

The old stone masonry must have been full of "bugs." The swallows picked off bits of food on the wing and often alighted, clinging to the irregular stone-work and pecking at the interstices. Yellow Warblers fed on the old stones or joined the Myrtles at the edge of the water or along the base of the wall. A few of the Tree and Barn Swallows often alighted and sat, apparently sunning in the noon-day sunshine. Overhead the Chimney Swifts sought winged insects but never descended to mingle with the hordes of swallows. The phenomenon continued downstream and upstream with smaller numbers than those working over the old stone masonry.

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Waterfowl at Almond Dam, Steuben County: The Almond Dam, a federal flood control project on Canacadea Creek, has been designated for development as a local recreation area. During the 1966 spring season water has been impounded at a maximum controlled depth of 20 feet. The pool now has an expanse of mud banks in a former marsh-like area, stone rip-rap against the earthen dike, several shallow or island portions and a flooded area of abandoned farm land at the inlet. In view of the very small number of ducks found on the Hornell reservoir basins during the past few years, I thought it would be of interest to note their presence at the Almond Flood Control Damsite.

A group of eight Whistling Swan rested there during a snowstorm March 26. New ice appeared, but on March 29 Hooded Mergansers (two pair), Red-breasted Mergansers (eight), Herring Gulls (six) and one Pied-billed Grebe were present. Oldsquaw (four), Ring-necked Duck (four), Hooded Merganser (seven), the Pied-billed Grebe and the gulls were seen March 30, and nine Oldsquaws, 16 Hooded Mergansers and a few Mallards April 4. Four Black Ducks appeared April 8 plus 14 Hooded Mergansers, 15 Mallards and one pair each of Wood Duck and Blue-winged Teal. By April 9 the Pied-billed Grebes had increased to five and about 12 Common Snipe were in the marsh area. On April 11 there were one pair of Buffleheads, one Bonaparte's Gull and one male Common Merganser, the only drake seen although at one time five female Common Mergansers were noted. On April 16 three Horned Grebes (the only ones seen), six Buffleheads and 14 Bonaparte's Gulls were resting on deep water. Nine Bonaparte's Gulls and 19 Herring Gulls sat on a muddy islet in 28 degree temperature on April 17 and an Osprey investigated the inlet. The next day the Herring Gulls had increased to 30. One pair of Green-winged Teal was found April 21 and a pair of White-winged Scoters on April 25. On April 29 two Yellowlegs (spp?) were feeding at the inlet.

After their first sighting, the Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers and Buffleheads were predominant in numbers. Buffleheads often reached counts of 12-15, the mergansers 15-20. Scaups (spp?) never were above seven. The five Pied-billed Grebes remained until mid-May.

On May 15 two Common Terns coursed back and forth, and five Black Terns fed low over the water where flotsam had collected against the rip-rap, with a concentration of Barn and Tree Swallows. There has been very little of interest since that date, as men and bulldozers have been busy preparing to open the area to the public July 1.

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