

## GENERAL NOTES

ATLANTIC FULMAR IN NEW JERSEY.—On January 30, 1949 an Atlantic Fulmar (*Fulmarus g. glacialis*) was picked up alive at Beach Haven. This constitutes the second record of this species in New Jersey. The specimen is in the D.V.O.C. collection at the Academy of Natural Sciences. GERBERT REBELL, 15 East Felton Ave., Ridley Park, Pa.

WHITE PELICAN IN NEW JERSEY.—A White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was seen at Beach Haven Inlet on August 18, 1949 by Gardner and again on August 30 of the same year by Price and Street. This record and another by Bishop at Barnegat Bay on November 10, 1946, and one by J. Fletcher Street at Beverly, on September 25, 1943 are the only ones published from the state for this century. PHILLIPS B. STREET, 1200 Pennsylvania Building, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

MAN-O'-WAR-BIRD AT AVALON, N. J.—On June 8, 1949, while driving across Avalon Boulevard, a highway which stretches across the salt marshes between Swainton and the seashore community of Avalon, I saw a Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens*).

As I neared the approach to the drawbridge which spans Ingram Thorofare (fully a mile inland from the ocean shore), I noted the large, long-tailed bird flapping leisurely along over the course of the waterway. I stopped the car just in time to see this tropical visitor clear the bridge superstructure by just a few feet and then dip downward to within eight feet of the surface of the water, at which height it continued to fly in the direction of Townsend's Inlet.

The bird appeared very dark with no color pattern whatsoever, and thus was evidently a male. Its wings were long and narrow and, whenever it veered, the long tail presented swallow-like streamers.

Although none of them were molested at the time, Least (*Sterna albifrons antillarum*) and Common Terns (*Sterna h. hirundo*) and Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) flew about in wild confusion and set up a din of distress calls until the Frigate-bird left the vicinity.

Dr. Witmer Stone (Bird Studies at Old Cape May, 1937:104) mentions three previous records, two from Cape May and one from Brigantine. Since an ocean record of this species off the New Jersey coast would be an unusual record per se, and, although one of the instances cited by Stone took place at a salt marsh, I was amazed to find the bird in so strange a habitat.

In Florida I have found this species to be strictly pelagic during the course of the day. They roosted regularly along the keys in the tops of the mangrove trees, coming in well after dusk and leaving at the first hint of dawn. The exception to this pattern took place at the Dry Tortugas where I have watched them raid the nests of the Sooty Terns (*Sterna f. fuscata*) throughout the day, from which it may be assumed that this particular wayfarer was interested in our nesting colonies of Laughing Gulls on the salt marshes.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 4147 'O' St., Philadelphia 24.

UNUSUAL FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF A GREAT BLUE HERON.—

On March 5, 1950, while observing ducks on the Delaware River near Bristol, Penna., we noticed a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) fly down the river and alight on a can buoy approximately in the middle of the river and directly in front of us. At this point the river is about three or four hundred yards in width, and 25 feet in depth.

Within 200 feet of the can buoy eight or ten American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) drifted with the current, and mingling with them was a group of 10 or 15 Herring (*Larus argentatus*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), some resting on the water, others flying into the wind low over the surface. Suddenly they all began to gather at one spot, diving and jabbing their bills into the water as though feeding over a school of fish. However, as far as we could see through our binoculars they were missing whatever they were trying to catch. Meanwhile the heron had left his perch on the can buoy, and joining the group, hovered almost stationary in the wind about three or four feet above the water. Two or three times he dropped down toward the surface and seemed about to alight, but the quarry apparently eluded him and the other birds, for in a moment they ceased their jabbing and began to disperse, and he flapped higher into the air and circled back to his perch on the buoy. However, in a couple of minutes the gulls and mergansers resumed their excited attention to the same spot, and again the heron joined them, but this time alighted on the water, and submerged his head and neck in a series of two or three lunges. The last of these procured for him a good-sized fish which he grasped firmly in his bill, then spreading his wings, he took off into the wind, and flew toward us with several of the gulls wheeling and screaming above him. He landed on a sand bank about 150 feet from us, and with some difficulty gulped down his fish, which we could not identify, but estimated to be from 10 to 12 inches in length and of good girth. The fish was not seen to move or wriggle at any time, and whether it was alive or dead when the heron took it isn't known.

