

GENERAL NOTES.

Laughing Gulls in Plymouth County, Mass.— While spending the first part of August at Manomet Point, Mass., I was surprised to note the abundance of *Larus atricilla* off the point. During calm weather I saw every day a hundred or more in the vicinity of the point, generally keeping pretty well together. On August 13 I noted about thirty on Fresh Pond, a large body of water situated about a half a mile from the shore. They were characteristically noisy both on the water and when circling about the pond. About sixty per cent of the birds seen were in juvenal plumage.

This is the first summer I have seen this species in Plymouth Co., though Mr. Barret has recorded it. (Auk, Vol. 29, Jan., 1912, p. 99).— W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Milton, Mass.*

Brown Pelican on Pamlico Sound and at Durham, N. C.— An unusual spring visitation of Brown Pelicans was observed at Ocracoke, N. C., this season. The writer, with his assistant, Mr. T. W. Adickes, spent the week of May 20–25 at this point and, covering this period, Pelicans were daily in evidence. The center of their abundance seemed to be on the shoals and 'lumps' in and opposite the Inlet, where a flock of something over a hundred made their headquarters. Two specimens were collected on May 24, both of which proved to be males, with the sexual organs but little developed. One of them was in quite immature plumage, the other having the white head of the adult.

The two boatmen who waited on us while there — one of them having been game warden in the Cape Hatteras region for several years, and quite familiar with the bird life of the locality — reported another flock of about a hundred seen on the lumps between Hatteras and Ocracoke on their trip to the latter place on May 20.

This species is not uncommon at times on lower Pamlico Sound during the late summer, but this is our first record of the bird as a common spring visitant to the region.

On May 29 a female, approaching the adult stage of plumage, was collected on a small pond close to the large West Durham cotton mill. It was received at the museum in the flesh. The ovaries showed no indication of its being a breeding bird.— H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

The Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*) on the Coast of Georgia.— Mr. J. J. Sutton of Ridgeville, Georgia, recently sent to the Biological Survey a photograph of a specimen of *Fregata aquila* captured last June near the Sapelo Lighthouse in McIntosh County on the coast of Georgia, a few miles northeast of Darien. Mr. Sutton furnishes the following account of the capture of the specimen:

Mr. Wm. G. Cromley, a taxidermist, while on a visit to his brother,

keeper of the Sapelo Lighthouse, on June 8, 1912, saw the bird coming in from the sea, circle about the lighthouse several times, and then proceed due west. After two or three minutes it changed its course and started out to sea again. As it passed the lighthouse Mr. Cromley heard the report of a gun and saw the bird come down. He secured it, mounted it, and the specimen is now in his possession.

The Man-o'-War-bird was apparently first recorded in the list of Georgia birds more than sixty years ago. Through the kindness of Mr. Arthur H. Howell, my attention has been called to White's list of the birds of the State, which appeared in a little known work published at Savannah in 1849.¹ The appendix contains a nominal list of 273 birds found in the State, including the present species, but without comment or reference to any records. The present specimen seems to be the first definite record for the State.

As is well known, *Fregata aquila* occasionally strays northward some distance along both coasts and in the interior. On the Atlantic Coast Audubon recorded the fact as early as 1835 that it 'rarely travels farther eastward than the Bay of Charleston in South Carolina' (Ornith. Biog., III, p. 495), and Grinnell in 1875 intimated that it had been found as far north as Long Island.² Beside the Georgia bird at least nine other specimens have been reported from points north of Florida: namely, in 1859, 1871 (?), 1876, 1877, 1884, 1886, 1893, 1906, and 1910. The species has been recorded three times from South Carolina³ — from Mt. Pleasant, August 26, 1893, and October 19, 1910, and Sullivan Island, at the entrance of Charleston Harbor, October 20, 1906; and has been taken once in New Jersey,⁴ at Cape May Court House, in the spring of 1877; once in New York,⁵ on Gardiners Island, August 4, 1886; once in Connecticut,¹ on Faulkner Island, in the autumn of 1859; and once in Nova Scotia,⁶ off Halifax Harbor, October 16, 1876. It has also been reported from the coast of Maine and from Quebec, but in neither case was the specimen preserved. Stearns states in his *New England Bird Life* (II, p. 342, 1883): "Mr. Purdie's manuscript informs us that a specimen was taken, but not preserved, about twelve years ago [1871?], at Booth Bay, Maine," and Comeau reports that one was seen and shot at on August 13, 1884, at Godbout, Quebec.⁷ Those who know the care and accuracy of these observers may be inclined to accept the Purdie and Comeau records although not quoted in the Check-List.— T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

¹ George White's 'Statistics of the State of Georgia.' Cat. Fauna, p. 11, 8vo. Savannah, 1849.

² Grinnell, *Am. Nat.*, IX, p. 470, 1875.

³ Wayne, *Auk*, XXVIII, p. 107, 1911.

⁴ Maynard, *Birds Eastern N. Am.*, p. 473, 1881.

⁵ Dutcher, *Auk*, V, p. 173, 1888.

⁶ Deane, *Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club*, IV, p. 64, 1879.

⁷ Merriam, *Auk*, II, p. 113, 1885.