

Both underneath and upper wing surfaces were visible as the bird circled, as was the pronounced bend in the heavy wings. One observer commented at that point that the bird was flying like a hawk, but wasn't. The bird, which had been under observation for at least five minutes, had now set its wings and was gliding across Braddock Bay toward the West Spit.

This gave us a chance to check a bird book since, up to this time, we had not taken our glasses off the bird. All the above points of identification were noted previous to consulting the books. A check of both Peterson and Robbins confirmed Warren Lloyd's and Mary Ann Sunderlin's suspicions that this was a Skua. (See Peterson, "A Field Guide to the Birds," pp 7 and 109; Robbins, "A Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North America," p. 130; Shackleton and Stokes, "Birds of the Atlantic Ocean," pp 97 and 99.)

The only bird in the sky at the time we sighted the Skua was a tree swallow, at which the Skua made a rather half-hearted pass. The size comparison was of a swallow and a black-backed gull. At no time did the wings have the slimmer, more streamlined appearance of the Pomarine Jaeger which we sighted later that afternoon at Manitou.

Although we have never seen a Skua before and bearing in mind that the bird has only been seen once or twice previously in this region, we nevertheless believe this bird seen at Hawk Lookout to be a Skua. Our observations were made through 10x50 Bushnell and 7x35 Fuji binoculars. We have consulted a number of authorities including the above-mentioned sources as well as Pough's "Audubon Guides" and Bruun and Singer's "Birds of Europe", Reilly's "Audubon Handbook of American Birds," and all sources seem to confirm our feelings.

The bird was also seen at Hawk Lookout by Lawrence Littlefield and Marguerite Berry.

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Observations on an Adult Black-legged Kittiwake on Lake Ontario near Oswego, New York: On December 1, 1973 we were observing gulls from a cliff overlooking Lake Ontario about three quarters of a mile east of the city of Oswego. A brisk wind estimated at 25 miles per hour was blowing off the Lake, apparently creating favorable updrafts along the face of the cliff since a large number of gulls were soaring before us. While scanning these birds in hopes of finding a Glaucous or Iceland Gull, a bird with a light gray band on the back of its neck was spotted about thirty yards away at eye level. Careful scrutiny of the bird with 8x40 and 7x35 binoculars indicated that it had a solid black triangle on the tip, gray mantle and a completely white tail. Tail shape was not noted but the bird's small size and slender wings relative to the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls soaring near it were noted. The bird was immediately called to the attention of the members of the Cayuga Bird Club, many of whom obtained a satisfactory view of the bird although it was by this time fifty to seventy five yards away. This report is believed to constitute the first sight record of an adult Black-legged Kittiwake on Lake Ontario although immatures of this species are rare but regular in occurrence in the area and a previous adult specimen record exists.

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Common Crows as Commensals of Common Mergansers: On 25 July 1973 I saw 13 Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) feeding together on the Beaverkill River near East Branch, Delaware County, New York. Rushing upstream in short spurts against the current, they drove their quarry into the shallow pools

between the rocks near shore. Simultaneously 4 Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) hopped from rock to rock alongside the mergansers, feeding on prey flushed by the mergansers. The crows followed the mergansers for about a half a mile and then flew off. There are few references to commensalism between avian species in the literature.

Margaret Coon Bowman, Clinton Corners, New York 12514.

Great Crested Flycatcher Enters Building Twice: Just before noon on August 29, 1972, I was standing with several official visitors in the entrance hall of the military police guard headquarters at Seneca Army Depot, when I heard a scuffling in the ceiling fluorescent light fixture. Looking up, I was surprised to see a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) returning my gaze. The bird wasn't exactly tame, keeping 3 to 6 feet away, but otherwise seemed generally unafraid of the half-dozen men in the hallway. I was able to watch it for over 5 minutes, and observed it feeding on the numerous insects attracted to the lights the night before. SFC Kluges, the Sergeant of the Guard, informed me that the door had been open the previous night and all that morning. He had not noticed the bird before.

The schedule of my visitors forced me to leave and prevented my return until much later that afternoon, but SFC Kluges and some of his men developed an interest in the bird. They reported that it remained inside, alternately feeding and resting, and flew out the door about 1:00 p.m. That would seem to be the end of the incident, but about 2:00 p.m. it was back and feeding again. Clearly, it had found the promised land, a sure concentration of insects on the cool day. It remained a little less than an hour, left, and did not return.

Dr. Frederick C. Dittich mentioned the nesting of a Great Crested Flycatcher inside an abandoned building, but entering an inhabited building to feed is not mentioned in Bent or any other literature known to me. It certainly seems remarkable for this or virtually any other species.

Maj. Morgan V. Jones, Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, N.Y. 14541

Ash-throated Flycatcher on Long Island, New York: On December 1, 1973, a *Myiarchus* flycatcher with pale breast and belly was discovered by the junior author at Ridge, Long Island, New York. It was observed later that day by the senior author who agreed that the bird was one of the paler western species. It seemed as large as a Great Crested Flycatcher (*M. crinitus*) and the bill appeared completely black. The breast was pale gray shading to near white under the chin. The gray extended partially around the neck forming an indistinct collar separating the brownish head from the olive-gray back. The lower belly was pale yellow. The rufous in the primaries and retrices seemed similar to that of *crinitus*. Compared with illustrations in popular field guides, the bird seemed closer to Wied's Crested Flycatcher (*M. tyrannulus*) than to the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) but no positive identification was attempted.

The bird frequented an area where an extensive overgrown field bordered pine-oak woods and spent much of its time feeding on or near the ground among large dead weeds. It was alert and wary and flew strongly. When disturbed, it flew to the trees but tended to perch low unless alarmed.

The bird was found only once again on several visits during the next few days. Dr. Wesley Lanyon of the American Museum of Natural History was notified and the bird mist-netted on December 5 after unsuccessful attempts to elicit vocalizations by playing tapes of the calls of four possible species. In the field, Lanyon concurred that the bird most nearly resembled *tyrannulus*. In the hand, however, it was readily identified as *cinerascens* by the tail pattern, i.e. with an expanded fuscous area at the tip of the inner web of the outer rectrix. It was also noted that a narrow band of whitish separated the gray of the breast from the