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NORTH AMERICAN HAWK MIGRATION CONFERENCE

The North American Hawk Migration Conference will be held in Syracuse April 18-21, 1974. Much valuable research on hawk migration has been done by individuals and organizations over the past 40 years, but little work has been done so far to correlate these studies. The purpose of the Conference therefore is to gather under one roof hawk-watchers from all over eastern North America to exchange observations on hawk migration, to set standards on record keeping, and to agree on ways of sharing and collating information on a continuing basis.

The Onondaga Audubon Society will act as host for the Conference, and Dr. Pershing B. Hofslund of the University of Minnesota is acting as Program Chairman.

Anyone interested in attending the Conference or in receiving more information about it should get in touch with the host committee chairman, Dorothy W. Crumb, 3983 Gates Road North, Jamesville N.Y. 13078

FIELD NOTES

Great Cormorant at Oswego Harbor, New York: Since May 1970 it has been known locally that the stationary buoys on the breakwaters in Oswego Harbor are favorite resting places of spring-migrant Double-crested Cormorants. Accordingly, on our "big run" May 19, 1973, when I arrived at the west harbor with Steve Grossman and R. D. Jenks, I immediately checked the buoys for this uncommon migrant, and noted that there were two cormorants perched on a distant one, off Fort Ontario in the east harbor. I had barely time to note, with 9X binoculars, that one cormorant seemed larger than the other, when the larger flew, giving a fleeting uncertain glimpse of an oval white patch on its flank. Tentatively dismissing this as a possible psycho-optical illusion, I postponed 'scope scrutiny of the remaining cormorant for closer range at Fort Ontario.

When we reached the Fort Ontario overlook, a cormorant was still or again on the buoy. Remembering the white flank patch impression (a feature I had never seen in life, as my experience with Great Cormorant had been with winter individuals on the Atlantic coast) I checked with 30X 'scope for a flank patch on *this* cormorant. Under a clear sky, looking north at approximately 1 P.M., about 0.75 mile away, I barely but distinctly discerned an oval white flank patch, confirming this to be an adult Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in breeding plumage.

Shortly, C.G. Spies arrived and confirmed the identification. With other observers we watched the Great Cormorant until about 4:00 P.M. The flank patch became more visible as the bird changed position in preening, and was also seen when it

flew. Other fieldmarks noted were the light (not bright yellow) bill and throat, the all-black appearance of the plumage other than flank patches and throat, and the apparently large size (although there was no other bird in the near vicinity for direct comparison.)

A (or "the") Great Cormorant was seen at Oswego Harbor later in the day by F. G. Scheider and others, and on May 20 by Schieder and by Spies and myself. The intriguing possibility remains that my initial sighting was of two Great Cormorants.

May 19th was a day of diminishing NW wind, and the 20th one of rain on a SE wind. The evening of the 18th had been rainy, with strong wind off Lake Ontario.

Dayton Stoner in *Ornithology of the Oneida Lake Region* (1932) lists two nineteenth century Great Cormorant specimens from Oneida Lake, and W. Earl Godfrey in *The Birds of Canada* (1966) notes a nineteenth century Toronto record. I have found no twentieth century Great Lakes area records. Unfortunately no photos were obtained of the 1973 Oswego bird.

Margaret S. Rusk, 242 W. Calthrop Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13205

Black-necked Stilt at Town of Perinton, Monroe County, New York: On June 3, 1973 a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) was observed at the corner of Wakeman Road and Rt 31F in the Town of Perinton, 3 miles east of the village of Fairport, Monroe County. It was standing on a small island in a farm pond of approximately 3/4 acres. The time was approximately 9:00 a.m. and light conditions were excellent.

Although this was a "life bird" for me, the shape and contrasting white and black pattern left no doubt as to its identity. The black of the back extended from the crown to the tip of the tail, including the wings, while the white extended from the forehead to the under tail coverts. The legs were very long and light red; the bill black and seemed slightly upturned. The light and distance were such that even the red iris was visible with 10X binoculars.

Some references state that the female has a brownish cast to the back. If this is the case, I would be inclined to call this bird a male.

The bird was observed by at least 20 persons including the farm manager who stated that it was also present on June 2.

Michael Tetlow, 545 Macedon Center Road, Fairport, New York 14450

Editor's note: This appears to be the first record for a Black-necked Stilt for western New York—Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5. While the photographs taken of it are readily recognizable, they are not of sufficient quality for publication. JWT.

Additional data on the Razonbill specimen: — Recently the body of the Razonbill (*Alca torda*) reported as the first inland specimen for New York (Cutright, N.J. 1973. Kingbird 23:138-140) was given to me. The body had been frozen since the skin was removed for mounting. Dissection revealed that the bird was a non-breeding male, with testes measuring 5 mm X 2 mm. The bright yellow mouth lining of an adult bird was present. However, characters of the bill and plumage indicate that the bird was in the first winter.

All internal organs were intact and free of gross lesions except that the lungs and lateral airsacs were blackened with the sporulating hyphae of *Aspergillus*. *Aspergillus*, a fungal disease of birds (and mammals) is caused by *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a near relative of black bread mold. This disease, reported from many