

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Immature Peregrine at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge: Just before noon on 10 August 1975, I was preparing to leave the Tschache Pool parking lot at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge when the movement of a large bird caught my eye through the windshield. I glanced up through the open sunroof and was electrified by a dark, crow-sized, heavy-shouldered silhouette with pointed wings, a long tail, and smooth rowing wingbeats. It was clearly a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and most likely an immature from its dark underside.

I alerted two people in the tower (Ed and Pat Bristow of Oceanville, New Jersey), and we walked around a small clump of trees and spotted it perched on a dead poplar branch. We approached to about 200 feet and observed it for several seconds with 7 x 50 binoculars, confirming the identification by its characteristic shape, darkly barred breast and belly, and "Roman helmet" sideburns. I was able to get two indifferent but clearly recognizable photographs with a 300mm lens. The bird flew off toward Mays Point, returned after a few minutes, and immediately took off again and flew out of sight to the northwest side of the pool.

The band and antenna wire worn by Cornell's recent releases were not visible. Although either might have been undetected in the rather poor light, it seems most likely from the date and location that this was a wild-reared young of the year. Since the presently known population of breeding Peregrines is in the Arctic and ordinarily passes through New York State in September and October, this 10 August date is unusual and interesting. Whatever the source, this free-flying youngster was an exciting and encouraging sight.

Later that day, Gary Calabrese saw it perform the spectacular aerial display for which the species is famous. It remained around the area at least through 12 August, probably attracted by the hundreds of migrant shorebirds, and was seen by many observers.

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Acadian Flycatcher nest in Dutchess County, New York: On 12 June 1973 we found 2 pairs of Acadian Flycatchers (*Empidonax virescens*) singing on territories about 300 m apart, near a wooded ravine overlooking Tenmile River, about 2 miles southwest of Amenia, Dutchess County. We found one nest. It was in a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) in fairly dense deciduous woods about 20 m from an opening. The nest was 5.5 m from the ground. It was a flimsy-looking shallow cup suspended hammock-fashion from small twigs near a fork about 2 m from the end of a horizontal branch. Both adults called persistently, and sometimes came within 3 m of us. One adult flew repeatedly to the nest, and occasionally sat in it for a minute or two.

On 28 June the bird appeared to be brooding. When disturbed it left the nest. Both adults flew about, calling, and one gave the *sp-chee* note.

In 1974 Robert Smart reported seeing Acadians at one of the 1973 sites.

On 22 June 1975, the senior author and Ruth Troutman saw 2 adults feeding 2 fledglings that were perched near each other about 1.5 m above the ground in a sapling, 9 m from the 1973 nest site. This appears to be the first record of successful breeding in Dutchess County since 1913 (Griscom 1933, The birds of Dutchess County, New York. *Trans. Linn. Soc. N. Y.*, 3: 121).

The site of the 1973 nesting was erroneously reported (*Kingbird* 23: 212) as "Millbrook." We thank John Bull for helpful comments.

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Whip-poor-will on Long Island in late December: On December 24, 1975, a dead Whip-poor-will was found in the hamlet of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., on the south shore of Long Island, New York. The bird appeared to be in generally good condition, except that several tail feathers were missing. It had evidently not been dead for very long, as the eyes had not yet begun to shrink. John Bull's *Birds of New York State* (1974, p. 344) gives the latest date on record as November 6, 1945; this specimen is therefore an unprecedented late record.

The specimen has been deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, where it is No. 812033. On dissection, it was found to be a female. There were no fat deposits and the stomach was empty. The bird evidently died of exposure and starvation and the question arises as to how this highly insectivorous species could have survived until late December on Long Island.

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