

Early Indigo Bunting on Long Island: On April 17, 1961, a changing male Indigo Bunting was seen at a feeding station at Huntington, Long Island. It was noticed at about 6:00 P. M. and was there all the next day. It was observed picking up millet and other small seeds on the ground in the company of a half-dozen House Finches.

The bird had large patches of blue in its body plumage. On April 20 another changing male (or possibly the same bird) was seen on the grounds of Hicks Nurseries, Dix Hills, eight to ten miles away.

According to Allan D. Cruickshank (*Birds Around New York City*, 1942) the earliest Indigo Bunting was one on April 18, 1935, at Central Park, New York City (Rich). Cruickshank also lists the second earliest as seen in East Hampton, Long Island, on April 20, 1924 (Helmuth). In 1950, according to J. J. Elliott's "Long Island Bird Notes" (a weekly bird column in *The Long Island Daily Press*), Indigo Buntings appeared on the grassy coastal strip at Gilgo, Long Island, with single birds seen April 22, 24, 26 and 29 of that year.

Aside from the Huntington bird mentioned above, only one other record apparently appears where the Indigo Bunting was apparently placed in the unique position of associating with House Finches (a far western bird introduced locally, now common on Long Island and in Connecticut). This was on April 21, 1950, at a Hewlett, Long Island, feeding station (Dr. B. Berliner).

Aaron M. Bagg of Dover, Massachusetts, has made a prolonged study of flights of early Indigo Buntings and has correlated them with meteorological conditions. He usually traces these flights from the Gulf of Mexico across through the Atlantic Coast and northward. Numerous observers have recorded this easily identified and colorful species after such favorable winds. They are usually found coastally: on Long Island, Block Island, in Massachusetts, and as far north as Nova Scotia — Earl M. Good, Seaman Neck Road, Huntington, Long Island, and Hugh F. Pemberton, RFD 4, Huntington, Long Island.

Notes on Some Unusual Nesting Sites: The note by Thomas Lesperance (*Kingbird*, Dec., 1960, p. 166) on a ground nesting of the Mourning Dove calls to mind several unusually placed nests which have come to my attention.

Some years ago (I am unfortunately not certain of the date) I discovered a nest of the Mourning Dove on the ground in a wheat field on my father's farm at Ira, Cayuga County. The nest, like that reported by Lesperance, was rudimentary. A Kodachrome picture shows clearly that there were no sticks of any kind, the entire nest consisting of a few weed stems and roots loosely thrown together. There could be no question, such as was raised by Lesperance with regard to the nest he found, that this nest could have been made as a substitute after the young had fallen from a tree nest. There were two eggs in the nest at the time of the discovery. No trees were in the immediate vicinity of the nest, although there was a hedgerow and abandoned orchard some 25 to 50 yards distant. These areas offered abundant nesting sites of a more typical nature, and indeed always support a population of Mourning Doves.

I discovered another unusual nesting site on April 28, 1961, at Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County. One of my students flushed a Grackle from a nest in the metalwork of a steel bridge. The nest, which contained eggs, was hidden in a recess at the side of the bridge, and was surrounded by girders. This location was about as different from the normal nesting habitat in evergreen trees as can be imagined.

A third example of the adaptability of birds to unusual nesting sites was noted at Lake Bonaparte, Lewis County, on June 25, 1961. A boat dock, supported by two steel pipes about three inches in diameter, extended some thirty feet over the lake. A Tree Swallow had built a nest in one of the supporting pipes. Because of a small bar across the entrance to the pipe, I could not ascertain the status of the nest, but I fear that the arrival of the owner of the dock on June 26 caused abandonment of the nest. On the 25th I flushed the bird every time I walked on the dock or passed close to it in a boat, but during the week of June 27 - July 1 I did not see the bird enter or leave the pipe. — Allen H. Benton, State University College of Education at Albany.

Correction: A misstatement occurs in the third line of Mr. William Russell's field note (*Kingbird*, Oct., 1961, p. 148) concerning the Gyrfalcon. The words "was dwarfed by the crows" should read "dwarfed the crows." This was a typing error made by the editorial board. Our apologies to Mr. Russell.