

species was obvious. The bill was short, straight, slender and black; its legs were golden yellow; and its dark eye was accentuated by a paler eye-ring. The upperparts were dark golden buff, the back conspicuously scaled, and the feather centers, particularly on the crown and neck, were vaguely streaked with blackish; its closed remiges were darker than the rest of the upperparts. The face and underparts were unmarked and of a lighter, brighter, golden buff, shading gradually to an off white on the crissum. In flight the bird was easily picked out by its color and lack of pattern, excepting the white underwing, neatly bordered with darker buff or brownish. It was silent and spent most of its time feeding actively by moving erratically and pecking at the ground in the wrack lines of dead alewives away from the water's edge but in loose association with a small group of White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

I knew that this species was unusual locally in the spring, but was surprised to find no previous spring records listed for New York State. Kathi Carlson, Anne Farnsworth, Richard Grabman, Kevin Judge, and George Painter, although new to birding, were able to compare the bird with Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot, Semipalmated and White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin and Sanderling. F. G. Scheider observed this bird at the same location on 30 May. The lengthy, detailed observations, in direct comparison with other shorebirds, noting in particular the characteristic flight pattern, eliminate the possibility of all other species. Its presence was doubtlessly associated with the concurrent passage of a cold front, conditions which regularly bring down migrating shorebirds at Sandy Pond.

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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nesting attempt in Clinton County: On 1 May 1977, Harold Klein, Ray Payson, Steve Sanford, and I found two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*) at the Ausable River delta area in southeastern Clinton County. Due to the light and dark coloration differences of the two birds, we felt this was a mated pair. On 7 May, I returned to the area and discovered the two birds actively building a nest in the vertical fork of a small tree. The nest was approximately eight meters above the flooded ground. On one occasion the male fed the female a soft caterpillar as she worked on the nest. Subsequent visits to the completed nest, by many observers, have produced no further sightings. The tree has no foliage and is apparently dead, which may have been the reason for the abandonment. This nest is located only 7 miles north of the nest found by Peterson on Schuyler Island, Essex County (1976, *Kingbird*, 26(3): 150). This species has been observed only once before in Clinton County, near Chazy by Mitchell (Bull, 1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*, p. 33).

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