

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,

and while looking at them through a 20× telescope, a very white bird appeared from behind the grass along the edge of the pond. We noticed the fast movements as it fed. The bill was very slender, head narrow with a dark eye stripe. The black stripe of the neck seemed to spread out over the head. Its beak was black and the back was very dark with a lighter V-shaped marking.

Peterson's Field Guide verified our identification of the bird as a Northern Phalarope; the color and length of the bill were the deciding factors. For further verification we checked A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of Shore Birds*.

This is the only Dutchess County record since September 4, 1924. That earlier record was of a bird on a pond near Amenia, New York (*The Birds of Dutchess County* by Ludlow Griscom.) The county also has one record of a Wilson's Phalarope on May 15, 1965 near Lagrangeville. The 1970 Northern Phalarope was seen by a number of club members and photographed by several.

Thelma Haight, Stanfordsville, New York 13581.

Unusual Plumage of a Scarlet Tanager: On the morning of June 17, 1970, several members of the Naturalists Club of Broome County observed a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) in the top of a dead tree about 200 feet away. At first glance the bird suggested an oriole, except that the head, throat and back were entirely orange. The bird was singing a typical tanager song. The group observed the bird through binoculars for perhaps five minutes before it flew into the dead branches in the top of another smaller tree. We approached to within 100 feet and noted that there was a rather abrupt change from the orange throat to a rather dirty-white belly, easily observed even though the sky was somewhat overcast. The bird remained in the same tree for about five more minutes, singing almost continuously and occasionally preening himself, during which operation there appeared to be a suggestion of white wing-bars, but at other times the wings appeared to be solid black.

Neither the Peterson field guide nor Pearson (*Birds of America*) mention the orange plumage. Robbins et al (*Birds of North America*) says: "first year males occasionally are orange instead of red," although the bird in the corresponding illustration is much redder than the observed bird. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers and Allies*) quotes Dwight, who describes the juvenal plumage as "below, dull white, sulphur yellow on the abdomen," and the first nuptial plumage as "sometimes pale (vermilion) or mixed with orange." Bent himself says, "I have seen young males in this first nuptial plumage in which the body color is decidedly yellowish, varying from 'cadmium orange' to 'cadmium yellow' or 'light cadmium,' often more tinged with orange above and yellower below." Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*) says of young males in their first breeding plumage, "Some have orange or orange-yellow in place of scarlet." While all of these writers mention various aspects of the observed bird, none mention the combination of orange upper parts with the grayish-white underparts.

Observers: Shirley Elliott, Elva Hawken, Donna Kraus, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Marion Vanderlip, Elizabeth Washburn.

Mrs. Newell R. Washburn, 2008 Galaxy Drive, Vestal, N.Y. 13850

Ed. Note: This seems to be a variation of the occasionally-seen increase in yellow pigment in Tanagers: xanthochroism. There is a fine specimen of one which is uniform orange-yellow in color, with black wings, on display in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Lark Bunting in Dutchess County: While eating dinner on May 12th, 1970 at our home in Stissing, New York on Route 82, we were discussing a strange bird our uncle had seen at the feeder in the afternoon. He was just describing it when a male Lark Bunting appeared at our feeder. He was in beautiful spring plumage, all black with large white wing patches, yellow legs, and his head seeming rather bluish.