

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