

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.

Robert C. Walker, Dry Hill Rd., Watertown, 13601

David C. Gordon, 1347 Sherman St., Watertown, 13601

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 Chafer 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.

Dwight R. Chamberlain, School of Forestry and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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