

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Lark Sparrow in Ontario County: On December 3, 1976, a Lark Sparrow was first observed by my father at a feeder at our home in Clifton Springs, Ontario County. The bird had a white throat bordered with black, and bordered again with white, along with a chestnut cheek patch and chestnut crown stripes; between the chestnut cheek and the crown was another creamy stripe, and there was a median crown stripe, also creamy-white. A conspicuous central breast spot was evident, more prominent than that of the Tree Sparrow. The back was grayish, and the tail was rounded, the outer tail feathers being conspicuously white. The bird spent its time (one-half hour observation) either perched in a pine tree or on the feeder eating seed.

According to John Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, pp. 581-582), the Lark Sparrow winters chiefly in the southern United States and south to El Salvador, and very rarely along the Atlantic coast north to southeastern New York. It is a rare but regular fall migrant along the coast, much rarer in the spring, and very rare in the interior. All six birds recorded by Bull from the interior were spring birds. The present record appears to be the first fall or winter Lark Sparrow in the interior of New York State, and only the seventh inland record.

The bird remained in the area for several days, and was last seen on December 11, a day marked by temperatures above 50° F. (10° C.), warm breezes, and little or no snow cover. The identification was verified by Cathy Walsh, Matthew Trail and Walter Benning, and the bird was photographed by Paris Trail (photograph on file at the American Museum of Natural History, New York).

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Franklin's Gull on the St. Lawrence River: On 2 January 1977 at Oak Point, St. Lawrence Co., I observed a Franklin's Gull for a period of an hour and a half, while the bird was at rest and in flight. This gull had a uniformly brownish-gray mantle with a trailing wing edge of white. There was a distinct diagonal, white slash separating the brownish-gray wings from black wing tips. The tail was entirely white. The head pattern could best be described as mottled. The black markings and streakings were limited to, but covered most of, the crown and cheek. The black extended right up to a prominent half eye-ring. The occiput, nape, forehead, lore, and chin were white. The lower mandible shape gave the bill a stout or full look, but it was my impression that it was not as stout as that of the Laughing Gull. Prior to these observations a general sense of size was noted. Although it was only in the company of Great Black-backed Gulls, I was able to judge its size directly as four separate Common Goldeneyes passed behind this gull. At this time the gull was resting on the edge of the ice and open water. One goldeneye was the same size as the gull, but the gull was smaller than each of the other three ducks.

To summarize, this was a small, extensively hooded gull with a uniformly