

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Some noteworthy breeding records on Staten Island in 1982: The discovery of a nest of the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*; see p. 234, this issue) on Staten Island was the highlight of the spring season in Richmond County, but was by no means the only nesting record of importance. Our other finds on Staten Island are as follows:

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). We located a nest of this species, which eventually produced two young, about 40 feet up in a Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in Latourette Park on 15 April. This represents the first confirmed breeding record for the Red-tailed Hawk on Staten Island, the only other—a second-hand, 19th-century report—being unacceptable (Siebenheller, 1981, *Breeding Birds of Staten Island 1881-1981*. Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). We discovered a nest of this species 45 feet high in a White Oak (*Quercus alba*) in High Rock Park on 17 May. It is the first breeding record for the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Staten Island and in the Metropolitan New York area.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). On 25 April we found a nest of this species in a Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) in a portion of High Rock Park only about 100 feet from the intersection of Rockland Avenue and Manor Road—within sight of a New York City traffic light! The nest was located about 30 feet high and 12 feet from the trunk of the tree, which is typical for this species (Harrison, 1975, *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests . . . East of the Mississippi River*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, p. 229). Although breeding had been established for the Pine Siskin on Staten Island in 1976 on the basis of circumstantial evidence (Siebenheller and Siebenheller, 1976, *Kingbird*, vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 202-203), this is the first nest ever found on Staten Island or in the Metropolitan New York area. The nest was collected and is now in the collection of the Staten Island Museum.

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