

denly appeared from Croton Bay on the east side of the point, accompanied by several Great Black-backed Gulls. Its wingspread was about a foot longer than that of the gulls. Its mantle, upper wings and tail were black, its rump, body and face white, with the nape and back of the head suffused with gray. As it rounded the point it flapped twice, shearwater-style, on stiff, narrow wings, revealing their undersides to be white with a well-defined narrow black edge all around. Continuing north along the point the bird passed within 30 feet of us, about 15 feet below eye level. At that time a bright yellow stripe running the length of the culmen of its massive, blunt-tipped, black bill was clearly seen, both with and without binoculars. The bird disappeared from view to the north and, in spite of intensive searching throughout the Hudson River Valley the next day, was not seen again.

Hurricane "Belle" brought other pelagic strays in its wake. Several Bridled and Sooty Terns and many Leach's Storm-petrels were reported on the coast. A White-faced Storm-petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) was found dead August 11 at Milford Point, Connecticut. At least 30 Leach's Storm-petrels were scattered along the Connecticut River Valley into New Hampshire. (Reports *fide* T. H. Davis.).

We understand this is the second New York State record for Yellow-nosed Albatross, and the first inland. Other East Coast reports of this species this summer were immatures noted August 20, 40 miles west of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and August 21 at Cox's Ledge, 40 miles ESE of Montauk Point, New York.

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**Common Eider in Elmira:** At mid-afternoon, 25 April 1976, I observed a female Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) about 1/4 mile west of the Walnut Street Bridge on the Chemung River in Elmira, Chemung Co. It was in the vicinity of a mixed flock of diving ducks including several Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*), three female Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), one male Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), and one female and two male scaups (*Aythya* sp.). The female eider accompanied the three scaups at all times. It attracted my attention because it did not have the white face of a female scaup, and because it was much larger than any of the scaups. When I viewed the bird from behind, I noted that its girth was much greater than that of a male scaup less than two feet to her right. The eider was entirely brown, except for the bill which was all blackish. The left side of the face had a buffy eye ring and a faint buffy line that arched back and downward from the eye ring. The right side of the face also had a buffy eye ring, but the line was fainter so that it did not appear to be connected to the eye ring. Because of the large size, chunky shape, brown color,

and lack of any noticeable white patches in the plumage, I concluded that the bird was an eider. I then referred to *Birds of North America* (Robbins *et al.*, 1966) to find out the field marks for differentiating the species of eiders, and continued to observe the bird in order to get a good look at the bill. When the bird faced me, I noted that the exposed portion of the upper mandible was very long, extending high onto the forehead, nearly to the eyes. From the side, this extension of the upper mandible made the feathered area beneath it appear unusually large. I observed the bird at a distance of about 100 yards through a Balscope Zoom 60, set at 20-30X. The sky was heavily overcast, but no rain was falling while I studied the bird. Stormy weather earlier in the day was undoubtedly responsible for the large variety of migrating ducks, gulls, and terns present in the area that day. Others who later observed the bird were: Wilfred Howard (610 Coburn Street, Elmira, New York 14904) and Mary Welles (1225 Horseheads-Big Flats Road, Elmira, New York 14903).

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**Red-tailed Hawk preys on Common Gallinule:** On the afternoon of 9 May 1976, while banding three nestling Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) we found the foot of an adult Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) in the nest. The nest, located approximately 65 feet above ground in the crown of a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), overlooks Clay Swamp in Onondaga County. The adult birds were observed on numerous previous occasions hunting over the marsh or perched atop electric transmission poles in the marsh.

The Common Gallinule has previously been reported as prey of Red-tailed Hawks (see Bent, *Life Histories of North America Birds of Prey*, Vol. 1, 1937, page 157), but to the authors' knowledge, this is the first such report for New York State. The occurrence is probably not uncommon around marshes in central New York.

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**Pine Siskin breeding on Staten Island:** A pair of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) was observed feeding two young at a thistle feeder in the New Dorp section of Staten Island, Richmond County, beginning June 19, 1976. The birds were a remnant of the flock of twenty-five or more which had used the feeder during