

Praying Mantis Captures Solitary Vireo: On 14 October 1975, members of the Great South Bay Audubon Society, led by Dr. Melvin Boskin, were proceeding down a path in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary in the town of Oyster Bay, Long Island. They heard the distress calls of a bird from some nearby low trees. Going in the direction of the calls, they came upon a Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) dangling by one wing from the forelegs of a praying mantis, which was attempting to chew on the wing of the bird. The bird and insect were promptly separated by members of the field trip, and the vireo flew away apparently unharmed; the mantis was left chewing on some feathers.

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We have been unable to find in the literature, an earlier published record of a mantis capturing a bird. It is unlikely that the mantis would have been able to do more than damage the feathers of the vireo. —Eds.

Veery in December in Ontario County: On 27 December 1975 at about 3:00 p.m., during the Geneva Christmas Bird Count of the Eaton Ornithological Society, Cathy Walsh and I were searching for birds from a bridge over a brushy gully along the narrow drive leading from Route 14 to Houghton House on the Hobart-William Smith College campus in Geneva, Ontario County. While we were watching, a thrush flew out of the gully and landed in a barberry bush about 30 feet away. Using 7 x 35 binoculars we identified it as a Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*). We examined it carefully through a 20x Balscope Senior. It was all rusty above, with small blurred breast spots not extending very far down the breast. A faint eye ring was present, but not as prominent as in Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*). It did not seem to be in very good condition. It sat very quietly with feathers extremely fluffed out, and allowed us to approach to within fifteen feet. At one point it ate a barberry and hiccuped several times. We observed it for about ten minutes, and it was still there when we left. About 300 yards farther on we found two Hermit Thrushes (*C. guttatus*) in an area of hawthorn and buckthorn. On several subsequent visits to the area, we were unable to find the Veery again.

Cathy Walsh has both state and federal banding licenses, and we have been banding birds for six years. We are both familiar with all the eastern thrushes, and have banded all except the bluebird.

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The occurrence of the Veery in winter in New York State has not yet been verified with a specimen. —Eds.