

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Boreal Owl found on Ocean Parkway, Long Island, New York. On January 15, 1975, I observed an owl lying dead on Ocean Parkway near Cedar Beach, in western Suffolk County. Adjacent to the road were dense stands of Pitch Pine and Japanese Black Pine, a habitat in which Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) occur in varying numbers each winter. Believing the bird to be a Saw-whet Owl, I stopped and retrieved the specimen. Later, however, closer examination proved the bird to be a Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). The light yellow beak, speckled forehead, and black lining of the facial discs separated this owl from its smaller relative, the Saw-whet. The specimen was in excellent condition, having suffered only a broken left wing and head injuries.

The Boreal Owl is a rare winter visitant to the northern portions of New York State. There are two old specimens from northern Connecticut (Bent, 1926) and Bull (1964) mentions one recent specimen from New Jersey, found after having struck the Raritan Arsenal on November 1, 1962. The present specimen is the first record for Long Island. Identification was confirmed by John Bull of the American Museum of Natural History; the specimen is presently No. 821687 in the collection of that institution.

The true status of the Boreal Owl on Long Island cannot be determined on the basis of this one specimen. Roy Latham, in more than seventy years' experience on the Orient Peninsula, has no record for this species. He is of the opinion, however, that in light of a number of records from Rhode Island, the Boreal Owl does occur irregularly in small numbers on Long Island (Latham, pers. comm., Feb. 7, 1975). Being of a nocturnal nature, however, and because of its retiring habits during the daytime, it may be overlooked. Now that it has been proven that the Boreal Owl may occur on Long Island in winter, the pine groves that are the winter haunts of the Saw-whet Owl should be checked carefully to try to determine the exact status of this northern wanderer.

Ken Feustel, 22 Pond Place, Babylon, New York 11702.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, A. C. 1926. *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*. Dover Publications, New York.
Bull, John. 1964. *Birds of the New York Area*. Harper and Row, New York.

For an account of earlier occurrences of the Boreal Owl in New York State, see *The Kingbird*, 1965, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 74-76. —Eds.

Swainson's Warbler at Forest Park, Queens Co., New York City. On May 10, 1975, the author, accompanied by John Carabella and Elaine Cook, discovered a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) at Forest Park, Queens Co., New York. Alerted immediately by us, Stephen B. Dempsey, Dave Ewert, Michael Gochfeld, Michel Kleinbaum and Tom Robben subsequently observed the bird. All our observations took place in oak forest, in heavy undergrowth on the slopes of a glacial pothole. This individual was a particularly dull Swainson's in that its crown was only slightly reddish-brown in contrast to the brown back. The creamy white eyeline, dingy white underparts and longish bill were clearly noted. As Kleinbaum observed the bird, an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) flew at it, chipping loudly. The Swainson's flew a short distance, and a second Ovenbird immediately began harassing it. As if this were not enough, the bird was approached too hurriedly by birders anxious for a glimpse, and it took flight and vanished altogether. The combined efforts of