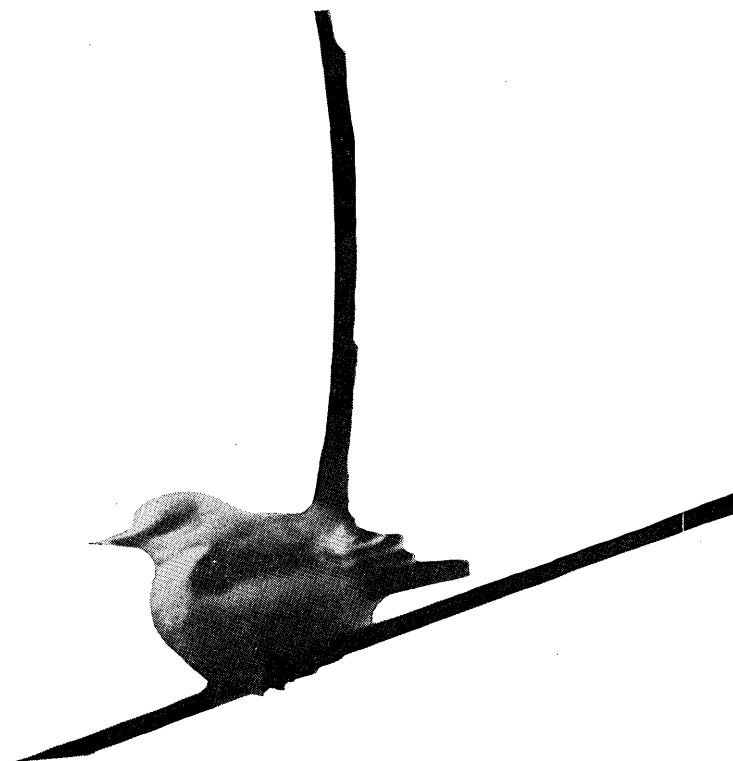


PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

6. *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*



Photograph by Peter W. Post

According to the 5th edition of the *A.O.U. Check-list* (1957: 336) the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) breeds from eastern New Mexico, western Oklahoma, southeastern Colorado, Nebraska, central and southeastern Kansas, western Arkansas, and western Louisiana south to southern Texas. The species winters from southern Mexico and Guatemala south to western Panama. In addition, small numbers migrate along the United States Gulf coast to winter sparingly in south Florida.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has occurred a number of times outside its usual range. Along the Atlantic coast it has been recorded from New Brunswick, Canada to Florida. It has been noted in New York State 11 times:

1. 11 June 1939, an adult male collected at Sag Harbor, Suffolk Co., by Roy Latham and in his collection (Bull, *Birds of the New York City Area*, 1964: 292).
2. 23 November 1940, an individual seen at Gilgo Beach State Park, Suffolk Co., by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Austin (Cruickshank, *Birds around New York City*, 1942: 291-292).
3. 7 May 1945, an individual seen flying over Rye, Westchester Co., by Helen Cruickshank (Buckley, *Linn. News-letter*, vol. 14, no. 7, Dec. 1960).
4. 12 June 1947, an individual seen at Easthampton, Suffolk Co., by F. E. Eldredge (Buckley, *op cit.*).
5. 4 November 1956, an individual seen near Schenectady, Schenectady Co., by the Schenectady Bird Club (Nichols, *Aud. Field Notes*, 11(1):11, Feb. 1957).
6. 21 May 1957, an individual seen in Riverdale, Bronx Co., by Klaus D. Kallman (Buckley, *op cit.*).
7. 20 May 1959, an individual seen in Prospect Park, Kings Co., by Olney Raymond. The 15 May date in Buckley (*op. cit.*) is incorrect.
8. 30 October to 7 November 1960, an adult male at Atlantic Beach, Nassau Co., found by Paul A. Buckley, Matthew Cashman, and Peter Islieb. This is the bird that appears in the above photograph. The picture was taken on a rainy, windy day, as the bird was trying to balance itself on a wire. For a more conventional pose also taken by the writer, but mistakenly credited to Buckley see Buckley (*op. cit.*).
9. 11 May 1964, an adult seen by H. F. Koster at Short Beach, Nassau Co., (Post and Tudor, *Kingbird*, 14(3):189, July 1964).
10. 27 May 1965, an adult female seen at Quogue, Suffolk Co., by Walter Terry and Dennis Puleston (Post and Tudor, *Kingbird*, 15(3): 195, July 1965).
11. 11 to 16 September 1965, what was probably the same bird was observed on the 11th at West Gilgo Beach, Suffolk Co., by Thomas H. Davis and Frank Enders, on the 12th at Tobay Beach, Suffolk Co., by Neal Ward, and on the 16th at the Jones Beach Amphitheatre, Nassau Co., by Emanuel Levine (Davis and Heath, *Kingbird*, 16 (1): 62, Jan. 1966).

The seasonal distribution of these reports is of interest: seven in May and the first half of June, one in mid-September, and three in November.

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