

Albino Kingbird: On June 10, 1967, as we drove along Rte. 82 between Stanfordville and Washington Hollow in Dutchess County, a completely white robin-size bird flashed to our left. After stopping and observing the bird closely (15 feet at one time), Otis Waterman and I concluded it was a Kingbird. The bird had a yellow bill and legs, and dark eyes but otherwise was pure white. It made no sound though a normal Eastern Kingbird in the area did call.

Though I made several attempts to locate the bird again, it was not until July 6 that I received a phone call from the owner of the house in the yard of which we had first observed it, asking what the all-white bird might be. From then until August 14 the albino was seen almost daily by my husband. A number of others also had an opportunity to observe it, feeding in the air over a small marshy area and perching in low branches of wild cherry trees, preening and sunning itself. The bird was photographed on July 22 by Herbert Saltford and was last seen on August 27.

At no time was there any indication of its having been a breeding bird though a single normal Kingbird was often observed close by.

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Ed. Note: There are not many reports of albino flycatchers, though a cream-colored Phoebe was reported near Etna Oct. 13, 1952 (*Kingbird* 2(4): 90, Dec. 1952).

Odd Warbler at Caton Swamp, near Elmira: On June 24, 1967, Louise Fivie and I observed an unusual warbler on the road through Caton Swamp southwest of Elmira. As we were driving along I heard the song of a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) close to the road and stopped so that I could point it out to Louise. The warbler flew to a sparsely needled branch of a large hemlock that arched the road directly in front of us. I was surprised to see a completely yellow head and immediately consulted my Eastern Field Guide, with no satisfaction. After singing the typical Black-throated Green song for approximately five minutes, the bird flew away.

Since he was facing us, I had no view of his back, but the front view showed no green. However, there were the typical black throat and white underparts. The light was excellent for viewing with 7×50 binoculars.

Later, the only bird that I could find that closely resembled this one was the Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) of the western coast. Perhaps the bird was a hybrid Hermit-Black-throated Green, or it may have been Xanthochroism (excess of yellow in plumage).

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Immature Black-headed Gull at Sandy Pond Outlet, Oswego County: On July 22, 1967 at about 10:30 a.m. at the Sandy Pond outlet at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, C. G. Spies and I noted, with two Bonaparte's Gulls perched on a log in the outlet channel, a similar gull with a red bill. This gull was as much larger than the Bonaparte's as these were than Common Terns also on the log. A black spot behind the eye blended into a smudgy gray hood, the gray color extending forward to the eye and up from it across the top of the crown and back to the nape, where it cut off sharply. The head was otherwise white, as were the underparts. The tail was white except for the terminal 1/2 inch (about 1/5 the length of the tail beyond the coverts) which was black. As the tail was spread in preening, the black appeared to consist of a racket-shaped mark on the tip of each feather. The wings were the same gray as the wings of the Bonaparte's while the birds were perched. The feet were dark pink and the bill glowing dark coral red, seeming blackish on tip and ridge. The above markings were observed at about 400 ft. with 30× scope while the bird was perched, viewed against the water, part of the time preening its wings and tail.

When the gull flew to within 150 ft. of us, we noted with 9× and 7× binoculars that the underwing was partly gray, as dark as the darkest part of the mantle in the perched bird. Spies, with 7× binoculars, also saw a white triangle, like that of the Bonaparte's, on the upper wing surface.

After a few moments the gull returned to the log, where it was studied for about half an hour under a hazy-clear sky with the sun behind and to the left of the observers.

Directly we had noted the red bill, we realized this was not a Bonaparte's, but one of the other rare hooded gulls, so were watching for the other distinguishing marks, and made notes on them and sketches of the head while the bird was still under observation.

The above description fits a Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) which had hatched the previous summer. I had seen the species in Europe and — perhaps more relevant — two or three winter individuals with Bonaparte's at Newburyport, Mass., where they are regular though rare.

This is a first record for Region 5; there are about 11 other modern records (seven in Buffalo and four in the Rochester vicinity) for upstate New York.

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CORRIGENDUM: Vol. XVII, No. 2, May 1967, p. 85, Field note *Gull with Dark Slate-colored Mantle at Oswego* should begin: "On January 22, 1967..."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

In the past I have bemoaned the fact that the information on breeding populations is much less and much vaguer than that available for other seasons. Now there is some hope that the situation will be remedied by the data from the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Surveys. Les Bemont has made particularly good use of these surveys in his regional report and an interesting listing of the 'top 25' is given by Wickham in the summary of his report. The value of this data will increase from year to year. At the risk of boring my readers I will make an appeal for all observers to fill out nest record cards on all active nests that they found this summer.

The decline of the Henslow's Sparrow mentioned in the previous summary was well substantiated by several regional editors. The comments of those editors mentioning the species were as follows: Region 1: "absent from many previous breeding localities and the few active colonies consisted of few (two to four) pairs"; Region 2: "very scarce, being absent from most usual localities;" Region 3: "were missing from several usual stations, and were difficult to find;" Region 4: "five individuals on two breeding surveys, only three other reports;" Region 5: "a paucity of breeding nine known sites in 1967 (only half the normal number);" Region 8: "no reports for second summer in succession." The position of the Grasshopper Sparrow was more variable. Some regional editors considered it to be also decreasing but others reported good populations.