

The Turkey Vulture in Northern New York: Prior to 1960 the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was considered a rare visitor north of central New York. Since that time a distinct change has taken place, at least in one section of northern New York. In 1960 and 1961 several Turkey Vultures were observed in the vicinity of Somerville, a small hamlet on U.S. Route 11 near the Jefferson-St. Lawrence County line. During the same period reports were received of birds seen in the Theresa-Redwood lake district and in the nearby town of Rossie.

Early in October 1961 I saw a group of eight circling over a wooded hillock about four miles southwest of Gouverneur. In July of the following year it was discovered that Turkey Vultures were spending the night on this hillock. Some twenty or more returned nightly to roost here. On the afternoon of August 28, 1962 no less than thirty-eight were seen circling over the roosting area. It is believed that the roost was last occupied in 1963.

However, Turkey Vultures continue to be seen regularly in an area which includes the extreme northern portion of Jefferson County and nearby parts of St. Lawrence County, centering around the Theresa-Redwood district. Birds are seen from April to October, indicating the possibility of nesting.

John B. Belknap, Gouverneur, N.Y.

Goldfinch Picking on Salt Block: On July 12, 1965 a male Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) was observed picking on a salt block located beside a three-acre artificial pond near Farmersville, N.Y. The block is used as a saltlick frequently by deer, which also paw and lick the ground under the block and for two or three feet around it. The Goldfinch flew directly to the block, hopping around on top of it for approximately one minute picking frequently at the block. I watched from 25 to 30 feet away with binoculars. The bird then flew down and continued picking at the earth below the block. Subsequent observation of the surface of the salt block showed no evidence of seeds or insects.

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Ed. Note: It is known that all birds require some salt. Finches in particular have been observed frequenting salt licks. B. P. Burt has reported Goldfinches feeding on beet and Swiss chard leaves, possibly for salts in the leaves (*Kingbird* 10 (4): 168, 1960).

BULLETIN EXCHANGE

Two additional requests have come in for bulletin exchange with other Federation member clubs:

Buffalo Ornithological Society — The Prothonotary

monthly

Mrs. Whitney W. Mallam, Editor
545 Fourth Street
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. — Feathers

bimonthly

Guy Bartlett, Exch. Ed.
1053 Parkwood Boulevard
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308

Corrections or further additions should be sent to Miss Elizabeth S. Manning, Bulletin Exchange Committee, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10028.