Of deep-water feeding by Great Blue Herons, Richard Miller (Cassinia, XXXIII:23) says, "Great Blues have been observed many times swimming in deep lakes in the interior. They almost never do so here, where there are extensive shallows. Ashton's record of one alighting in deep water at Penn Manor is locally unique".

It should be noted that at the time of the above occurrence the many ponds in the vicinity were frozen except for a few open places far from shore. The heron had apparently been forced to modify his usual feeding behavior.—JOSEPH M. CADBURY, 16 E. Johnson St., Philadelphia 44. JOHN H. ARNETT, JR., 1600 Ardleigh St., Philadelphia 38, Pa.

GREAT BLUE HERON CAPTURES CLAPPER RAIL.—On September 4, 1950 on the meadows near Tuckerton, New Jersey, Walter Corson, Jay Schnell and I saw a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) holding a live Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) by the neck. As we watched, the heron seemed to be making repeated efforts to swallow the rail as it would a large fish. With jerks and lunges of its head the heron kept changing its hold on the rail's neck, but the bulkiness and weight of the rail plus occasional flapping seemed to prevent the heron from getting it into a good position for swal-

lowing. At one point it shook the rail much as a dog shakes a rat, and to this the rail responded with loud cries and continued to struggle. By this time we had approached too close for the heron's comfort, and it flew off across the marsh carrying the rail with no apparent effort. We were unable again to get close enough to see the outcome.

There were many hunters on the marsh at the time shooting rails, and it seems possible that the bird was wounded and thus proved easier prey for the heron than would normally have been the case. It is an interesting question whether a Great Blue Heron is physiologically capable of swallowing a Clapper Rail whole, and if not whether this one devised some way to dismember the rail and eat it in pieces.—JOHN H. ARNETT, JR., 6200 Ardleigh St., Philadelphia 38, Pa.

#### FIRST NEST OF THE LOUISIANA HERON IN NEW JERSEY.—

The Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*) was discovered nesting during June 1948 at Stone Harbor, N. J., by the writer. Three young of this nesting were banded on June 12, 1948. This was the first record of the Louisiana Heron nesting in New Jersey, although as long ago as Alexander Wilson's time, 1810, it was often suspected it might be nesting this far north.

The first photograph of the Louisiana Heron nesting in New Jersey was taken on June 4, 1949, a year following the original discovery. This nest was near the location of the first one and contained four young about ready to climb to the tree tops. It was ten feet off the ground in a small wild cherry tree and only four feet over a nest of the Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*). The nest was rather well constructed of sticks. One adult has been in constant attendance nearby whenever the nest has been under observation. This record was verified by Julian K. Potter, June 5, 1949.

At the time the photograph was taken there were three adult birds nearby which seems to indicate there was more than one nest in the vicinity.—WM. BURRITT WRIGHT, Cape May Court House, N. J.

IDENTITY OF SMALL CANADA GEESE.—There are 3 specimens of small Canada Geese from the eastern United States in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. A male from Bishop's Head, Dorchester Co., Md., shot by H. B. Phillips on December 1, 1927, has a wing of 375; culmen 37.5 mm. A male from Bohemia River, Cecil Co., Md., shot by R. R. M. Carpenter on January 30, 1931, has a wing of 419; culmen 38.5 mm. A female from Ocrakoke, North Carolina, shot by W. C. O'Neal on January 31, 1928, has a wing of 364; culmen 34 mm. I had previously identified the 2 Maryland specimens (cf., Hampe and Kolb, Prel. List Birds Maryland and Dist. Columbia, Nat. Hist. Soc. Maryland, 1946, p. 6) as Lesser Canada Geese (*leucopareia*); but they are definitely not this bird. Jean Delacour, one of our leading authorities on geese, writes me that they "are certainly *hutchinsi*" (now known as "Richardson's Goose") and that all 3 specimens "fall well within the measurements of that form."—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

#### HUTCHINS'S GOOSE AT LAKE ONTELAUNEE, BERKS COUNTY,

PA.—Between November 19 and 26, 1949 I had several good views of a small Canada Goose, which on comparison with the skins in our collection, I would

unhesitatingly call *Branta canadensis hutchinsi* as defined by Kortwright. It was too light on the throat for the Cackling Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*) and too small for the Lesser Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*). When seen with a Mallard Drake (*Anas platyrhynchos*) it was no larger, and when seen with the Canada Geese (*Branta c. canadensis*) the bird was much smaller.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.*

