

The Mohonk Mountain House is situated on 7,500 acres of forests, lakes, streams and open fields. A great variety of habitat is available just outside your window, and you can bird from your balcony. However, field trips will, of course, be arranged, including one for the hardy who might wish to add the Bicknell's Thrush to their life list. This would require a strenuous 3-mile climb to the top of Slide Mountain, in the Catskills.

It is regretted that the date must conflict with that of the Allegany Pilgrimage, but spring weekends, especially during the mountain laurel season, are in great demand at the Mountain House. Automobiles are allowed to the door, but no further, and the 85 miles of carriage roads and trails are sacred to foot and horse traffic, with the exception of an occasional work truck. Swimming will be fine at that time, and all sports are available, for the jaded companions of avid birders.

Further details will be included in the next issue of the *Kingbird*.

ADDENDUM TO HAWK OWL RECORDS

Dr. K. C. Parkes has pointed out to me an additional record of the Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) to those listed in "The Kingbird" (Vol. 19 p. 187, 1969). This record, unrecorded in "The Kingbird" and "Audubon Field Notes," refers to one captured alive at Slide Mountain in the Catskills in mid-January 1953. It died in mid-April; photographs and the decayed body were identified by Dr. Parkes and the record published in the "Annals of the Carnegie Museum," Vol. 33, p. 156-7, 1964.

D. B. Peakall

FIELD NOTES

First Recorded Nesting of the Cattle Egret in New York State. The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) has occurred irregularly on Long Island since the first observation of an individual in East Moriches in the spring of 1954. To my knowledge, however, no nesting record either for Long Island or any other area in the State has been reported. I therefore wish to report the first observed nesting.

Gardiner's Island, Suffolk County, is a privately owned, undisturbed island, some 8 miles long, lying off the eastern end of Long Island. Near its northern end a vigorous colony of Black-crowned Night Herons and Snowy Egrets has existed for many years. For the past several years, several pairs of Little Blue Herons have also nested within this heronry. This year (1970) while engaged with several other ornithologists in our annual study of the reproductive success of the Osprey colony on the Island, we observed a Cattle Egret at a nest in the heart of the heronry on June 7. The nest was in a dense bank of catbrier (*smilax*). Upon returning to the Island on July 2-7 to band fledgling Ospreys, I observed two young Cattle Egrets among

the many young Snowy Egrets and Night Herons in the colony. Although not yet able to fly, they had left the nest and were climbing about in the dense vegetation. At least four young Glossy Ibis and a Common Egret, at its nest containing three eggs, were also observed in the heronry on this latter occasion.

Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven, N.Y.

Brant on Adirondack Pond: On 30 May, 1970, my husband and I stopped at the parking area at Chapel Pond, a small Adirondack Lake, in Essex County. We immediately noticed two Brant (*Branta bernicla*) on the pond. The smaller and duller of the two, presumably a female, appeared a little ruffled and one wing was drooping slightly. We studied the birds for some time with a Bausch & Lomb zoomscope as well as with our 8 × 30 Zeiss Dialyt binoculars, and then took a number of 35 mm pictures with 300 and 400 mm lenses. The birds were gone when we next visited Chapel Pond, two weeks later, and we have heard no other reports of them, so presumably they could fly, and left.

While this seemed to us a rather late date for Brant, and an unusual location, there are several other comparable spring records in the literature. Greenleaf Chase saw a Brant at Piseco near the end of May in 1954, and Margaret Rusk found one on the Sacandaga River east of Speculator on 17 June, 1968. Other late inland reports include sightings of two at Oswego Harbor on Lake Ontario until 9 June in 1955.

Sally Hoyt Spofford, Aviana, Etna, New York 13062

Purple Gallinule near Binghamton: banded. On May 16, 1970, a neighbor of mine in Vestal, one mile southwest of the city of Binghamton, captured an apparently exhausted bird which we identified as a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*). He took it to a veterinarian who found no apparent ailment, although the bird limped slightly. He was able to induce it to take bird seed, such as is purchased in bags at supermarkets. I banded the bird and asked to be kept informed of its condition.

On June 6th the bird seemed fully recovered and was taken to a small protected swamp (approximately 15 acres) a half mile from the place where it was first found. I noted that the bird seemed very alert and entirely healthy. However, I saw that the frontal plate which had been bluish in color when I had first seen the bird was now almost white. Otherwise the bird's coloring was brilliant. After release, it walked sedately across a small patch of grass toward the swamp pond, then flew across the water to a shrub on the far side and disappeared from view. Twice in the next week I looked for it with no luck. Dense alders mixed with marsh ferns and other vegetation grow around three-quarters of the edge of the swamp so it would be very easy for such a bird to keep out of sight.

The Reilly-Parkes Annotated Checklist (1959) indicates that most state records of the Purple Gallinule have been on Long Island. A specimen taken October 1, 1931 in the Cayuga Lake Basin was in the collection of the late Foster Parker, and there is a Peekskill record. Otherwise, the *Kingbird* gives only the following more recent upstate records: one in the Delaware-Hudson area in 1959, and one in Wyoming County in the spring of 1963.

Thus the Binghamton bird is a first for the Southern Tier, and one of very few upstate records, apparently the first one banded in this area.

Harriet Marsi, Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, N.Y. 13903

Northern Phalarope in Dutchess County: On the evening of August 17, 1970, Vivian Parkhurst and I were checking a flock of shorebirds in a small pond with many mud flats, located behind Buttermilk Pond on Route 82, about one and a half miles south of the village of Pine Plains.

We noted many Lesser Yellowlegs, one Dowitcher and several Least Sandpipers,