

Hawk Owl in Adirondacks: On November 24, 1965 at about 11:00 AM as I drove along Route 30 about one mile south of the village of Tupper Lake, Franklin County, shortly before the road crosses the Raquette River, I noticed a hawklike bird perched in the top of a 30-foot deciduous tree. The tree was about 100 yards from the road and dominated a small marsh bisected by the road. I watched the bird for about 20 minutes with 7 x 50 binoculars under good light conditions.

I drew a sketch, the conspicuous markings that I noted being: white spot on back of head, crow size, accipiter-like tail, barred chest, white throat which resembled a cleric collar. I hurriedly left and returned with a copy of Peterson's Field Guide. As I drove up, the bird flew down in a long, low arc and settled high in another deciduous tree. At this time I noted long wings and white underparts. I drove ahead to get a rear view and noted that the bird constantly rotated its head and that the wings had a black and white checked cloth pattern. I was baffled, as it did not resemble any of the hawks pictured in Peterson. A chance opening of the book at the owl plate settled the identification — a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*).

I have since learned that a Hawk Owl was observed last year on about the same date at approximately the same location by Mrs. Charles Chapman and Maurice Villeneuve of Tupper Lake.

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Another Oswego County Boreal Owl: On November 21, 1965 at about 4 PM of a gray day, I noted from my car a smallish owl perched about 6 feet up in a deciduous sapling over the berm of Nine Mile Point Rd. at the corner of Lake Rd., about half a mile south of Lake Ontario. Because of the open habitat I expected it to be a Short-eared Owl. Observation from about 12 feet with 9 x 35 binoculars proved it to be a Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) in plumage similar to one I had seen in 1962 (*Kingbird* 12 (1): 25, 1962). The nearest conifer plantation was a quarter mile away, the nearby vegetation being deciduous brush, alder-willow along a creek and deciduous woods.

For about 35 minutes I studied the owl perched in the sapling and in the denser alders over the creek, where I was able to approach too close to focus my binoculars. The following points were noted: fine white spots on dark-brown fore-crown, black-outlined facial discs with black vertical markings over the eyes, trace of ear tufts, yellow eyes, yellowish bill (more yellow than in the 1962 owl), vertical white markings on back of head (which created a suggestion of a "false face" as in the Kestrel), vertical dark streakings down breast and belly, and the height of the owl — observably greater than a Saw-whet but less than a foot.

At 5 PM, when it was quite dark, I left the Boreal Owl perched. Four individuals on the 22nd and a party including myself on the 25th were unsuccessful in locating the bird again.

This is the fourth record of the species in four years (Feb 22–29, 1964; Feb 24–26, 1965; March 17–18, 1962; Nov 21, 1965) near the south shore of Lake Ontario (see *Kingbird* 15 (2): 74, 1965). These records suggest a possible early spring and late fall migration along the Ontario lakeshore. While all four birds have been in adult plumage, the differences in bill color noted among the four may possibly correlate with age differences. Contrary to what one might expect from their breeding habitat, none of these individuals was found in dense coniferous forest.

Searching for migrant Boreal Owls is a project with low probability of success; nevertheless, field observers should be on the lookout and aware of the possibility of coming upon another one, and thereby filling in the picture of the species' occurrence in New York State.

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