

This time the bird, which kept pretty much to the upper branches, was photographed from about five feet away from an adjacent tree.

The next day a number of people searched for the owl without success and it was not reported subsequently.

As far as I can determine there is no previous record of the Boreal Owl for Monroe County and only a few in the state outside the Adirondacks as summerized by M. Rusk (*Kingbird* XII No 1 p. 25).

John Foster, 14 Utica Place, Rochester.

On Albino Swallows: In over 60 years of bird observations on Long Island the writer has recorded only five albino swallows, representing two species.

On June 20, 1928, a pure white Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) was found in East Marion standing by the side of a highway with other Bank Swallows. The bird was in feeble condition; perhaps it had been persecuted by other birds. It soon succumbed and was preserved as a study skin. The bird, an immature female, had reached the flying stage and was a mile from the nearest nesting colony.

On July 9, 1935, another white Bank Swallow was seen all of one day flying in a loose flock of the same species in Orient. Its association with the other swallows during the period of observation appeared perfectly normal.

The other three white individuals recorded were Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) observed one at a time in different years flying over a wide marsh in a mass flight of Tree Swallows during fall migrations. These, apparently pure white swallows, were strikingly prominent as they darted among the other swallows. There was no indication noticed that the white birds were molested by the other swallows.

Locally the nests of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) are invariably lined with white feathers. It is plausible that Barn Swallows should have no objections to albino fledglings among white feathers that they are partial to, especially young they have been feeding since they were hatched.

The ducking in flight of adult Barn Swallows with beseeching notes is a common habit on Long Island when humans, horses, dogs or cats are near newly flying young.

Among the numerous other local albino records, was a pure white male Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) that mated with a normal female and brought up five typically plumaged young to maturity in the border of a salt marsh in Orient, proving that full albinos do mate and nest occasionally.

Roy Latham, Orient, Long Island
Ed. Note: In an analysis of 3,134 cases of albinism recorded in Britain (Sage, Brit. Birds 56:409, 1963) found that swallows comprise 7% of the records. In his results, which omit mallard and pheasant because of the influence of artificial conditions, the commonest families in which albinism was recorded were thrushes (29%), crows (11%), and swallows, starlings and sparrows (7% each).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON DECEMBER 1 — MARCH 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

For the state as a whole the crossbill invasion was the most spectacular in years, perhaps of the century; although in western areas of the state the numbers may not have been as large as the 1960/61 invasion. Much of the material on this invasion has already been given in the fall issue. Peak numbers were reached by late November or early December. It appears that the increasing predominance of Red Crossbills towards the end of the period was due largely to a decrease of White-winged. At the end of the