

Water Pipits Mobbing Cooper's Hawk: During observation of open-country birds at the Syracuse Airport on 25 October 1965, an immature Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) was noted flapping strongly and heading southward over the open grass and weed areas at the western end of the area. As the hawk approached at about 200' elevation, lofted and headed southwest, a group of 60-75 Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) and a few Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) flew up from the grass and bunched in a loose banner-like cloud of birds directly behind and above it. A steady chorus of sharp "jit" notes with only occasional double "jit-jit" notes descended from the flock of Water Pipits and a few sharp, almost metallic "tseet" notes from the Horned Larks. Neither larks nor pipits actually dove at the hawk and most of the flock regularly kept behind (downwind) and somewhat above it. The hawk had made no attempt to catch any birds as it approached the airfield from the north and made no maneuver to escape the tangle of excited, calling smaller birds. The hawk eventually worked southwestward over the end of the airfield, disappearing in a long glide beyond a patch of woods. Only when the hawk was well away from the grassy areas of the airfield did the flock of pipits descend and resume feeding.

For birds so protectively colored as Water Pipits and Horned Larks to indulge in open, high-flying mobbing of a potential hazard seemed most unusual and I can find no record of similar behavior on the part of Water Pipits in the literature.

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Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye Hybrid at Fulton, Oswego County: On 6 February 1966 on the Oswego River at Fulton, N. Y. an apparent hybrid (male) between the Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) and the Hooded Merganser (*Mergus cucullatus*) was studied for about 15 minutes in full sunlight, and again under rainy skies on February 13, 1966 both John R. Haugh and I were able to study the bird for some time. The bird regularly moved and fed with a small group of Common Goldeneyes, both male and female, and on 13 February was seen to actively court a female Common Goldeneye (see below).

Description of hybrid as seen in field with 30x scope (combined data February 6 and 13):

A medium sized duck, slightly longer and definitely slimmer than drake Common Goldeneye; bill black, tubular like merganser but thicker than Hooded Merganser and with wide base; head shaped like male Green-winged Teal with slight drooping posterior crest, black with moderate dark green gloss; eye bright yellow; back sooty brown black with three black and white pennant tertials on left and one visible on right; evident white patch on shoulder bilaterally as seen in swimming bird, with smaller and not regularly visible white patch posterior to this (? white secondaries); chest white with thin black chest bar and a wide white patch between this black bar and a thin black bar at anterior end of flank feathers; flank feathers white anteriorly, sandy gray posteriorly with fine, crisp vermiculations (like a male Pintail's flanks); under tail coverts white; tail very dark gray; feet dark yellowish brown.

On February 6 the bird was observed feeding and swimming on a small patch of open water in the river. On February 13 it was found about 250 yards farther downstream. On the latter date, the bird made several apparent courting maneuvers toward female Common Goldeneye (? same female bird each time). The hybrid drake would bill-flip several times, then swell out the neck feathers, raise the head up sharply but with bill parallel to water surface, and quickly fan the short drooping crest, then settle back into its low swimming posture, with occasionally a plumage stroke, especially of the black and white pennant tertials, and some tail wagging, all actions similar to courting drake Hooded Mergansers. No apparent response was forthcoming from any of the female Common Goldeneye. It is of interest that the courting behavior of the hybrid incorporated largely Hooded Merganser-type activity, which may be in keeping with the largely Hooded Merganser plumage expression.