

Further, particular efforts should be made to see if this striking hybrid returns to the same area to winter in subsequent years. F. H. Kortright's *The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America*, American Wildlife Institute, Washington, D. C. 1943, plate #36 shows a picture of another Hooded Merganser-Common Goldeneye hybrid which is very like the Fulton bird, but the head shape, back pattern and leg color are somewhat different.

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An Encounter between Two Snowy Owls: On 11 February 1966 at the Syracuse Airport, a check of the grass-lined runway strips for winter birds revealed a small, very white Snowy Owl, presumably male, perched on a tall lamppost at the edge of the area. When I approached the bird for a better look, it launched itself from the light pole and flew rapidly past me with the quick, short, snapping wingbeats that I have come to associate with a hunting bird. As observed thru binoculars, it was seen to suddenly strike at another large, rather dark Snowy Owl (? female) perched on the ground some 200 yards away. The perched owl ducked and the attacking bird veered off, flying with peculiar deep slow wingbeats, almost a "moth" flight, and reminiscent of some parts of the Short-eared Owl's courtship flight. About 150 yards from the second bird the first bird alighted and proceeded to posture in a peculiar fashion. Facing the still sitting second bird, the first owl stood high on slightly flexed legs, arched the back feathers, lowered the head and depressed all the head feathers giving an odd bullet-like effect to same, and elevated the wings such that the wrists pointed straight up, the under surface directly forward, the tips of the primaries straight down and almost touching the ground, and the secondaries about one-third spread. The tail was extended straight backwards and the upper tail coverts were fluffed and drooped at the side. Holding this position for some 3-4 minutes, the owl stepped in a shuffling, dancing motion back and forth in a semicircle, always facing the second owl. The posturing bird was noted to open the beak, and throat motion was seen but no sound could be heard because of adjacent jet aircraft noise which the owls appeared to ignore. The second owl throughout this appeared transfixed, sitting perfectly upright, looking very like a fat yellow-eyed bowling pin. After posturing as described for 3-4 minutes, the demonstrating bird very carefully folded the wings (somewhat like an Upland Plover after the "angeling" position) and both owls then settled into more relaxed postures.

The actual reason for the encounter remains totally obscure but the behavior was so bizarre and arresting that a description of it seemed warranted.

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Behavior of Swallows, Warblers and Swifts at Hornell: On May 10, 1966 we were called to come and see the swallows at Canacadea Creek in Hornell. Literally thousands of swallows were coursing up and down the creek, which is confined to a concrete-walled flume as it passes thru the city. The phenomenon had started after the snow and low temperature of May 8.

The mass of birds were flying very low over the waterway, with the greatest concentration of swallows, Yellow and Myrtle Warblers, and Chimney Swifts at the Thacher Street bridge. This density seemed to be caused by the type of wall construction at this point. Elsewhere the retaining walls were of smooth concrete, but at the bridge was a section of old fashioned stone masonry laid without mortar. The swallows included Barn, Tree, Rough-winged and a lesser number of Bank Swallows. I saw no Cliff Swallows. Barn and Tree Swallows greatly outnumbered the others. High overhead and never entering the stream of swallows below were several hundred Chimney Swifts gyrating about like a cover of fighter planes high over a mass of bombers beneath. On the edge of the flowing water were more than a hundred Yellow Warblers and a lesser number of Myrtle Warblers, all intent on seeking food. A single Savannah Sparrow worked side by side with the Myrtles.