

FIELD NOTES

Barrow's Goldeneyes in Jefferson County: On November 27, 1960, three Barrow's Goldeneyes were shot at Stony Point on Lake Ontario. One was a male, and this was taken by Elmer Wagner of the Watertown office of the New York State Conservation Department to Case Junior High School, Watertown, where it was mounted and added to the collection of birds.

The day was cloudy with a temperature of 50 degrees and no wind, which is hardly ideal for hunting ducks. About two o'clock four ducks approached the decoys. They came easily and seemed unafraid. In fact they were described as "rather foolish." Their behavior was much like that of the Common Goldeneye, several of which (both male and female) were also taken. The fourth Barrow's Goldeneye, which was not collected, was a male. The identity of the specimens was established by comparison.

For other records of Barrow's Goldeneye in New York State as published in the **Kingbird** see: Parkes, Kenneth C., "The Barrow's Goldeneye in New York," (Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 54) and Lesperance, Thomas A., "Barrow's Goldeneye at Ausable Point, Lake Champlain" (Vol. 5, No. 2 p. 39). There have also been several reports of this bird in recent winters from the Hudson River near Albany. — Frank A. Clinch, 173 Haley Street, Watertown.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on Long Island: The appearance of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Atlantic Beach on October 29, 1960, brought numerous observers into the area, and most of them had excellent views of this spectacular bird. This rarity was discovered by Paul Buckley of the Bronx. The bird was in excellent plumage, its long scissor-like tail guiding it accurately as it flew from perch to perch and occasionally as it flew in spectacular swoops after some insects.

The bird was seen to hop a foot or two from its perch and grab passing insects, at other times to swing out after them, and it was observed to supplement its insect diet with the ripening berries of the Russian olive, large bushes of which were spread around in clumps at the rear of the Atlantic Beach swimming clubs. The bird remained in this area for about eight days; it was last seen on November 6.

The Scissor-tail prove itself to be a dominant bird in the area. It arose gracefully to prominent perches such as high wires or television aerials, but at other times when feeding on berries it would naturally be found within the leafy structure of the bushes.

Long Island's only other record for this species is one seen on November 23, 1940, by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Austin at the Coast Guard Station at Gilgo. This record is in Allan D. Cruickshank's "Bird Around New York City," published in 1942 (Ed — The Scissor-tail is one of several western flycatchers that have appeared along the Atlantic seaboard from time to time during the latter part of the fall migration. This particular occurrence of the Scissor-tail marks at least the third New York State record in the last twenty years. John Elliot cites the 1940 record above. The intervening record was an inland one, at Tomhannock Reservoir near Troy, on November 4, 1956; an account of this record is given in the May, 1957, issue of the **Kingbird** (Vol. 7, No. 1, p. 14). — John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford Long Island.

A Ground Nesting of Mourning Doves: As I was engaged in bird-banding activities in late June, 1957, at the village of Peru, I located a Mourning Dove's nest on a hummock of saw grass in a small swamp. The swamp was the result of the impoundment of the waters of the Little Ausable River just above the Mason saw mill. The body of water extends upstream about one-half mile and comprises about twenty acres. As silt and debris gradually accumulated, an extensive bog began to grow on the northwest portion of the upper pond. In time the bog became covered with grasses, and eventually alders, pines, larch or tamarack, and several other species of trees became established. At the time of discovery of the nest, the average height of the trees was about fifteen to eighteen feet.

Inasmuch as Mourning Doves had many times in the past used these tree branches, especially those of the larch, as nesting sites, it was with some surprise that I came across the ground nesting. Only a few yards away stood an adequate