

I watched this tern with binoculars and Balscope as it fished over shallow water about two hundred yards from shore. Occasionally it came to rest on a wooden pile protruding from the water, and at one time I was able to approach by boat to within twenty feet of the bird. At this distance I used a 135 mm. lens to obtain two 35 mm. color shots which showed the black crown and white forehead and the yellow legs and bill.

The tern remained in the area throughout that day, but the following morning it was gone and was not reported again.—Albert W. Fudge, 326 Larchmont Road, Elmira.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Rensselaer County. — The Schenectady Bird Club periodically schedules field trips to Tomhannock Reservoir, a few miles northeast of Troy, because often quite a few waterfowl are present there. Such a trip was conducted on November 4, 1956. Some 15 observers including the writer, in five cars, were driving slowly along a road on the eastern edge of the reservoir when suddenly the lead car stopped. A long slim land bird was seen flying across the road, and it was immediately obvious that this was something out of the ordinary. The bird lit atop a small tree about 20 yards from the road, and identification of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was simultaneously made by several observers, one of whom had previously seen the species in Texas. The bird soon darted behind a large grove of pine trees and attempts to relocate it were in vain.

While the bird was perched, facing us, the elongated tail feathers were, of course, immediately apparent. The underparts were largely whitish, but the bay sides were noted as the bird flew off. The dark streak through the eye was also clearly noted. The bird was completely silent during the period in which it was under observation.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, for no apparent reason, turns up from time to time in the northeast. The last previous record of which I know was of an individual present in Quebec for about two weeks in the spring of 1955 (Audubon Field Notes 9 (4): 320.) Not unexpectedly, this is Region 8's first record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.—J. K. Meritt, 16 Ellen Lane, Scotia, 2

Wood Duck diving for fish. — At Baldwinsville, Onondaga County, the Seneca River is dammed for power production and water reserve for the Barge Canal. The stretch of water below this dam is one of swift currents and relatively shallow water (25 to 10 feet). The rapid current usually keeps this shallow area open through the winter and consequently this spot is a good area to check for wintering dabbling ducks. On 8 Jan. 1956, while checking over the Mallards and Black Ducks on an island some distance from shore, Mr. David Griffin and I noticed a small, dark duck clumsily dive in the north channel of the river, a section of the river about 6 or 7 feet deep and about 30 yards away from us. It surfaced and proved to be a female Wood Duck holding a small, blackish fish in its bill; it quickly maneuvered the fish into position and swallowed it head first. It then again dove, surfacing quite close to us (about 20 yards away from the shore on which we were standing). In its bill the bird held what appeared to be a small yellow perch, judging by the orange ventral fins and the dark green-barred sides, features easily visible through the binoculars. After some head shaking, the duck positioned this fish and swallowed it. It dove three more times but was not seen to catch any fish in these attempts. A nearby male Wood Duck, resting on an ice shelf on the bank of the river and heretofore unnoticed, was seen pummeling a small fish. After vigorous picking and pounding, he readied the fish and swallowed it head first. The male was not seen to dive for the fish but may very well have obtained it in the same fashion that the female had.—Fritz Scheider, 151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

A Long Island nesting of the Mockingbird. — In 1844 Giraud, writing in "The Birds of Long Island" (p. 82), reported the Mockingbird as nesting occasionally on Long Island. No further definite breeding records for the island were obtained until

1956, when two nests were discovered. There are indications, however, that sporadic breeding may have occurred in the intervening years. Cruickshank reported in "Birds Around New York City" (1942, p. 336), that a pair was suspected of nesting at Montauk during the Summer of 1934. In 1955 Mrs. Brown of Easthampton, informed Leroy Wilcox of Speonk that a bird she believed to be a Mockingbird was nesting in her garden. On May 20 the writers in company with Wilcox and C. McKeever visited the site, but the nest, which was situated about three feet from the ground in a small but dense blue spruce, had been disturbed by a cat. Neither the adults nor the contents of the nest could be found. Mr. Wilcox collected the nest, which had the appearance of having been built by this species, but in view of the lack of positive identification, this cannot be considered a positive nesting record.

During the Summer of 1956 McKeever regularly observed a single Mockingbird on the outer beach just west of the inlet to Mecox Bay near Watermill, but no mate or evidence of nesting was seen. On July 22 the bird was seen by the writers, and on July 28 the writers in company with Paul Stoutenburgh of Cutchogue noticed two adult birds in the same vicinity. As we watched, one of them flew into a 15-20 foot scrub pine, one of a clump of several close to a small beach house, where it was joined by the second bird. Upon investigating, we found the nest about seven feet from the ground, well out near the end of a horizontal branch. It contained two nearly fledged young. After a quick look we left the nest undisturbed. Both parents remained nearby, scolding in great distress until our departure. The find was reported to Wilcox, who visited the site a few days later. He found that the young had left the nest, but succeeded in locating and photographing them.

The other nest discovered this year was located on western Long Island near Rockaway by John Bull and is being reported separately. In view on the increasing number of occurrences of this species during recent winters, it appears probable that additional nests will be discovered from time to time, and it is not impossible that the species may reestablish itself as a permanent resident after an absence of over a century.—Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven; Gilbert S. Raynor, Manorville, Long Island.

REGIONAL REPORTS

THE WINTER SEASON — DECEMBER 1956 THROUGH MARCH 1957

1956, which must certainly have established a record for continuing low temperatures, finally gave us respite with an Indian Summer which lingered well into December. This period was terminated during late December and January by periods of poor weather and intense cold. Temperatures well below zero were recorded, and even on Long Island birders found Great South Bay frozen during the waterfowl count period. Any birder who took the field during the winter noticed the striking effect this weather had on populations. He found: (1) very few winter finches and allies like Red-breasted Nuthatches, and (2) a number of semi-hardy birds who waited too long and never did migrate, their instinct failing them when the cold weather did strike. Dr. Gunn of Toronto indicates that the finches remained in the far north. This would make the two effects of the lingering autumn the same: neither group moved south. Spring was more usual than it appeared. Sunny days did not provide enough warmth to make the migration start early.

The Three-toed Woodpecker invasion produced in Region 1, 3 birds; 2,