

large low circle, and landed again in the trees near the top of the ridge. In subsequent observations made by Barbara Belanger and myself, it became clear that a nesting colony had formed at that location. From a vantage point on Route 17, 36 nests were counted (using a 20X spotting scope) on 29 April. Great Blue Herons were on or near many of the nests.

Soaring by Great Blue Herons has been reported before; it "sometimes soars in circles to immense heights—perhaps more often than generally realized," according to Palmer (Ed., *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. I, 1962). Presumably this would occur most often during migration. However, a social function for some Great Blue Heron group flights has also been suggested. In a brief discussion of flights of all or most of the herons in a nesting area prior to the start of incubation, Pratt (*Condor* 72: 407-416, 1970) states that these flights "seemed to be socially induced." It seems unlikely that the soaring flight of 1 April was unrelated to the breeding colony later observed in exactly the same location. Perhaps this flight served in attracting birds to the colony, as in the "colony advertisement displays" of Ward and Zahavi (*Ibis* 115: 517-534, 1973).

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Gray Kingbird at Jones Beach, Long Island: Late on the afternoon of September 11, 1976, a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) was discovered on the topmost dead branch of a tree southeast of the parking lot at the Tobay (John F. Kennedy) Sanctuary, Jones Beach, Long Island. It was seen perched at close range for at least five minutes and finally flew off into thick growth as evening approached. In addition to the writer, four other people saw it well—Steve Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bengelsdorf, and my wife, Edith. Late the following morning, September 12, I decided to try for another look in broad daylight. As soon as I entered the sanctuary road off the main highway, I spotted the Gray Kingbird perched on the chain-link fence alongside the road. As I stopped the car to examine the bird, it flew off over the marsh and alighted on a sign farther along the road. It finally flew back to the partially dead tree where we had all seen it the previous day. I had several excellent looks at it both at rest and in flight. Altogether, I had it under observation for fully one-half hour, when I left it in the same tree. Unfortunately, no one else was around to observe it. It was not seen after the second day.

The outstanding characters—heavy bill, dark mask, white underparts, and notched tail without any white at the tip—left no doubt that we were looking at a Gray Kingbird. I am very familiar with this species, having observed it many

times in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Trinidad and Tobago. This makes the sixth occurrence for the species in New York, all records being from Long Island (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 365). No tropical disturbance prior to the observation might account for this bird's presence here, although Hurricane "Belle" had occurred several weeks before.

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Adult Evening Grosbeak and young—Limestone, New York, Cattaraugus County
Photograph by Regina M. VanScoy *July 8, 1976*

Probable nesting of Evening Grosbeak in Cattaraugus County: On June 21, 1976 at 2 p.m. I was surprised to see an adult male Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) picking up grit on a dirt road adjacent to my house. The bird appeared to be in excellent health and had the bluish-green colored bill associated with breeding condition. On June 11, 1976, Dr. S. W. Eaton observed adult female Evening Grosbeaks in the Quaker Run area of Allegany State Park and with these observations the members of the newly formed Cattaraugus County Bird Club were alerted to the possibility of nesting Evening Grosbeaks in our county.