BLUE GEESE AT LAKE ONTELAUNEE, BERKS CO., PA.—An unprecedented visit of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) occurred in 1950. I saw three on October 15, and was told by a party consisting of Charles Schaich, Warren Kalbach and Donald Burger that a flock consisting of 170 Blue Geese and 30 Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) alighted earlier that morning, but became alarmed and left while they were there. Fifteen Blue Geese remained on the lake until October 24 and one immature until December 16.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.*

FIRST NESTING RECORD FOR THE LEAST TERN IN PENNSYLVANIA.—On June 21, 1950, at Tinicum, Delaware County, John Miller of Philadelphia found what we believe to be the first nest of the Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons antillarum*) in Pennsylvania. I visited the nest on June 22 and 26. On July 3, I placed bands number 39-144556 and 39-144557 on two young birds.

I do not believe that the birds will continue to nest there for more than a year or two. While the site is typical of New Jersey sand beaches, it does not take long for vegetation to grow in this soil as it is material pumped in from the Delaware River.—NELSON D. HOY, *Sharon & Elmwood Aves., Sharon Hill, Pa.*

BRUNNICH'S MURRE IN BERKS COUNTY, PA.—A Brünnich's Murre (*Uria l. lomvia*) was picked up on the street in Shillington on December 4, 1950. The specimen is now in the collection of the Reading Museum.—EARLE L. POOLE, *Reading Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.*

MOURNING DOVES ROOST AT DESERTED NEST.—During the spring of 1950 I had a nest of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) under observation for three weeks. On July 26th the young birds left the nest. I was surprised to find on the evening of July 27th that both young birds and one of the parents were using the nest for roosting purposes. On July 28th the nest was empty during the day but the three birds again returned that evening. Although I checked the nest for the next five evenings, I failed to find them again.—FRANK W. McLAUGHLIN, *923 White Horse Pike, Audubon 6, New Jersey.*

A SAGE THRASHER AT BARNEGAT LIGHT, NEW JERSEY.—On November 27, 1949, at Barnegat Light, New Jersey, I observed and identified a Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). The bird was seen in an area which was overgrown with bay berry, green briar, holly, wild grape, cedar and other plant life, and protected from winds off the Atlantic Ocean by high sand dunes. A few minutes later, Quintin Kramer, Evelyn Kramer and Mrs. Aurelia Reigner, all competent observers, arrived on the scene and confirmed my identification. We all had a perfect opportunity to observe the bird, as it was unusually tame, and permitted close approach. I carefully checked all

markings with a Hensoldt 8 x 50 glass. It was not collected. The only previous record for the Sage Thrasher in the Eastern states, was an individual collected near Braddock Bay, Monroe County, New York, on April 12, 1942. CHARLES E. PRICE, JR., *Woodward Avenue, Moylan, Pennsylvania.*

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS NESTING IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY.**—On June 12, 1950, George Regensburg found a nest of a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) in Parvin State Park, south of Norma. It was situated about 15 feet above the ground in the top of a rotted stump of a red maple (*Acer rubrum*) standing on the side of a creek, and contained 4 eggs of the warbler, in addition to a Cowbird's egg which was removed.

On July 1 George Regensburg, Doris McLaughlin and I visited this nest which now held one young almost ready to leave and an addled egg. While observing the feeding of the young and attempting to locate the remainder of the brood, I detected an adult male Prothonotary Warbler with its bill full of food entering an old 6 by 6 post barely 50 feet away from the nest that we had been watching. The nesting site in this instance was a cavity about a foot in depth and with one side completely open, thus exposing the nest, which was only two feet above the ground and contained three young nearly ready to leave. It is of interest to note that both males sang just before feeding the young.—FRANK W. McLAUGHLIN, *923 White Horse Pike, Audubon 6, New Jersey.*

**FIRST NESTING OF THE CAERULEAN WARBLER IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA.**—On May 8, 1949, while looking for a Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) that was singing in a dense swampy tract along Hay Creek near the Birdsboro reservoir, I happened to see a small bird acting in a peculiar manner in a crotch of a nearly horizontal limb of a slippery elm about 25 feet above the ground. I maneuvered into a better position and saw that it was a female Cerulean, obviously just starting to build a nest, as there were probably not more than a dozen strands of fibrous bark in the structure at the time.

