

### GENERAL NOTES.

**Nesting of Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*) in Cuba.**— Puerto Escondido is a small and from the open sea invisible port on the south coast of Cuba a few miles to the east of Guantanamo Bay. It was used in the old days as a pirate retreat, being admirably fitted for the purpose by its narrow entrance and inconspicuousness, and is so mentioned in 'Tom Cringles Log' by Mr. Scott. The name Puerto Escondido means the Hidden Port. It will now form part of the U. S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay and will therefore be American territory. In this port is a small Key — Cayo Guincho — about 100 feet in diameter composed mostly of mud upon which grows, in the center, a large mangrove tree surrounded by smaller ones in the water. Upon approaching the key on Dec. 23, 1910, large numbers of Man-o'-war-birds were seen flying about it and upon a closer inspection it was noticed that the large tree had a number of nests upon it. The birds, frightened by the launch, left the nests so hurriedly that some eggs were knocked out, while below, among the roots of the smaller mangroves in the water, two species of "snapper" (*Neomænis cyanopterus* Linn. and *Neomænis griseus* Linn.) were greedily feasting on the fallen eggs.— CHARLES T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

**American Merganser in South Carolina.**— On January 2, 1911, I secured the first authentic record for the American Merganser (*Mergus americanus*) in this State. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, in his 'Birds of South Carolina,' refers this species to a hypothetical list, and declares that to the best of his knowledge it has never been taken in the State. The specimen here recorded was shot on Back River near its junction with the Cooper, after having partially swallowed a mullet ten inches in length. The weight of the mullet in its throat destroyed its balance and made continuous flight impossible. The bird rose half a dozen times but with each attempt at escape could gain only a few yards.

Several years ago a Merganser was taken on the upper Cooper River which I afterwards decided was the *Mergus americanus*, but as this specimen was not preserved I have been on the lookout during the past season for another to prove the occurrence of the species in South Carolina.

The specimen taken on Back River is a fine adult male in full plumage with the breast and under-parts a delicate peach-blossom color. The skin is now in the collection of the Charleston Museum (Spec. No. 7258).— CASPAR CHISOLM, *Charleston, S. C.*

**Additional Records of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*).**— The last captures for the interior I recorded in 'The Auk' (Vol. XXII, 1905, p. 206). As a matter of convenient reference I now add to the list three specimens.

In his 'Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri,' 1907, p. 33, Mr. Otto Widmann records the capture of a male bird shot by Dr. A. E. Rives of East St. Louis, Ill., in the vicinity of St. Louis, April 10, 1905. In the 'Forest and Stream' of Jan. 28, 1911, Mr. Albert G. Holmes of Green Bay, Wis., records the capture of a male European Widgeon which came to his decoys while hunting on Point Au Sable, Green Bay, Wis., Nov. 11, 1906, and a second specimen, also shot by him in the same location Oct. 23, 1910.

Mr. Holmes writes me that he believes these Widgeon to be more numerous than is generally supposed, and are considered hybrids by gunners, as he himself first thought until he learned the characteristic differences between the English and American species from an old hunter naturalist who knew the former in the Old World before settling here. Neither of these Wisconsin specimens were preserved. These records make the twenty-third for the interior.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**A Banded Baldpate shot at Currituck, N. C.**—On January 5, 1911, a member of the Currituck Shooting Club of North Carolina shot a male Baldpate (*Mareca americana*) that had on its leg a band, numbered "7206 R." This may be interesting to the man who tagged the bird.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

**A Second European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) in Maine.**—On March 26, 1910, I was called upon to examine a specimen of the European Teal in the flesh, which had been taken a day or two earlier at Scarborough, Maine. During the day, the bird was examined by Messrs. Nathan C. Brown and Walter H. Rich. It was a male in good plumage. The skin passed into the possession of Dr. Henry H. Brock, of this city. The sternum, shoulder girdle, and sacrum are in my possession.

The only other occurrence in the State known to me is the one recorded by Dr. Brock, as taken in Casco Bay, April 6, 1903 (*Auk*, XXIV, p. 94).—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

**The White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) in South Carolina.**—In 'Birds of South Carolina,' 1910, p. 218, I placed this species in the hypothetical list on account of insufficient evidence of its occurrence in the State. I now, however, wish to record a specimen that I observed on January 20, 1911, on the Wando River. I was *en route* to "Cat Island," and when off that place I observed a large, black Scoter flying up the river. When the bird was abreast of me I was surprised to see that the wings (speculum) were white, for long before it came within good view I was satisfied that it was a Surf Scoter (*O. perspicillata*). The distance was too great for a successful shot, but I watched the bird with longing eyes until it finally disappeared from vision.

Although mussels and other shell-fish are found in quantities in the Wando River and the Golden-eye (*Clangula clangula americana*) winters