size of the area covered with shrubs and trees and the fact that deep snow made walking difficult.

On the afternoon of March 17, R. Dudley Ross, Mrs. Ross, Cecil Dake, Mrs. Dake, Mrs. Clinch and I saw three hundred Bohemian Waxwings, and with them a very few Cedar Waxwings. We watched them for several minutes and this gave us time enough to estimate the number. The next morning Arthur W. Allen and Mrs. Allen saw a large flock of Bohemian Waxwings in almost the same place. They estimated the number to be more than 300. The Cedar Waxwings were in a separate flock.

In New York State the Bohemian Waxwings are highly irregular winterers. The records which I have found show only very small numbers, usually only one or two. Examples are the reports from Region 5 (*The Kingbird*, Vol. X, No. 1 and Vol. XI, No. 4). It will be interesting to see what future records of the Bohemian Waxwings may be, either in the winter or during their nesting season. — Frank A. Clinch, 173 Haley Street, Watertown.

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**Winter Sighting of Scarlet Tanager:** During the Christmas Count on December 30, 1961, one of the field teams of the Alan Devoe Bird Club (Chatham) obtained an unusual record in the southwestern part of Rensselaer County. The team, composed of Beatrice Shineman (captain), Juanita Cook, Vivian and Lee Burland observed a Scarlet Tanager for approximately 45 minutes between 8:30 and 9:15 A.M., at distances varying from eight to fifty feet.

The temperature was near 0°F. The sky was clear. There were five to six inches of snow on the ground and the wind was light and variable.

The tanager was first discovered hopping about the lower branches of some shrubs in a hedgerow along the edge of a dirt road. Throughout the period of observation, the bird remained within four to six feet of the ground. Its movements were slow and seemingly uninfluenced by the relative closeness of the observers. At times the bird remained nearly motionless. Occasionally it dipped its beak into the snow on the branches and appeared to be eating the snow. After 25 to 30 minutes in the hedgerow, it flew across the road to a window feeder where it remained for another 10 to 15 minutes. From here, after it had picked around rather leisurely, and disinterestedly, it flew out of sight behind the house.

During the observation, the following features of the bird were noted: The back and head were olive green, the underparts were bright yellowish and unstreaked. The wings and tail were brownish black. There were no distinguishable bars or markings on the wings. The bill was rather horn-colored with the coloration deepening toward the base. At the closer distances it could be noted that the edge of the upper mandible was toothed near the base.

The family living in the house where the window feeder was located, have reported that a similar bird was seen again on January 17, and also sometime in February. — Lee J. Burland, 34 Green Ave., Castleton-on Hudson.

**Editorial Note By S.F.H.** — The Scarlet Tanager ordinarily winters in South America. This bird evidently was unable to migrate at the usual time, and remained north. The sluggish behavior is typical of Tanagers, and it has been noted in the past that unfavorable conditions turn Tanagers into ground-level feeders (*The Kingbird*, Vol. VI, No. 2). It would appear doubtful that the bird could survive the winter.

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**A Hawk, a Pigeon, and Two Panes of Glass:** On Monday, Dec. 11, 1961, an immature Cooper's Hawk flew through the glass of both a storm window and

the inside window into a house near Sulphur Springs, where it was found by the Calhouns when they returned home from work. There was fresh blood on the wall and floor, showing that it must have happened only a short time before they arrived. The pane of glass in the storm window was 30 in. by 32 in., and this glass was double thickness. The inner pane was smaller, about 12 in. by 16 in. Outside of this window the Calhouns found a pigeon with band CU 61-29040. One wing of the pigeon was injured or broken, but the bird was not otherwise seriously hurt and survived.

The hawk was given to me on Dec. 13, and I banded and released it the same day. It was large for a Cooper's Hawk and very wild. One claw was broken and the toe was bleeding, but there was no blood in the cage. We did not notice any other injury to the bird, and it was able to fly when released. — Frank A. Clinch, 173 Haley St., Watertown.

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**Boreal Owl in Oswego County:** At about 2:30 P. M. on March 17, 1962, while walking down a path which runs from the New Centerville Road (3 miles east of Pulaski) through spruce plantations and native white pine, hemlock, and deciduous trees and brush down to the Salmon River, I noted a small owl perched six feet up in the outer branches of a white spruce. The white spots on the fore-crown of the generally brown and white bird, and the size — which, at 30 feet, I could tell was about that of a Screech Owl, larger than a Saw-whet — convinced me as I observed the bird through 9x35 binoculars that it was a Boreal Owl! I left to fetch camera and Balscope from my car, returning as silently as possible. Such caution and the scope proved unnecessary for observation and photography, as I eventually approached to within four feet to photograph the owl without causing it to move other than to slowly blink its yellow eyes. At this distance, the black "frames" of the white facial discs, the reddish-brown streakings on the sides, and the white tear-shaped spots on the brown wings, as well as the white stippling on the forecrown, were clearly noticeable in detail. Although the owl was not well hidden, there was a remarkable camouflage effect in the similarity of the wing pattern to that of a nearby fungus-covered tree trunk, and the forehead stippling suggested snow caught in spruce needles. The shape of the facial frames gave the owl a flat-headed and very slightly "eared" look. The bill was not yellow, but of a light bluish-gray horn color.

After fifteen minutes of observation I left to notify other birdwatchers of the presence of this rarity, returning at about 5:00 P. M. with Mr. W. D. Bulger of Pulaski, who took still pictures and movies, again at less than four feet, without flushing the owl. The bird would open its eyes from time to time and would become more alert if one squeaked like a mouse; that is, it seemed aware of our presence but completely unafraid rather than blind (a characteristic which Bent notes in his "Life Histories"). Eventually it flushed, at dusk, about 6:00 P. M., when one of us accidentally jostled the branch it was on. It flew off in a rather straight line into the dense spruce plantation, and we lost it from sight.

Examination of the roosting place showed only one pellet and small amount of whitewash, indicating the bird had not roosted for long in this particular spot.

On March 18 at 10:45 A. M., by following sounds of Black-capped Chickadees which apparently were scolding the owl, I rediscovered it about 150 yards away from the previous day's perch, quite out in the open on a white pine branch about eight feet up. On this occasion 24 people, including Dr. Arthur A. Allen and five ornithology students from Cornell and members of the Onondaga Audubon Society, observed and photographed the Boreal Owl at close range. Even with so many people present, the owl did not flush until someone experimentally shook the branch it was on.

At no time was the owl heard to make any noises, either vocally or by bill-snapping.

Parties of two searched unsuccessfully for the owl the following day (Monday), and also on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Possible evidence of other roosting places (whitewash) was noted.