The male was singing persistently about 50 yards away, and the female returned to the nest only twice during the three quarters of an hour that I watched the operation. She stayed but a short time each trip, and fussed with the materials.

I did not return to the spot until May 21, when I saw the same bird setting on the nest, with the male singing in about the same place that it had occupied on my former visit. Circumstances prevented my returning to the place until June 23, when I sawed off the branch containing the nest, and collected it for our museum.—EARLE L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.*

Editor's Note: The Caerulean Warbler nested in 1949 and 1950 at Treasure Island, Hunterdon County, New Jersey which is in the Delaware River about two hundred feet east of the Pennsylvania Line.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD AT ARDMORE, PA.—On December 19, 1948 at Ardmore I had the opportunity of observing a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) under conditions which made the identification unmistakable.—HENRY D. MIRICK, *Old Gulph Road, Ardmore, Pa.*

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK NESTING IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY FOR THE FIRST TIME.—On May 25, 1928 I found the nest of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) in the Andora Nurseries in Chestnut Hill. The nest was fifteen feet above the ground in a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). This record has never been published. LEWIS MAC-CUEN SMITH, *8040 St. Martins Lane, Philadelphia 18, Pa.*

PINE GROSBEAK IN NEW JERSEY.—During the last week of January 1949 Richard O. Bender saw a Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) at Alloway. This is believed to be the southernmost record for the state.—WILLIAM R. MIDDLETON, *106 North Lincoln Ave., Wenonah, N. J.*

#### OTHER UNUSUAL RECORDS

1949

CORY'S SHEARWATER. *Puffinus diomedea borealis*. Mantoloking, N. J. October 23 (Reimann)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax a. auritus*. Lake Ontelaunee, Berks Co., Pa. December 3 (Poole)

AMERICAN BRANT. *Branta bernicla hrota*. Springton Reservoir, Pa. November 20-24 (Lampugh)

EUROPEAN TEAL. *Anas c. crecca*. Salem Co., N. J., April 24 (Potter, Weyl, and Coman)

KING EIDER. *Somateria spectabilis*. Stone Harbor, N. J. January 1 (Linton)

BLACK VULTURE. *Coragyps atratus*. Springton Reservoir, Pa. March 20 (Street)

YELLOW RAIL. *Coturnicops n. novaboracensis*. Trenton, N. J. May 30 (McLaughlin)

MARbled GODWIT. *Limosa fedoa*. Tinicum, Pa. September 6 (Ulmer)

HUDSONIAN GODWIT. *Limosa haemastica*. Tinicum, Pa. September 17-18 and 22 (D. Cutler); Bombay Hook, Delaware, October 12 (Price); Boonton Reservoir, N. J. November 11 (Street)

AVOCET. *Recurvirostra americana*. Churchville Reservoir, Pa. September 6-30 (Thomas); Bombay Hook, Delaware, September 23-24 (Street, Lukens and McLaughlin)

NORTHERN PHALAROPE. *Lobipes lobatus*. Churchville Reservoir, Pa. September 26 and 28 (Rogers and Sehl); Tinicum, Pa. September 17 (Seabury)

SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea scandiaca*. The winter of 1949-1950 was notable for the invasion of this species which occurred. Records began to come in during December and continued through the winter.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Dryocopus pileatus subsp.* Springton Reservoir, Pa. Month of January (Rigby). This was the first record for Springton.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus c. carolinus*. Glenolden, Pa. April 26 (Cresson); Radnor, Pa. First two weeks of May (Lukens).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. *Protonotaria citrea*. Ambler, Pa. May 8 (Gillin); Wissahickon Creek at Germantown Ave., Phila., Pa. May 8 (J. Cadbury); Penn Manor, Pa. June 5 (Reynolds)

CERULEAN WARBLER. *Dendroica cerulea*. Salem County, N. J. May 15 (Coman); Boman's Hill, Pa. May 30 (Corson); Radnor, Pa. July 30 (Lukens)

