

A bird fitting this description was seen at about this time by Conservation Dept. Biologists Adams, Minnick and Moseltine.

Is this a Canada X Snow Goose hybrid or a case of a mutation (partial albinism) of the Canada Goose? A checklist and bibliography of hybrid birds (Cockrum 1952, *Wilson Bull* 64(3): 140-159) does not list any known Canada X Snow Goose hybrid in the wild.

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Ed. Note: Over the past few years, several odd-plumaged geese, either hybrids or partial albinos, have been observed on Cayuga Lake and at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Common Grackles Catching European Chafers on the Wing: On July 2, 1966 at 9:00 p.m. EDT., Susan Howard and I noticed a flock of approximately 35 Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) alternately feeding on the ground and in the air. They were observed on the grass-covered playground of the North Rose Central School, Village of North Rose in Wayne County, New York. Ground feeding Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were interspersed within the grackle flock.

The grackles were noted flying up from the ground in hovering pursuit of countless winged, brown beetles. I later identified their prey as the European Chafer (*Amphimallon majalis* Raz.). We watched this unusual behavior for approximately 15 minutes, noting that a single grackle successfully caught a beetle in its beak about once in every 4 attempts. In addition, several grackles were observed flying up to and plucking chafers from the leaves of small deciduous shrubs in the school yard. They captured their quarry in their beaks while hovering in flight, and never lit in the foliage. It should be noted that grackles (perching birds) generally feed on the ground or in trees, and rarely on the wing.

The adult European Chafers are flying beetles which swarm about foliage at dusk, humming like bees. They belong to the family Scarabaeidae, and were introduced into this country about 25 years ago. They are a close relative of many native species of "June Bug", as well as the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*), and Oriental beetle (*Anomala orientalis*). The larval stage of the chafer is injurious to the roots of most grasses.

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A Summer Record of Rough-legged Hawk in Jefferson County: On July 9, 1966, I observed a dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk along Interstate Route 81 near Watertown. The specific locality was about a mile northwest of Watertown, near the point where the highway crosses the Black River. The area there is open meadow, ideal habitat for this species.

I first observed the bird when I was perhaps a half mile away, and as I drew closer its identity was obvious. The black and white underwing pattern, hovering flight, and white tail base were all conspicuous as I slowed my speed while driving by. The bird was no more than thirty or forty yards from the road and about thirty yards over the meadow. The time was about noon, and there was not a cloud in the sky. I did not use binoculars as I could hardly have had better views in any case.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, this is the first summer record for this species in New York State. According to the literature, the Rough-legged Hawk breeds no further south than Newfoundland, northern Quebec (Ungava Peninsula), and extreme northern Ontario. The present record would, therefore, be several hundred miles south of this range.

While there appear to be no summer records of this species for New York State, there are some summer records of this species south of its normal range. These include one seen in the Carolinas on June 2, 1964 which was killed some time later by

a truck (Fatora, *Chat* Vol. 30(2): 50, 1966), and one seen near Boston, Massachusetts up to June 29 of this year (*Mass. Audubon Newsletter* Vol. 6(1): 3, 1966).

I am indebted to Mr. David Gordon and Dr. David Peakall for much of the information in this note.

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More Notes on Red-Headed Woodpeckers near Oneida: Following the publication of my field note on Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in the Oneida area (*Kingbird* 13(4): 203, 1963), I have continued to check on their nesting sites each year. At that time about 15 locations were noted in this area. In 1964, 17 active nesting sites were mentioned in the regional report and 24 in 1965 (*Kingbird* 14(4): 228 and 15(4): 240).

This summer, 1966, all previous nesting sites were checked with a resulting total of 27 pairs, plus singles in six other places, which may represent 33 nestings. In addition, Mr. J. Heinz of Canastota has given me data indicating five more nesting pairs, none of which duplicate those listed above. All of these records are within ten miles of Oneida, with the heaviest concentration being south and southwest of that city. I have also had reports of one pair in Rome, one pair on the north shore of Oneida Lake at Cleveland, and two pairs near Nine Mile swamp in southeast Madison County.

In several places Red-headed Woodpeckers are coming to feeders, for both suet and seeds. Sunflower seeds are carried off one at a time, held on a branch or post while the meat is extracted, and a return trip made for another. At Palmer Drive in Wampsville, two pairs have nested near enough to use the feeders provided for them, and H. P. Nodecker in Kenwood also has two pairs using his feeders, with a third pair less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile away. The immature birds started coming independently to the feeders about Aug. 20. In both these places there is an abundance of dead trees, mostly elms, to provide suitable nesting.

It has seemed to me that fewer Redheads have been noticeable along the roads recently, in spite of the increase in numbers. The birds we have studied this year seem less likely to perch on roadside fence posts, but instead, keep well back in the fields and trees away from the roads, always preferring secluded areas.

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Example of Need for Caution in Publishing Reports of Rare Birds: Another example of the problems of field identification, and of the fact that even so-called "experts" can disagree, emphasizing the importance of caution in publishing positive reports of rare species, is cited below.

At 1:15 P.M. on Wednesday June 1, 1966, the attention of two graduate students of the Laboratory of Ornithology was drawn to a large falconiform bird circling over the Stuart Observatory. They alerted me, and with six or eight others I went outside to watch the bird. It was large, appearing all dark, but with a faint flash of light in the wings when it wheeled, and after a moment's observation I called out "Golden Eagle." In my own mind at that moment there was no doubt—only two months earlier I had had a number of sightings of this species and of the Bald Eagle, in the southwest, both from the ground and from an airplane. I ran for my camera and took several shots with a 240 mm lens, trying to get as good a silhouette as possible. During that time I was not observing the bird carefully, but others, two or three of whom confirmed my identification, had field glasses on it, and one telescope was also in use. We all agreed that the head seemed proportionately small and the tail rather long. The Eagle was in view about 10 minutes, circling slowly higher against a leaden sky (and also was seen a few minutes later over Mt. Pleasant by L. F. Pearsall.)

There was disagreement afterwards, among the observers, on the location of the pale under-wing areas (and in fact the observer with the telescope stated that the