

The KINGBIRD

Cackling Goose in the Cayuga Lake Basin: On Thursday, October 1, 1959, a wild Canada Goose dropped in on the pond at Sapsucker Woods and attempted to join our six captive Canadas, but was kept at a distance by the six. The following day a total of 21 wild geese were on the pond, and by late afternoon they were feeding with the captive waterfowl under the Laboratory windows. It was immediately evident that one goose was far smaller and darker than the others and had a relatively shorter neck. Its bill was particularly noticeable as it was stubby and gave the head quite a different profile from those of the other geese.

This small goose remained with us for two weeks, and it was seen by numerous observers at a distance of a few feet as it grazed under the windows. I have had considerable experience with the Cackling Goose both on its nesting ground in Alaska and its wintering ground in California, and I had no hesitancy in identifying this bird as a perfectly typical example of the small dark race of the Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis minima*, which nests in Alaska and normally winters in the Sacramento Valley. It was certainly far out of its migration path, and we would like to think that word of our Refuge at Sapsucker Woods is really getting around!

The wild geese left the pond each day to feed in neighboring fields. On October 17 the Cackler returned limping; the following day it was missing, and it did not appear again.

Fritz Scheider reports that on November 22 a similar Cackling Goose appeared at Howland's Island Game Management Area where several weeks earlier he had also seen an apparent Richardson's Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*). These are the first reports of the Cackling Goose in the Finger Lakes Region—Arthur A. Allen, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

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