NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Fulvous Whistling-Duck found dead in Bronx County: On 16 Nov 1990, a Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) was found dead in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County, New York City. This represents the second documented occurrence of this species in the county, the first being in 1971 at nearby Van Cortlandt Park (Bull, J. Supplement to Birds of the New York City Area. *Linn. Soc. N. Y., Proc.* 71:1-54; 1971). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck had been reported from Pelham Bay approximately one week earlier by several observers, who saw it feeding with American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) and Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) in both fresh and salt water habitats. The intact carcass of the Fulvous Whistling-Duck was found by Hugh Martin and the author at the margin of a freshwater pond when an immature female Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) flew up from the body of the freshly dead bird. Although we did not see the hawk actually make the kill, the condition of the Fulvous Whistling-Duck when examined closely (full crop, no broken bones, and plumage in excellent condition) strongly suggests that predation by this hawk was the cause of death. The specimen was subsequently presented to the American Museum of Natural History and is now part of its permanent collection.

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Inland migration of Common Loon over the Finger Lakes Region of New York: The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is a local breeder in New York State, but it is not uncommon as a migrant inland during both spring and fall. The species is especially numerous along the south shore of Lake Ontario during migration. Although these migrants must pass over the bulk of inland New York on the way to and from the Atlantic coast wintering grounds, there are few records of large numbers away from Lake Ontario. Bull (1974. *Birds of New York State.* Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY) lists fall maxima from inland New York of 275 at Cayuga Lake on 9 Nov 1969, 700 off Rochester on 18 Nov 1967 and 600 there on 27 Nov 1653; and spring maxima of 550 at Oneida Lake on 12 Apr 1960, 350 off Pultneyville on 26 Apr 1962, and 700+ at Webster on 27 Apr 1974.

Only two inland maxima were obtained away from Lake Ontario, and all were recorded in April or November. On two occasions during November 1989, the author and other members of a graduate student birding group observed large numbers of migrant Common Loon at the south end of Cayuga Lake in Ithaca. On 10 Nov 1989 we counted 80+ individuals flying south over our lake side location from 7: 30 to 9:30 AM. The following week on 17 Nov 1989, we tallied 400 loons in 2 hours (7:30-9:30 AM). The birds were migrating both singly and in groups of up to 10-15 individuals. It seemed quite obvious that the birds were using the lake as a natural "highway," as most were seen coming in over the lake, passing over us as they continued south. There were also many loons on the lake itself (30-40), including a single Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

Undoubtedly these birds were moving south from Lake Ontario towards the Atlantic Coast. It would be interesting to know whether Common Loon uses this route through Cayuga Lake (and the other Finger Lakes) regularly but are seldom detected in such large numbers, or if such maxima occur only under unusual circumstances. To investigate this question I examined the weather records (U. S. Environmental Data Service. 1953-1989. *Daily Weather Maps*. U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington, DC) for the day of and the day prior to each of the inland fall maxima reported in Bull (*op. cit.*) as well as for the days reported here. No simple set of weather circumstances linking the observations emerged from this analysis. Given the vagaries of weather, this comes as no surprise. There were, however, some general similarities in the weather between the days on which maxima were recorded. First, on all five dates a frontal system associated with a low pressure system was moving either over the region or just to the west of the area the day before or the day of the observation. Second, the region experienced precipitation the day before the observation, on the day of the observation, or on both; low pressure systems usually bring rain. Third, freezing temperatures often occurred just to the north or throughout the region before or on the day of the observation. That migrating birds often travel on the leading edge of frontal systems has been known for some time. From the available evidence it would appear that Common Loon is not different in this regard. The relative sparsity of records of large numbers of the species in the Finger Lakes region south of Lake Ontario is likely to be related to lower observer effort during their migration period. Observers are especially unlikely to be out under the conditions (*i.e.*, overcast, rainy weather) often associated with the detection of large numbers of loons over

inland New York. Birding at such times can be particularly rewarding since many other waterfowl, especially many sea ducks, migrate during the same period. Further information about the size and timing of migration in this region may be useful to those interested in censusing loons or other waterfowl.

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