

FIELD NOTES

Great Cormorant at Cornwall-on-Hudson: On October 25, 1969, Mrs. Barbara Merritt of Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, reported that on October 19 she observed a Cormorant on the Hudson River near her home. She said that she was impressed by the unusually white belly and dark neck of the bird, and believed it to be an immature Great or European Cormorant. Upon report of the bird, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt, Mr. Paul Jeheber and I went to the river and found it on the low pilings where it had first been discovered. All of us are relatively unfamiliar with the species, seeing it only once or twice a year on occasional trips to the New England or Long Island shore. We could tell nothing from the size, but the bird did indeed have a very light belly and dark neck. It was an exact copy of Arthur Singer's illustration in *Birds of North America* by Robbins, et al. (p. 35). It was injured, its right wing drooping in the water. It was unable to fly, but could dive and apparently was successful in capturing food.

The bird disappeared on October 26 and reappeared November 2. While Mr. and Mrs. Merritt were observing it, a gunner in a boat nearby started shooting at it and eventually killed it. The bird was confiscated by the local game warden and eventually sent to the New York State Museum where it was confirmed as an immature male Great Cormorant by Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Associated Curator of Zoology.

Deed in his *Birds of Rockland County* (1959) mentions several records south of Piermont Pier more than ten years previously and all between October 25 and November 8. Bull in his *Birds of the New York Area* (p. 88) considers these records unsatisfactory. This record is the first inland specimen for the state.

Edward D. Treacy, Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

A Response to Mobbing Crows by an Immature Red-tailed Hawk: Most ornithologists have observed Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) mobbing Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), but few have provided detailed accounts of the interaction, particularly when a hawk attacks the mobbing crows; for example A. C. Bent (1937. USNM Bull. No. 167, p. 160) provides a single sentence of the situation. Thus, the following description is of interest.

The morning of Saturday, 28 September 1968, was cool, clear and bright. At 10:45 while feeding quail in my care at the Poultry Science Farm of Cornell University on Turkey Hill Road, Tompkins County, New York, I noticed an immature Red-tailed Hawk circle slowly over the fields at the edge of a wood-lot about 150 meters west of the pigeon loft. As I watched, two Common Crows flew east from the wood-lot towards the circling hawk. Both crows were giving mobbing vocalizations. The two crows alternately circled above the young red-tail and dived at it. The first crow to dive struck the hawk; the second crow dived, but the hawk dodged to one side, permitting the crow to drop beneath it. Both crows continued their mobbing vocalizations. Each crow again dived at the hawk while its companion circled above it, calling vociferously, and each time one of the crows dived, the hawk managed to avoid being struck by dodging and twisting at the last instant. A third crow appeared over the wood-lot and headed east in the direction of its fellow antagonists. As one of the original crows began its fourth dive on the hawk, the young bird dodged to its left, allowing the attacking crow to pass without contact. The diving crow continued to drop 3-4 meters below the young red-tail as it began to recover from its attempted