OVEN-BIRD. *Seiurus a. aurocapillus*. Cape May, N. J. January 2 (W. Middleton)

KENTUCKY WARBLER. *Oporornis formosus*. Moorestown, N. J. May 15-16 (Linton)

DICKCISSEL. *Spiza americana*. Wyncote, Pa. This bird was banded on January 6 (Dornan for Haycock).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius l. lapponicus*. Moselem Springs, Berks County, Pa. January 23 (Poole)

#### 1950

AMERICAN EGRET. *Casmerodius albus egretta*. Churchville, Pa. December 26, 1949—March 4, 1950 (McIlvaine and Herzog); Marshalltown, N. J. January 27 (4) (Reimann); Cape May County, N. J., December 30 (Weyl).

EASTERN GREEN HERON. *Butorides v. virescens*. Ambler, Pa. November 21 (Gillin); Bristol, Pa. November 23 (Miller)

AMERICAN BRANT. *Branta bernicla hrota*. Lake Ontelaunee, Berks County, Pa. November 4-18, second record for the lake. (Poole)

EUROPEAN TEAL. *Anas c. crecca*. Westville, N. J. March 11-15 (Manners)

PURPLE GALLINULE. *Porphyryula martinica*. Holmesburg, Pa. May 1-13 (Many observers)

FLORIDA GALLINULE. *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*. Point Pleasant, N. J. February 5-12 (W. Middleton, Finkel and Regensburg)

STILT SANDPIPER. *Micropalama himantopus*. Penn Manor, Pa. October 22 and 29 (Sehl and Reynolds)

AVOCET. *Recurvirostra americana*. Bombay Hook, Delaware. September 24-October 29 (Miller and Finkel)

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. *Steganopus tricolor*. Tinicum, Pa. May 26 (Seabury)

BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia*. Schuylkill River, Phila., Pa. April 20 (15) (J. Cadbury); Springton Reservoir, Pa. April 30 (4) (Lamplugh) and December 10 (Schwalbe)

ICELAND GULL. *Larus l. leucopterus*. East Park Reservoir, Phila., Pa. January 7 (Street); Tinicum, Pa. January 12 and February 26 (D. Cutler, Weiss, and Finkel)

RAZOR-BILLED AUK. *Alca t. torda*. Forty miles off Wildwood, N. J. April 29, specimen was mounted by taxidermist A. D. Stasche of Phila., for Elko Friesenborg (Ross).

DOVEKIE. *Plautus a. alle*. Pocono Mountains, Monroe County, Pa., November 29, picked up alive in the woods (Gillin for a friend). Malvern, Pa., November 28, found by Henry Bowen and mounted (Street).

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles m. minor*. Temple Stadium, Phila., Pa. October 6 (Reimann)

BEWICK'S WREN. *Thryomanes b. bewickii*. Swarthmore, Pa. May 8 (Debes)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Polioptila c. caerulea*. Jericho Mountain, Bucks County, Pa., June 16, parents feeding young in the nest (Thomas and Packer).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO. *Vireo philadelphicus*. Radnor, Pa. May 22 (Lukens)

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. *Protonotaria citrea*. Betzwood, Pa. May 12 and 13 (Altemus and Ross)

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. *Vermivora c. celata*. Trenton Marsh, N. J. May 11 (Potter, Coman, Weyl, and Street); Wenonah, N. J. May 6 (W. Middleton)

CAPE MAY WARBLER. *Dendroica tigrina*. Kimberton, Pa. January 29 (Gillespie)

CAERULEAN WARBLER. *Dendroica cerulea*. Media, Pa. May 7 (E. Rigby)

PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum subsp.* Smithtown, Pa. February 12 (Imsick and Wright)

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria v. virens*. Wyndmoor, Pa. February 17, feeding from suet stick (Imsick)

WILSON'S WARBLER. *Wilsonia p. pusilla*. Radnor, Pa. November 11-December 7 (Lukens)

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. *Icterus galbula*. Collingswood, N. J. April 13 (Potter); Newtown, Pa., November 1 to December 31 (L. S. Thomas)

BLUE GROSBEAK. *Guiraca c. caerulea*. Thorofare, N. J. July 1-6, male in full song (W. Middleton).