

GENERAL NOTES.

Brown Pelican Regular off North Carolina.—The Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) has heretofore been considered casual as far north as North Carolina.

Mr. Russell J. Coles, a leading American field ichthyologist, to whom we are indebted for our knowledge of the occurrence of several southern fishes at Cape Lookout, tells me that he regularly sees one or more small flocks of this bird at that Cape about the first of August. As there is little chance of error in the identification of so striking a species, I accept the record without question.

I quote from a letter from Mr. Coles, in which he says of the Brown Pelican:

“During no summer have I observed more than a dozen until on Aug. 6, 1913, I saw 5 flocks of them, the largest containing 13 and the smallest 3, making a total of 41. No flock was in sight of another flock, yet they all followed in approximately the same track, first appearing coming in from the Northeast, . . . they would light on the water near the point of Cape Lookout and after a short rest continue their flight without stopping to fish. None of the flocks followed the shoreline to the southwest, but all flew directly south.”—JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Recovery of a Banded Pintail Duck.—Mr. Jefferson C. Wenck of New Orleans informs me that one of the guides at the Delta Duck Club killed a female Pintail at Cubit's Gap, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, in December 1912, that had a band on the right leg, marked 186A. It will be of interest to know where this bird was tagged.—A. K. FISHER, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.—On July 22, 1913, I was attracted by the sight of an American Egret in the Black-Crowned Night Heronry at Squibnocket Pond, Martha's Vineyard. This wanderer from the south seemed to live in perfect harmony with his cousins. The bird remained in the colony during my entire week's stay. At times he would circle with the immature herons a few rods above my head; again he would sail leisurely out to the edge of the pond and stand motionless as if awaiting an opportunity to seize some finny loiterer. But not once did I notice any quarrelling or wrangling between the egret and his less ornate relatives.—G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Willet in Central New York.—On August 20, 1913, I observed two large shore birds on the beach at the east end of Oneida Lake in the town of Verona, N. Y. From a distance I took them to be Greater Yellow-

legs, but on the 25th, two birds, undoubtedly these same two came much nearer and were identified as Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*.) They were very tame, permitting approach within less than one hundred feet, when their marked plumage was very much in evidence. My two sons and myself watched them for probably an hour with our naked eyes and also with the field glasses, drew a diagram of their markings and wrote a description from life. We tried to take photographs but in this we failed and pressing for a nearer view, finally caused the birds to move away. We saw them again the next day but that was the last of them. Twenty-five years' observation on this beach has never shown me one before and I believe them to be very rare here.— EGBERT BAGG, *Utica, N.Y.*

Killdeer Plover at Cambridge, Mass.— On November 15, 1913, during the Harvard-Yale freshman football game, two Killdeer Plover (*Oxyechus vociferus*) alighted on the field while the game was in progress. It was during the third period of the game that the plover, calling shrilly, flew over the crowd. Several of the students whistled in reply. The birds circled around for a moment, and then alighted in the very middle of the field, — not forty yards away from the struggling players. Hardly had the birds folded their wings, when the Harvard stand burst out cheering for their team; this was too much for the plover and calling once or twice, they flew up and away.

This incident is most singular, not only because of the unnatural behavior on the part of the plover, but because Killdeer are extremely rare migrants in the Cambridge region.— G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.— On July 25, 1913, I watched an immature Turkey Vulture on the west bank of Squibnocket Pond. The bird was evidently very much interested in something below him on the shore. After hovering and circling for a short time, he alighted on the ground behind some bayberry bushes. Upon showing my head above the shrubbery, the vulture swept majestically away; and, followed by a pestering Kingbird, soon disappeared into the blue sky.— G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Doryfera vs. Hemistephania.— In his *Birds of North and Middle America*, Part V, page 342, Ridgway, following the British Museum Catalogue (Salvin, 1892, p. 38) and the Hand-List (1900), uses *Hemistephania* Reichenbach, 1854, as the generic name of the Lance-billed Hummingbirds, rejecting *Doryfera* Gould, 1847, because of the prior *Doryphora* Illiger, 1809. Inasmuch as the second element of these names, though of the same signification, is from a different language and the rules of American Ornithologists' Union Code do not allow the rejection or emendation of a hybrid name, there seems to be no reason why *Doryfera* should not be employed. *Doryfera* was used by Hartert in the *Tierreich*