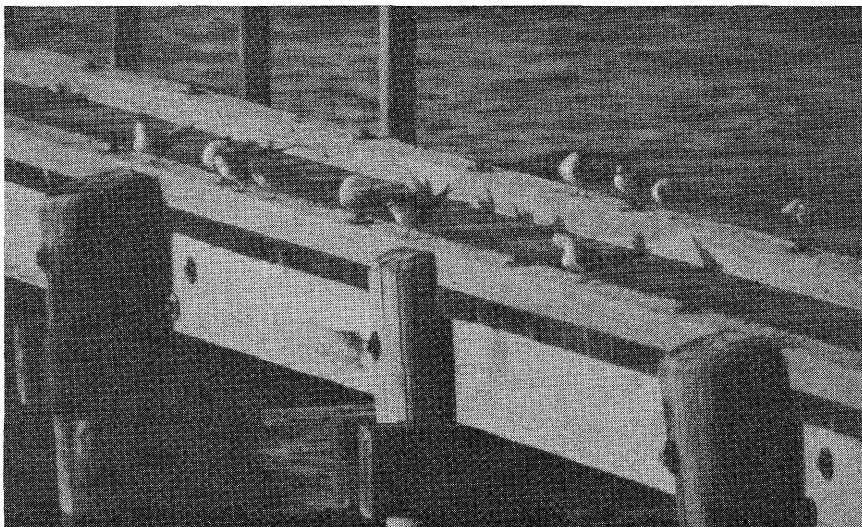




Ed. Note: According to Bull (*op. cit.*) there have been more than 50 occurrences in the New York City region, almost all following hurricanes. While there are specimens of 23 of these, it is doubtful that any have been documented by a photograph prior to this.

Western Kingbird in Oswego County: On October 4, 1969 at 1800 EDT, while checking the identification of a Red-tailed Hawk in a tree on the corner of Chapman Road and Route 3, approximately 2 miles north of Mexico, New York, we noticed another bird in a smaller tree next to the one in which the hawk was perched.

The bird was perched in the topmost branch, in flycatcher fashion, and at first suggested an Olive-sided Flycatcher. From directly below it, we could see yellow sides, like the markings of a Crested Flycatcher, but the tail was dark, and when the bird flew, white outer tail feathers were obvious. We were able to approach within 30 feet of it, when it re-perched on the top of a bush, and we had ample opportunity to check all characters: grey head and back, whitish throat, yellow belly and flanks, darker wings and black tail with white outer feathers. In true Kingbird fashion, it flew from bush to bush, and it was obvious to us that it was a Western Kingbird, (*Tyrannus verticilis*). Back at the car, we consulted our field guides and confirmed our identification. Altogether we had it under observation for about 15 minutes, with 7 × 35 and 8 × 30 binoculars.

The bird was still present the following morning, when it was observed by Mrs. Jean Propst, under clear skies. West winds of the previous few days may have brought this rarity to Region 5.

We are able to find one previous Region 5 record of this species. (Sherrill, September 3, 1951) and a few other upstate records. It is rare but regular in the New York City—Long Island Area.

Richard J. Sutliff and Ferdinand LaFrance, Estey Road, Manlius, New York

A Raven Specimen from St. Lawrence County: On March 3, 1969 a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) was caught in a beaver trap in southern St. Lawrence County. The location is on Jenny Creek, near the Pitcairn-Fine town line, about seven miles east of Harrisville. The bird was turned over to a Conservation Department employee and was in turn given to the science department of Jefferson Community College, outer Coffeen St. Watertown.

The Common Raven is occasionally reported from the western Adirondack region, its status being that of a straggler. There has been speculation that a few pairs may have bred in the Adirondacks in recent times, and the discovery of an active nest in Essex County in 1968 was of particular interest. This is thoroughly documented in the October 1968 issue of the "Kingbird" (pages 198-9) together with pertinent data on the occurrence of the Raven in New York State.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

August 16 — November 30

ALLEN E. KEMNITZER

The weather for the first half of the period was generally mild with precipitation less than normal for most parts of the state. Region 7 provided the notable exception, reporting a very damp late August and all of September. Toward the end of October, much cooler weather became the rule for the state, continuing throughout November with a great increase in rainfall, and some snow toward the end of the period. There were few extraordinary weather developments during the period but despite this, summaries of the nine regions reporting indicate that the fall season of 1969 was a most interesting one.

Although the Canada Goose flight was only fair to good in most parts of the state, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge reported a new fall record high of 10,000 geese using the refuge. Region 8 had Snow Geese in unprecedented numbers including a spectacular flock of 1500 over Watervliet Reservoir. During the last half of October, huge flocks of Brant were recorded at Derby Hill in Region 5. At Montezuma, numbers of dabbling ducks were down.

The irruption of Boreal Chickadees reached most sections of the state and to some observers appeared to be one of the heaviest within memory. By contrast, unusual numbers of Black-capped Chickadees were not reported, and there was no apparent repetition of the 1968 fall invasion of this species. Good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were present throughout the fall period.

As the flight of winter finches developed with the season, it became increasingly clear that this was indeed a good winter finch year. Every winter finch species was reported, some in large numbers. Especially numerous were Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills, both reported in unprecedented numbers from Fire Island.

In most regions, the fall warbler flight was unimpressive, but Region 8 considered the warbler count higher than usual, and Region 10 reported the best warbler flight in five years with an estimated 1600 warblers at Jones Beach on September 10.