

274 Scott Street, Wellsville, N. Y.

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JOHN B. BELKNAP

Without doubt the bird was carried north by the hurricane of October 15, which passed across the interior of the state, farther inland than is usual for storms of this type. Other records for the state, given below, can be attributed to hurricanes originating in the West Indies.

The earliest of these which has come to my attention, is given by Maynard (1881), who is quoted as follows: "A specimen of the Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, evidently a straggler, was, singularly enough, taken in the interior of New York State, about the middle of November 1870." More information is available concerning the bird secured by Rev. J. H. Langille in September 1876. Langille (1884) writes: "A young male of this species, rare even on the Gulf Coast, was brought to me alive in Orleans County in September 1876. It was picked up in a state of exhaustion in a clover field, after a heavy storm from the southwest." The storm was probably the hurricane of September 18, 1876 which, like the recent one of October 1954, passed across the interior of the state and would account for the presence of the tropic bird at an inland point.

The Langille specimen was at one time in the State Museum, and a picture of it appears in Eaton (1910). Other references may be found in Short (1896), and Farr (1900). Eaton, Short and Farr give the place of capture as Knowlesville. Short has the date as 1878 but is obviously referring to Langille's bird. Eaton, although mentioning Maynard (1881) in his references, seems to imply that it is the same record as that of Langille. Farr, on the other hand, first mentions the Orleans County specimen and goes on to say: "One other state record, see Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America."

This gives two records for the nineteenth century, but pertinent details for only one of them are now available. The only tropic birds known to have occurred in the state between 1876 and 1954 came in 1938 and are reported in Cruickshank (1942): "As a result of the devastating hurricane of 1938 specimens of this beautiful species were sprinkled over the northeast. Three birds were recorded in our region. One was seen flying over Jones Beach, L. I., Sept. 25 (Brennan, Tengwall, Russell), and two were picked up dead at Easthampton, L. I. in October. (Helmuth)"

To summarize, there appear to be six records for the state, consisting of two old records in the 1870s, three birds found dead, and one sight observation. As already noted, the appearance of the tropic bird in the north is usually associated with hurricanes, this type of storm being well known for its ability to deposit southern oceanic birds far north of their normal range.

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Ed. Note: Two other Yellow-billed Tropic Birds were found after Hurricane Hazel 1954 — one at Staunton, Va., and one near Gettysburg, Pa. Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 9, No. 1.